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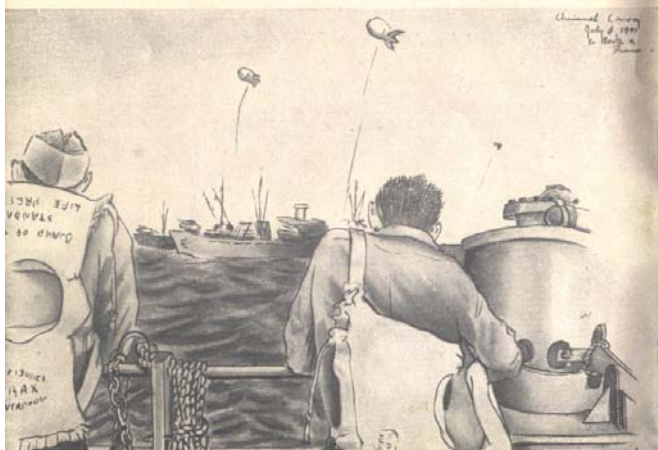


DIVISION

IN

FRANCE





The Saga of Seven Hundred Miles.

In World War I the 5th Infantry Division made history and established its battle prestige by making a forced, bloody crossing of the Meuse river 25 miles north of Verdun, on a two kilometer front and advancing 18 kilometers to the objective in the second Meuse-Argonne offensive. In World War II, the 5th Infantry Division, still basically organized and equipped to move at the infantryman's foot-marching rate of 2 1/2 miles per hour, made history by liberating 700 miles of France in the miraculously short time of 27 days. In spearheading the Third Army's eastward drive during August, the 5th Infantry outsped the armored divisions. Its advance was a triumph of improvisation of organic division transportation, of quick and aggressive battle action in wiping out organized German resistance, and of bold daring in striking through the German army regardless of the danger to exposed flanks and rear. In its drive, the 5th was always the farthest east in combat strength, fighting its way quickly past organized German groups in river crossings of the Maine, Eure, Seine, Marne, Meuse, and in September, the bloody, muddy Moselle.

The story of the 5th Infantry Division through France is a story of versatility and practical application of the division's motto "We Will". It is a story of a division that earned a reputation with the Third Army commander, Lieutenant-General George S. Patton, Jr., of being a unit that when told to "get up and get" it "got up and got"; a story of the military art and science of how to kill Germans, capture high ground and force river-crossings; a story of the infinite courage and sacrifice and fighting ability of the infantry, tank and tank-destroyer teams, of the calculating skill and courage of the artillery, engineers and signal corps, of the bravery and skill of the medics, and of the foresight, improvisation and work of the command and staff and the service and supply echelons of the division. It is a narrative of an outfit that was the first division to go overseas to outpost the North Atlan-



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tic island of Iceland, later to train intensively in England and North Ireland and then to establish the battle prestige of the Red Diamond in the fighting in Normandy hedgerows, wooded Brittany, important cities, the plains before Paris, famous rivers and the moated forts around Metz.

The actual story is the story of the officers and men of the division, particularly of those who are no longer with the division except in memory. But the deeds of most of the latter were done without benefit of witnesses to tell of them and perhaps that makes their heroism the greater. And the deeds of the men now in the division have been so many that it is impossible to chronicle them all. What the following story of the division, in text, sketch and photograph can do is tell what the division accomplished, where it fought and indicate by example how it fought.



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Normandy Beachhead.

Rain was soaking into County Down, North Ireland, as usual, on the 2nd of July, 1944, when the majority of Red Diamond troops were informed that they were "sealed off" from the civilians and restricted to camp and billet, under secret departure orders. And it was raining, as usual, as the division converged on the harbor of Belfast by train and truck and embarked, on personnel and motor transports for an unknown shore. For division veterans, it was the fourth time in three years they had boarded gangplanks to shout their first names and serial numbers in answer to the call of their last names from the passenger lists. They had boarded at Brooklyn or Boston for Iceland, at Reykjavik for England, at Cardiff for North Ireland in previous gangplankings. But this time they told each other "this is it, I may have gotten on a ship before but this time I get off on the battleground. This is it."

It was. The division transports joined a large convoy that moved slowly southward through the Irish Sea into the English Channel up to the coast of France at St. Mere Eglise. The beachhead had been won 33 days before, on June 6, and its price was reflected in the hulks of shipping that littered the approach to the beach. A fine mist filled the air the late afternoon of 9 July as troops clambered down the side of transports by cargo nets into Landing Craft, Tanks and Landing Craft Vehicles, personnel dressed in full field equipment,

Church in Coumont Used as Aiming Stake by Both Americans and Germans.



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plus duffel bag. A very few troops waded ashore through two and three foot deep water from landing craft but the rest were disgorged from craft onto a steel ramp that fingered a hundred yards out to sea from the shore, and then walked ashore with full field and duffel bag. Troops hit the dune line of Utah Sugar Red beach, dropped duffel bags and walked five miles to Transit Area B that night, starting out at daylight again to march nearly twenty miles to the division concentration area near Montebourg. The first impression of France was that it was hot, and full of shell-shattered towns, dead cows and signs everywhere that said "mines cleared to hedges" or "mines cleared to edge of road". A heavy, fetid smell was in the air, artillery rumbled in the distance, planes were overhead constantly and it didn't take long for everyone to get the idea, neverthereafter forgotten, that a clean rifle and a good foxhole were the most important things to see to before bivouacking for the night.

On landing, the division had been assigned to First Army and on the 11th was further assigned to V Corps. Orders were received 12 July for the 5th Division to relieve the veteran 1st Division in the lines in the Caumont sector. Relief, part of which was performed under artillery shelling by the Germans, was accomplished by 1500 hours 14 July.

Caumont was the southernmost salient of the beachhead and the left flank of the First Army. The British 11th Armored Division was on the left and the 2nd Infantry Division on the right. Caumont was a ten-day period of battle inoculation against the toughest outfits in the German army, the 3rd and 5th Parachute Divisions. Shelling was constant by both sides, as was patrolling activity. The remnants of the German Air Force also made nightly reconnaissances and bombings and strafings. On the left the British and the Germans were engaged in a terrific battle for Caen, with incessant artillery duels that kept the night times constantly aglow. On the right, the 2nd Infantry Division was slugging toe to toe with the Wehrmacht for St. Lo.

Caumont was typical hedgerow country. Tall hedgerows and trees bordered small fields and there were many sunken roads which provided covered approaches under artillery fire but turned into mudholes when it rained.

On 23 July the British took over the Caumont sector, the 15th Scottish Infantry Division relieving the 5th. After which the division, less the 2nd infantry combat team and division artillery and attachments, moved to an assembly area, in vicinity of Cèrisy la Forêt. The 2nd Combat Team, supported by a fire support group from the 10th Infantry, remained in position preparing for an attack to straighten out the First Army's line. Thus the men of the 2nd Infantry saw the toughest hedgerow fighting in the beachhead of the division troops.

VIDOUVILLE

Fighting began early on the 26th as the 2nd CT attacked southwest with 1st and 3rd Battalions abreast to capture the village of Vidouville and the high ground at Highway 3, in conjunction with the 2nd Infantry Division on the right. As it did throughout the division's fighting in France, the prearranged plan of fire of the division artillery did yeoman work. The attack jumped off, infantrymen advancing with medium tanks of Company A of the 735th Tank Bn, after a heavy artillery preparation and immediately met heavy sniper fire, and automatic weapons and mortars. 88mm guns covered the open ground on the front but the 1st battalion pushed to within 100 yards of Vidouville where heavy artillery fire made them stay put. The 3rd Bn pushed forward rapidly, was counterattacked and forced to fall back. Two tanks were knocked out and casualties were inflicted. The 2nd Bn plugged a gap between the 1st and 3rd Bns and next morning, despite an 88mm barrage the Germans laid down to prevent it, the regiment attacked again, reaching the objective completely by 1830 hours on the 27th. The Germans, as usual, counterattacked and pierced the regiment's position despite heavy defensive artillery fires. A platoon of light tanks and Company G, the CT reserve, drove back the counterattacking force and the regiment began reorganization at 1915 hours.

One hour later again the enemy counterattacked viciously, massing its strength in the center of the regiment and forcing the elements there back 500 yards and causing losses in personnel.

That night, as the 2nd Infantry reorganized, the 10th Infantry relieved the 9th Infantry regiment of the 2nd Division and the 1st Bn 10th moved into division reserve behind the 2nd regiment.

The Germans laid their eternally damned 88mm fire heavily on the Highway and rear areas but the 2nd jumped off and against surprisingly light resistance advanced to straighten out the line and occupy the high ground along the highway, in conjunction with the 10th regiment. The tough German parachutists had been rooted out of their prepared positions and their counterattacks broken up by the very effective division artillery fire brought to bear by the forward observers and by the indomitable courage of such doughboys as Staff Sergeant Milo J. Flynn, then private and Staff Sergeant Konstanty Gugala of Company L. Flynn a private infantryman, leaped to the turret of an immobilized tank and expended all the machine gun ammunition on the tank with its 30 caliber machine gun to break up a counterattack. Gugala grabbed an automatic rifle as a wave of yelling German parachutists counterattacked and stood up and sprayed the enemy, killing an estimated ten and wounding thirty. Then there was Staff Sergeant Roy Alpers, 735th

tanker. When his tank was hit twice and set afire by an 88 during the first attack, Alpers organized his tank crew as riflemen and they fought side by side with the 2nd infantry for the next 36 hours.

Of such grim, tough stuff were the front line troops of the division made — the 2nd, 10th and 11th regiments, the 5th Recon troopers and combat engineers, the artillery forward observers, tankers, tank-destroyers, communications and aid-men. It was the same fighting spirit repeatedly displayed that carried the division on its victorious campaign.

While the 2nd was fighting at Vidouville, the 11th regiment was in V Corps reserve in the crowded, stark, denuded area of Couvain behind the 2nd Infantry Division. The 11th's 3rd Bn occupied Hill 192 as 2nd Div reserve as the 2nd, 29th and 35th Divisions battered St. Lo.

The 11th reverted to 5th Division control on the 28th and moved over behind the 10th, as the 10th attacked Hill 183 in the face of bitter resistance by enemy infantry and artillery. On the 30th of July the 10th fought all morning to secure a line of departure for an attack and beat off one counterattack by artillery fire, after which the regiment advanced slowly against heavy resistance, securing the road south of Hill 183. At 0400 hours, on a night that was so black that company commanders and platoon leaders had to lead their troops by hand, individually, into position, the 11th infantry passed through the 10th to seize Hill 211, meeting no resistance except minefields.

The next morning the 2nd and the 11th continued to advance against no resistance in line of skirmishers until it appeared that pursuit was in order so advance guard formation with troops on the road was adapted. Minefields took a heavy toll in jeeps destroyed as the tempo of the pursuit increased, then slowed as engineers and infantry mine platoons preceded vehicles with mine detectors.

The two combat teams advanced abreast for 15 miles, when the 11th pierced a thin OPIR of snipers and machine guns to capture a strongpoint of two 105mm howitzers. The 2nd regiment kept going through the Forêt l'Évêque to the Vire river at which point the British on the left and the 2nd Infantry Division on the right nearly joined so the 2nd regiment was ordered to assemble in vicinity of the village of Dampierre. The rest of the division also reorganized in assembly areas and the Normandy beachhead fighting was over, probably the toughest fighting the division as a whole had to do until the Moselle crossing in September.

The great St. Lo breakthrough had been accomplished, starting on the 25th of July with a bombardment by over three thousand heavy and medium bombers and fighter bombers of the U. S. Air Corps and the RAF on the German lines south and southwest of St. Lo. The VII Corps attacked, in the wake of the terrific bombing to effect a breakthrough out of the Normandy beachhead.

THE DRIVE BEGINS

The 5th was taken out of the First Army of Lieutenant-General Omar Bradley and assigned as the early nucleus of the just-forming Third Army under Lieutenant-General George S. Patton, Jr. on the 4th of August.

Then began the 5th's odyssey across France. For the first move of 55 miles six quartermaster truck companies were furnished. Thereafter the number of trucks dwindled daily and the division moved on its organic transportation. With its own organic 735th Tank Battalion and 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion as the armored element, the division developed the mobility and speed of an armored division with the added advantage of three regiments of infantry to make river crossings, hold ground and root out dug-in enemy infantry with the flexible fire power of the infantry division artillery.

The armored divisions were organically equipped to strike swiftly across France in the hot, dusty days of August, 1944. The infantry divisions had to improvise and sacrifice to keep pace. The 5th did both so well that it was able to outstrip the armor. In its advance the 5th was never preceded by armor on its route except on 31 August, when three tanks of the 7th Armored Division beat the Red Diamond into Verdun by a nose.

To maintain a pace of fifty to ninety miles a day, the infantry regiments dropped their kitchens and all but bare essentials in storage places and fought and traveled for 25 days on K-ration as it was necessary to use the kitchen and supply trucks for hauling troops. The K-ration was a good one, but it got a little monotonous after a while and cheese became a subject of frequent rebellious vituperation. You couldn't even give it to the French, as "fromage" was one thing they had plenty of.

Doughboys rode perched on everything mobile except each other. They clung eight to ten on a medium tank and twelve to fourteen on an M-10 tank destroyer. They jammed on artillery prime movers and engineer, medical and quartermaster trucks. They rode four or five to a jeep and two to jeep trailers through sun, rain, mud, dust, flowers, cognac and calvados.

The Red Diamond headed west out of the St. Lo area to Coutances, turned south and passed through Avranches. Ahead of the columns of troops flew the air corps, Thunderbolts and Mustangs strafing all German traffic on the road and bombing so that the Germans were thrown into disorganization and chaos. The planes left their trademarks on bur-





red out tanks, cars, trucks and dead livestock along the highways. Continuing south, the division headed toward Nantes, sending a task force of the 1st Bn, 2nd Infantry with attachments to vicinity northwest of Nantes with the mission of blocking routes to the north and east and containing any force encountered. That was on 8 August. At noon on 7 August the division had been ordered to seize the large city of Angers and its bridges across the Maine and Loire rivers.

The assignment was given to the 11th Combat Team which left vicinity of Vitre at 1400 hours for Angers, 60 miles east. Angers, population upwards of 80,000, located at the junction of the Maine and Loire rivers, was the first really large city in France to be attacked and liberated by the Allies.

A task force composed of a platoon of tanks, and a company of infantry with attachments, under Lt. Col. D. W. Thackeray, division staff officer, left Vitre the afternoon of the 7th with mission of traveling north parallel to the 11th CT and passing north, then east of Angers in an attempt to seize the bridge south of Angers and Le Ponts de Ce. All bridges over the Mayenne river were found blown however, and progress was impossible.

Action at Angers.

Briefly, the action at Angers was this:

The 11th regimental I and R platoon and division reconnaissance troop led the 60-mile march. After meeting enemy resistance four miles west of Angers, the I and R platoon began a fire fight which the 2nd Bn advance guard took over the night of 7 August. Hollywood Nazis of the Organization Todt in black boots, swastika arm bands and surly looks came zooming up from St. Nazaire in a staff car and bus to find Red Diamonds in possession of the cross-roads at La Roche.

The 2nd Bn attacked Angers frontally, towards the east. The 1st Bn made a night march of seven miles to get into position to attack from the left flank. As the two battalions came up against an anti-tank ditch and determined resistance, the 3rd battalion moved south 3,000 yards to capture a railway bridge intact across the

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| 1. At Sea. | 2. Still at Sea. |
| 3. Normandy hedgerow. | 4. Jeep herding tank. |
| 5. Chowhound. | 6. TD Maintenance. |
| 7. TD at Fontainebleau. | 8. 7th Eng., 735th Tank at Girenville. |

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Maine. The bridge contained mines and explosives ready to be detonated and was under fire from 88 mm, 20 mm and 40 mm fire as well as machine gun and mortar fire but the battalion used the bridge to cross the night of the 8th, Company L leading. I Company advanced 700 yards, was counterattacked, fell back 200 yards and held behind a hedgerow as Company K crossed at 0300 hours and at 0330 hours German infantry again counterattacked, striving desperately to get to the bridge and blow it. The Germans would run downhill toward the bridge, firing machine pistols and rifles. Yank riflemen fired at the flashes of flame and as nearly every German was hit, explosives he was carrying around his waist and shoulders for the purpose of blowing up the bridge would detonate and he would blow up, screaming his life away. Germans were killed just 15 yards from the end of the bridge but none reached it. Company E crossed as the counterattack was at its height and helped repulse it. Company I was protecting the south flank on the west side of the river.

Germans counterattacked again about daylight but were repulsed, and, although Company K suffered losses, the battalion attacked and seized the first high ground east of the bridge, as tank destroyers of Co. C, 818 T.D. Bn and an antitank gun knocked out two German SP guns, one machine gun nest and an enemy OP. Meanwhile, the 1st and 2nd Bns were pushing slowly forward, cleaning out woods with tank-infantry attacks and artillery concentrations by the 19th field artillery and the regimental cannon company. On the afternoon of the 9th the 10th infantry arrived and crossed the 2nd and 3rd Bns through the 3rd Bn 11th Infantry to attack straight east and secure a chateau and ridge south of Angers. In securing the ridge the 10th made a bayonet assault which took the Germans by surprise.

On the morning of the 10th, the 3rd Bn, 11th, and the 10th Infantry jumped off together northward toward Angers. Supporting fire of the 19th had been augmented by this time by fire from the 21st, 46th and 50th Field artillery. The 3rd Bn, 11th cleaned out nine 20mm gun emplacements in its advance, capturing only two prisoners and being forced to kill the rest of the crews.

During all this, the 1st and 2nd Bns, 11th pressed the attack and converged in the outskirts of Angers. The Maine river splits the city into two, like the Seine splits Paris or the Mississippi splits St. Paul and Minneapolis. The Germans blew the two northern bridges but were not given time enough to properly blow the south bridge and their hasty charge only blew a seven-foot hole in it. As a lull in



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enemy fire came about 1600 hours, Pfc Ferdinand Butzlaff of F Company dashed over the bridge, followed by the rest of F, which secured the bridge. The 3rd Bn, pushing up from the south on the east bank, contacted the 2nd Bn at the bridge and the Germans went into headlong retreat east along the road paralleling the Loire river. The 21st pursued them by fire and the city and two bridges were the division's by the night of the 10th; the result of quick, aggressive, three-day battle action.

At Angers, troops discovered the Germans did have one good attribute. They liked to drink and they kept good wine stocks, which they couldn't always take with them when they retreated. So on the 11th and for a few days thereafter, company kitchens issued a bottle of champagne with the K-ration — cheese, crackers and champagne, which led many to believe that an army travels, not on its stomach as Napoleon said, but in spite of it.

EAST WARD HO

Having proved its battle ability at Angers the division was ordered to proceed eastward. The 11th CT went to Château-Gontier in XX Corps reserve while the division, less the 2nd Combat Team, moved in an all-night march the night of the 12th August a distance of about 104 miles to St. Calais. The 2nd CT remained in Angers area to mop up until relieved by the 80th division on 14 August. The 11th CT, after reaching Château-Gontier, remained in corps reserve for four hours, then made an all-night motor march of 94 miles to the division concentration area in St. Calais. After outposting a perimeter OPLR, the division bivouacked for the night, then picked up and moved twenty-five miles northeast to Authon, bivouacked for the night again and headed east toward Chartres, gateway to Paris, on the 15th and 16th.

In such manner, did the division move, tired troops pushing themselves to move and refreshing themselves with forty winks in every possible moment. They learned to sleep bouncing along the highway under a hot sun while sprawled on a jeep trailer or with an arm hooked to a support on a tank. Reconnaissance elements seldom rested there was so much territory to cover.

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These items became familiar sights in the seven hundred mile saga as the Red Diamond swept through wooded hills, rolling plains, liberating thousands of villages and larger towns:

Item: Streets of liberated cities lined with old men and women, young girls (but seldom young men as the Nazis had exported them for labor or had killed) and children, all shouting "vive l'Amérique" and throwing flowers and bottles of cognac, calvados and wine at passing jeeps and command cars or running out of the crowd with a bottle and glasses to pour drinks for the thirsty Americans.

Item: an occasional kiss planted on the cheek of a whiskered, sweat-soaked and grimed, Red Diamond liberator by a mademoiselle.

Item: a motley band of FFI, ages either 15 or 50 for the most part, clad in rags and rifles, loaded on an ancient car or truck, dashing through a town singing "La Marseillaise" or trudging off to scour some nearby woods for isolated Germans.

Item: an occasional German or French collaborateur, with jaw set, unseeing eyes staring straight ahead, clothes torn, being led through the streets of a town with a French crowd at his heels, jeering him with all the contempt of four suppressed years as they conducted him toward a quick rendez-vous with death or, if he was lucky, just jail.

Items: the pathetic figures of some French women having their heads shaved for having been friendly with German occupation troops; officers studying maps at ill-defined cross-roads and studying the blue-colored phase lines on the map as the vehicular radios crackled with orders from higher headquarters to advance to the next phase line or patrol the flank; little kids tugging at Yanks' shirtsleeves or running alongside jeeps yelling "cigarette pour papa" or "bon-bon pour moi" or a hopeful "chocolat"; old men, grateful for deliverance from the German yoke no matter what the cost, stepping over their dead livestock, killed by American artillery or mortars, to offer soldiers a drink of vin ordinaire or the throat-tearing calvados or mirabelle; truckloads of German prisoners amazed at the equipment of the Americans; French families trundling their most precious possessions out of a battle area in baby buggies and homemade carts and then trundling them back again to shell-torn, bomb-blasted homes; bicycles of all types and sizes being ridden by Frenchmen and the French Tricolor, U. S. Stars and Stripes being torn down and the French Tricolor, U. S. Stars and Stripes and the British Union Jack being hoisted.

These and countless other little human dramas made up the kaleidoscope of scenes as the 5th Division swept eastward.

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| 1. Crossing the Marne. | 2. Tiger tank burning. |
| 3. Free Haircut, Montereau. | 4. Action at Angers. |
| 5. "They went that-a-way". | 6. Near Chartres. |
| 7. Pont-a-Mousson floodwaters. | 8. 105 mm. at Arnoville. |

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BATTLE OF CHARTRES

Chartres was the next large city to be liberated. The 7th Armored Division had been working over the town with its artillery for two days as the 5th bivouacked outside the city. Advance elements of the 10th CT had a brief engagement at Spoir, near a chateau west of Chartres on the 16th.

Armored division tanks drove into the city but were forced back out and on the 18th of August, Corps decided it was an infantry job so the 7th was pulled out of the battle and the 5th was given the job. The 2nd and 3rd Bns of the 11th CT quickly located a German pocket of resistance, enveloped it and captured 100 prisoners with the threat of mortar and cannon company fire. A large pocket of resistance, about 1,000 strong was located as the two bns drove into the southwestern outskirts of the city the night of 18-19 August. The Germans had an 88 and several 20 and 40 mm guns emplaced around a church, upon which was draped a Red Cross flag. They were using the church steeple for an observation post. Cannon company opened fire at daylight, and kept firing for 45 minutes. When the cannon company fire lifted, infantrymen walked into the area with only four shots being fired by Germans. A German colonel surrendered a battered force of 700 at 1100 hours and the battle was over. An estimated 200-300 jerries had been killed, caught in the pocket between battalions, and 40 men of Company A, 40th Armored Infantry, 7th Armored Division were freed.

The Chartres cathedral, one of the most famous in the world, was untouched by the war that swirled around it.

Chartres liberated by the Red Diamond, with much captured material in German warehouses, the 7th Armored roared northward to Dreux while the 5th Division continued striking eastward toward the Seine, 50 kilometers south of Paris.

The 2nd CT, which bivouacked near Maintenon, moved eastward on 21 August, overcoming road blocks and passing through enemy artillery fire until it was stopped by artillery and small arms fire 3,000 yards west of Etampes. Two light tanks of the 735th were knocked out and the 1st Bn attacked after preparatory fires by the 21st field artillery. Outskirts of the city were reached by nightfall when three companies moved during the night to cut off escape routes leading north, southeast and east out of Etampes. Patrols entered the city that night and the regiment entered the morning of the 22nd without resistance. Company A of the 7th Engineers cleared the numerous mines and booby traps.

The 10th CT, moving east captured Malessherbes and the bridge over the Essones intact, continuing to take La Chapelle La Reine at

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2030 hours on 23rd August after a brisk battle against enemy tanks, light artillery and automatic weapons. 218 prisoners were captured. A reconnaissance party, including the regiment's mine platoon, hurried ahead to the aid of a small group of FFI defending a bridge at Nemours. The bridge was secured and German-prepared demolitions of aerial bombs were removed by the mine platoon. Vehicles used that bridge and foot troops crossed the Loing river by foot bridge and rowboats at Grez as the CT advanced toward Montereau on the Seine.

FONTAINEBLEAU AND MONTEREAU

Fontainebleau and Montereau were two of the short, sharp bridgehead battles on the Seine south of Paris. While they lasted they were fiercely fought and included all types of enemy resistance—heavy and light artillery, tanks, and aggressive infantry.

The 11th CT arrived at Fontainebleau, on the west bank of the Seine at 1600 hours on 23 August. Enemy tanks had been dispersed at Gironville in crossing the Essones and light infantry resistance had been swept aside at Milly as the CT moved through the dense forest of Fontainebleau without incident, the 2nd Bn preceding on foot to the Seine. It was then that opportunity knocked and the battalion commander answered. He observed civilian boats tied to the east bank of the 200-yard wide river and decided not to waste time waiting for assault boats to be brought up so he swam the river alone at that point, got the five boats and paddled them back, under light small arms fire. The bn commander was Lt. Col. Kelly B. Lemmon, Jr. As he was swimming across, 100 yards upstream Capt. Jack Gerrie and Technical Sergeant Dupe Willingham paddled across in a civilian canoe. Gerrie crawled up to the top of the bank, shot a German and was pinned down by small arms fire. Sgt. Willingham paddled back, on orders, under fire, to bring across two platoons of G Company. German mortars came to life and prevented reinforcements from crossing, so Gerrie slipped down the bank, swam back underwater and then directed the fire of a medium tank of Company C, 735th Tk Bn, on targets he knew intimately. This directed fire enabled the 2nd Bn to cross in canoes and rowboats to establish a bridgehead 700 yards deep and 500 yards wide. The Germans tried their utmost to throw back the bridgehead but courage, effective bazooka work and close supporting fires of the 19th, 50th, a battery of the 21st, the 284th and XX Corps medium artillery enabled the bn to hold the bridgehead. The Germans had their artillery and mortars in full play and caught one company in an assembly area and another in boats as two companies were crossing to

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the aid of the 2nd Bn. The F Company commander, 1st Lt. Nathan F. Droke, had his company dig in and called for artillery on his front lines in order to prevent infiltration during the night. Bazooka work by Pfc's Craft and McDonald of G Company knocked out two light tanks and stalled a Tiger tank.

Company C, 7th Engineers, with the 1103rd Engineer group constructed a treadway bridge, completing it by 1630 hours on the 24th, under German artillery fire. The bridgehead held and expanded. The enemy withdrew on the 25th, after losing over 300 captured, approximately 200 estimated killed, chiefly by the terrific artillery fire.

On the morning of the 25th August, the 2nd Bn, 10th Infantry fought its way into the city of Montereau, followed by the 1st Bn and the regiment less the 3rd Bn, which moved into the Bois d'Esmaux. Guns of the 46th and 21st field artillery 735th Tanks and 818 T. D.'s fired on enemy personnel, and gun emplacements on the east bank of the Seine all day in preparation for the crossing.

The 160th engineers furnished 70 assault boats for the crossing, which began at 2105 hours on 25 August through light artillery shelling on the crossing site and was completed with the 2nd Bn on the bluffs of Les Ormeaux at 2315. Fortunately, members of the battalion headquarters company were early risers for they woke early the next morning, peered over a garden wall and discovered two 70mm howitzers and 28 sleeping Germans. The former were captured and the latter liquidated. The 1st Bn followed the 2nd Bn and beat off one counterattack in seizing the heights of Mont Rubrette. The Germans discovered the crossing at daybreak and increased artillery, mortar, and small arms fire. A morning fog aided the Germans in making a counterattack on the 2nd Bn at 0830 hours but the fog suddenly lifted leaving the attacking force exposed in a wheat field to withering machine-gun fire. Fifty to sixty Germans were killed. Artillery fire into the woods with consequent treebursts forced over a hundred Germans into the open where Company D's machine gunners operated a moving target range. Company L cleaned out the source of small arms fire on the crossing site, the bridgehead was expanded and secured by afternoon of the 26th. 362 Germans were captured, of which 275 were wounded. A like number were estimated killed.

The bridge was completed on the 21st and the CT resumed its eastward advance.

Artillery Cub liaison planes did excellent observation work in both the Fontainebleau and Montereau operations. As a matter of fact, they constantly patrolled the moving columns with eagle eyes all through France.

The 10th regiment ran into an enemy motorized battalion in vicinity of Varennes which was attempting to organize the ground in

the vicinity of Avocourt. Prompt action by the 2nd Bn and the 46th field artillery destroyed a number of vehicles and the Germans withdrew. (The CT continued toward Verdun, establishing the CP on 2 Sept. in Fort de Douaumont in the Meuse river bridgehead secured two days previously by the 11th CT.)

REIMS LIBERATED

As the G-3 and G-2 sections of division headquarters almost went quietly mad coordinating the fast-traveling widespread elements of the division and the fluctuating enemy situation, and G-4 and the quartermaster wondered where their next meals were going to come from, all the while on the move themselves, the combat teams continued to forge eastward. The 2nd CT crossed the Yonne river, proceeded east, liberated Nogent and established a bridgehead north across the Seine, crossing in assault boats and civilian boats while the engineers constructed a treadway bridge. Then the 2nd headed north toward Reims (being held up while an armored division crossed the route), crossing the Marne river at Maruillet and liberating the large cathedral and champagne city of Reims the night of 29 and morning of 30 August, mopping up slight resistance on the high ground east of the city.

Meanwhile the 11th CT followed the 2nd CT in crossing the Marne, then cut south of Reims, crossing the Vesle and Aisne rivers unopposed except for an allied armored division which denied use of the road. The CT moved some sixty miles on 31 August, through the historic Argonne forest without incident to arrive in Verdun at 1800 hours on the heels of three tanks of the 7th armored division and a company of armored infantry which reached Verdun at 1600 hours. The 1st Bn, 11th, crossed the Meuse river, passed through Verdun and, meeting only light mortar and small arms fire for a few minutes, pushed on to secure the high, commanding ground southeast of the city. The 2nd Bn outposted the outskirts of town that night and secured the high ground northeast of the city the next morning. The 3rd Bn protected the right flank, sending Company L down to secure a bridge at Bannocourt and Company K back to Clermont to chase out some Germans who had returned to terrorize the town. Supporting the 11th CT, in addition to the 19th Field artillery, were the 284th and 21st Field artillery battalions, and the 195th and 204th groups.

A great stock of German food, clothing and equipment, including rolling stock, fell to the division at Verdun and Reims. It was in the latter two cities that troops nearly completed their education in the different kinds of drinks there are in the world. In Iceland, bjor and brennavin or "black death" were the native drinks. In England, troops

got used to mild-and-bitter, ale and Scotch, if they were lucky enough to get to a bar during its first half-hour of business. In North Ireland, Irish Whisky went to work on stomach linings but in France the Red Diamond soldiers became drinkers of distinction. In Normandy, cider was the beverage along with vin rouge. As the campaign developed, cognac and calvados entered the picture. Then captured German stocks revealed all kinds of wine, including champagne, brandy, and liqueurs. Reims furnished the most champagne, Verdun and Angers the best variety of wines and liqueur. Not that the foregoing has much to do with the sweep through France, but it is one of those sidelights that is as much a part of the memory of battles as the bullets.

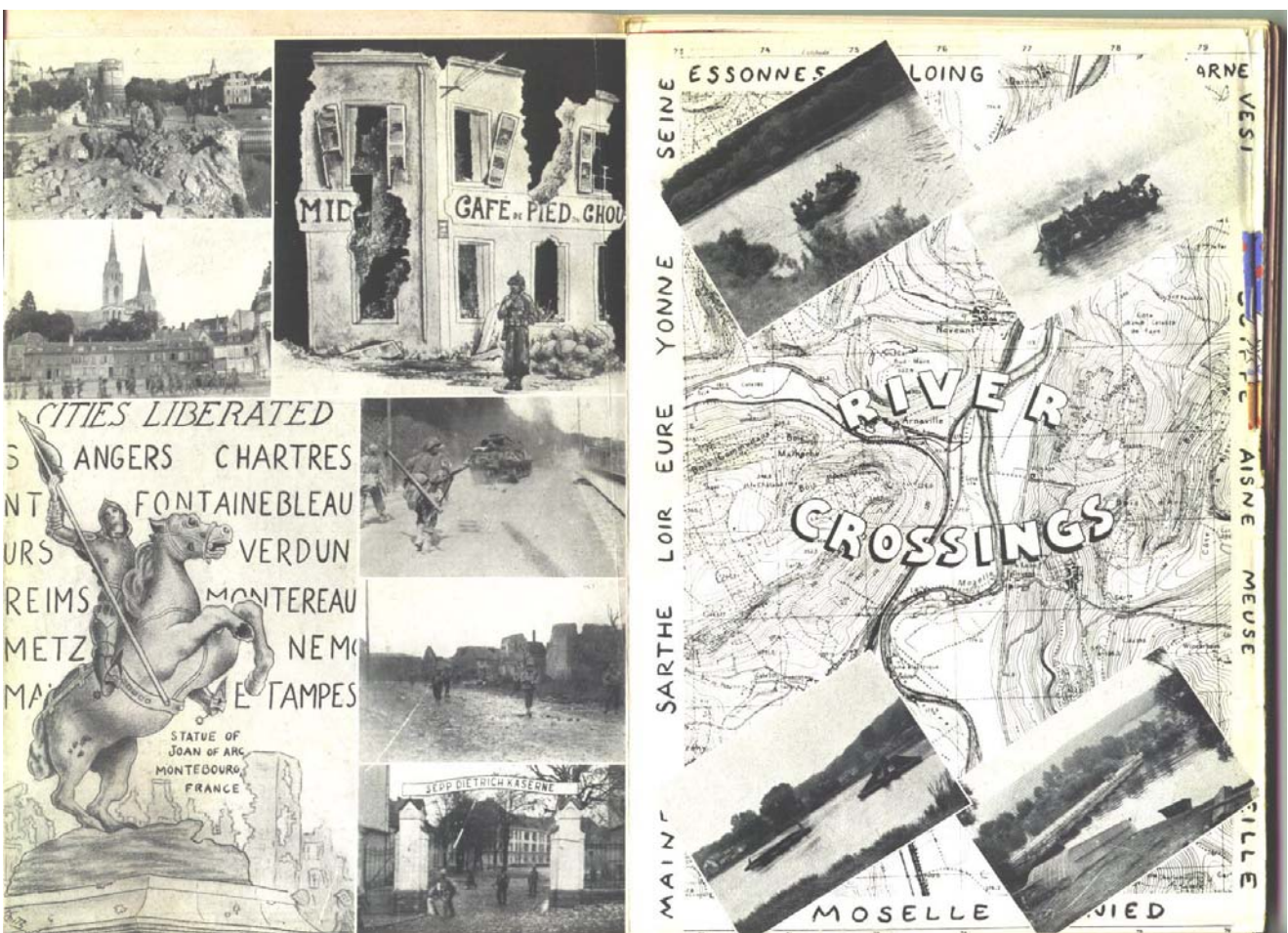
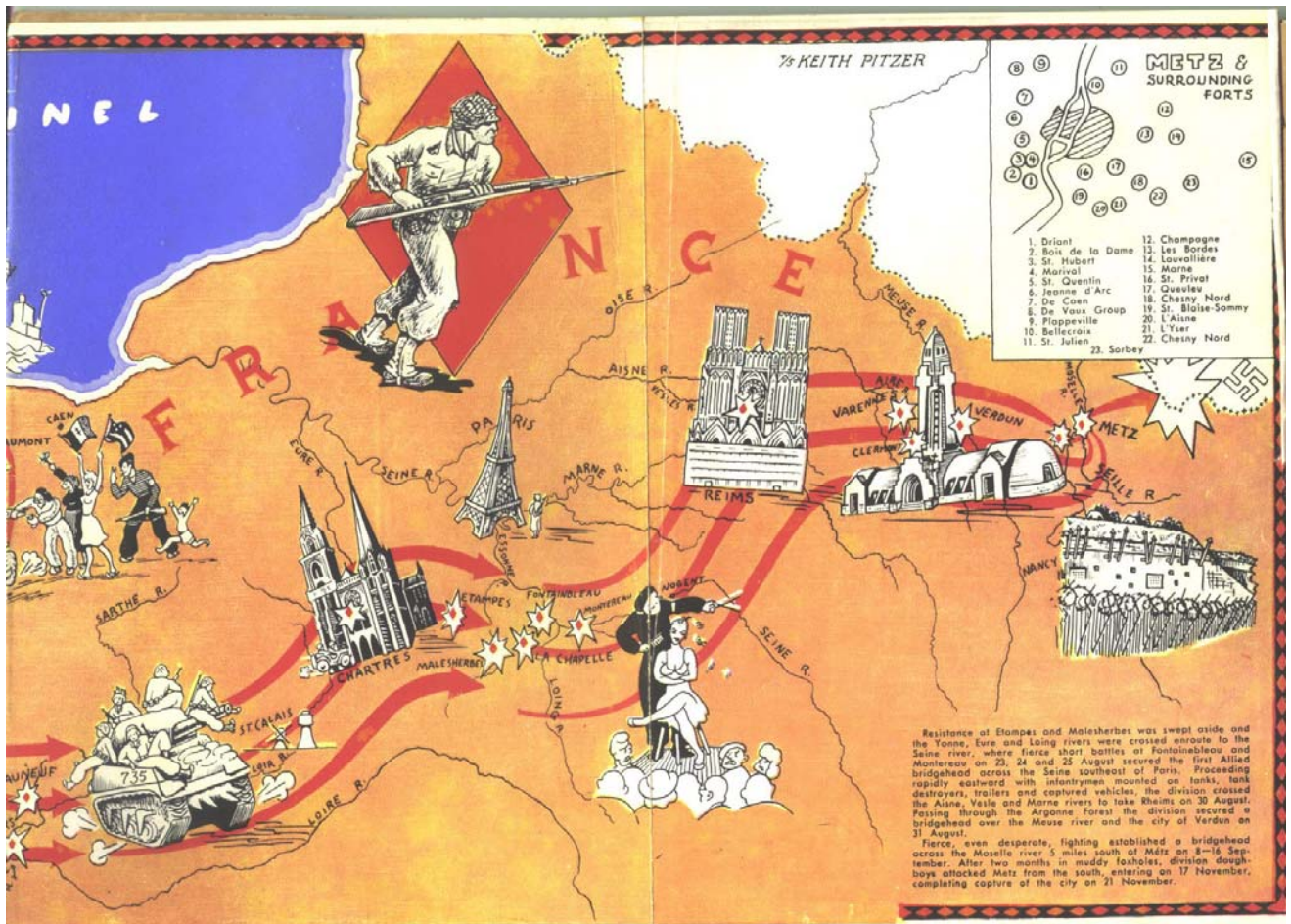
GAS FAILURE

The division concentrated once more in the Meuse river bridgehead as the most tragic thing in the whole French campaign occurred. The supply of gas failed. Out of gas, the dashing, slashing infantry and armored divisions of the Third Army were immobilized just east of Verdun. The world is full of ifs, particularly in the history of wars, but if the Third Army and specifically the 5th Infantry Division had had gas and thus been able to keep going there probably would have been no bitter, bloody Moselle river crossing and two month's siege of Metz and its surrounding fortresses and the Saar or even the Rhine might have been crossed. For the Germans were on the run. The air corps had disrupted their communication lines. They didn't know what was going on and the columns of Third Army troops, spearheaded by the 5th Infantry Division, slashed through strategic centers to isolate them and prevent organized resistance. Later information revealed that the Germans had actually pulled out of Metz on the 3rd of September as they had no organized defense and thought the Americans were about to enter the fortress city. They returned on the 5th of September and prepared a defense of the river and the city that kept the division in the mud for two consequent months and put a higher price on the cost of the crossing.

A supply of gasoline finally caught up with the division on the 6th of September and the combat teams streamed east on a gray, drizzly day of 7 September towards the never-before-taken fortress city of Metz. At the time, however, no one had much information about the huge forts that surrounded Metz. The division found out the hard way.

The 2nd CT moved out early with the 1st and 2nd Bns in parallel columns with the mission of securing the high ground on the west





1. Favorite Foxhole Pastime - 2. Fort Driant CP.
3. Fort St. Blaise falls, Old Glory goes up.
4. Pillbox at Arry.



5. Shelling at Dornot.
6. 155 mm. talks to Germans.
7. Typical fort. Ft. L'Alme.
8. Infantry attacks Cheminot.

bank of the Moselle river across from Metz. The 11th CT moved out at the same time, with the mission of securing a bridgehead across the Moselle in the vicinity of Corny, five miles south of Metz.

AMANVILLERS

At 1100 hours the 1st Bn, 2nd CT ran into outposts west of Amanvillers and were halted by heavy frontal and flanking machine gun and mortar fire which caused light casualties, while the bn dug in. The 2nd Bn, south of the 1st Bn, advanced to vicinity of Verneville, from which the enemy was driven and the bn outposted a line 300 yards east of the village for the night. Heavy artillery and mortar fire prevented the bns from making any progress on the 8th. Although it was not known at first, the heavy fire was coming from the great forts guarding the western approach to Metz, Fort Jeanne-d'Arc chief amongst them. The 3rd Bn patrolled to the south and southeast, running into the outpost in front of Fort Jeanne-d'Arc at Gravelotte.

On the 9th the 2nd CT was attached to the 7th Armored Division and attacked Amanvillers, reaching the outskirts and coming under intense artillery fire and heavy small arms fire. Counterbattery was harmless against the forts. The enemy counterattacked the bn's right, was repulsed, and counterattacked again in greater strength. The 2nd Bn helped the 1st in repulsing the second counterattack. Four determined assaults were made on the town of Amanvillers during the first five days and twice the assault elements had infantry and tanks in the town but each time, overwhelming artillery fire forced withdrawal. After a fighter-bomber attack on the German lines the afternoon of the 10th the 2nd Bn took Hill 339. A counterattack pushed off two companies but, although absorbing terrific shelling and mortaring, one company managed to hold on to the top of the hill and on the 12th the bn retook some of the lost ground. The Germans had decided to hold west of the great forts and hold they did, as counterbattery against the steel-reinforced concrete forts was harmless and smaller fortifications in front of the forts were well-concealed and brought heavy frontal and flanking fire on any assault troops. The CT on the 14th was relieved by the 90th Infantry Division, reverting to 5th Division control in vicinity of Charey.

DORNOT CROSSING

As the 2nd CT ran into very stiff resistance on the 7th September, the 11th CT, 1st and 3rd Bns moving in parallel columns with tanks

and t. d.'s through dense woods, reached the high ground on the west bank of the Moselle river, north and south of the village of Dornot. Plans were made for a river crossing at Dornot by the 2nd Bn. The 2nd Bn intended to cross at 0400 but a tie-up with elements of an armored division in Dornot prevented a crossing until six hours later. Mortar and artillery fire from the east bank of the river was intense but a good concentration fired by the 19th, 284th and 21st field artillery bns at 1100 hours enabled F Company to jump off at 1115 across the 100 yard wide river. Companies F and G pushed uphill toward the high ground on which the two forts of the Verdun group, — St. Blaise and Sommy — were located. The optimistic objective was the Verdun group, 2500 yards east of the river. German infantry retreated into the fort as the Americans advanced right up to it, where they ran into an iron fence behind which was a dry moat encircling the huge concrete fort, concealed by tons of dirt and grass.

Capt. Ferris Church, bn S-3, decided to pull back 400 yards to permit heavy artillery concentrations and as troops pulled back, the hell that was to last in the Dornot bridgehead for 60 hours broke loose. German infantry started attacking from the flanks and front. The rest of the bn near the river's edge saw Germans infiltrating between them and F and G Companies and warned F and G. Withdrawing 800 yards to the rest of the bn took F and G Companies three hours. A horseshoe defense was formed with both flanks anchored on the river, and the battalion plus K company dug in in a clump of woods 500 yards deep and 400 yards wide. Heavy division artillery concentrations ringed the bridgehead protectively and enemy artillery rained shells on Dornot, the crossing site and the bridgehead itself. The Bn CP in Dornot was hit, killing three men and wounding the Bn Executive. The CP was hit again later and forced to move when it was hit a third time.

The first of the 36 separate counterattacks by organized groups of infantry and tanks came at dusk the night of the 8th. Three tanks wheeled in on the left flank, fired into the bridgehead and skirted the woods, moving east. Company E felt the brunt of the attack but fortified by 1st Sgt. Claude Hembree's sharp commands lay wounded in their foxholes without crying rather than disclose their positions. The bridgehead continued to absorb punishment from artillery firing from the forts and also direct fire from 88mm guns on tanks. German mortars were up to their usual efficiency. Tenability of the bridgehead seemed hopeless but it was ordered to hold on as it was the only one across the Moselle river. Supporting artillery fire was plentiful and while effective on the counter-attacking infantry had no effect on the forts.

Air support was promised but bad weather denied it. The Germans kept sending troops — SS troops and Metz Officers Candidate School leaders — out of the forts to attack. Some of their attacks were suicidal in that they would march up in a parade ground formation shoulder to shoulder in an attack only to be mowed down by machine guns. The five hundred-some men grouped in the bridgehead area had to stay alert in their foxholes beating off counterattack after counterattack and absorbing the artillery and mortar pounding for 60 hours. There were countless tales of heroism such as those of Pfc George Dickey and Pfc Frank Lalopa of K Company who were manning an outpost slightly beyond the fringe of woods the first night as the Germans attacked. They were told by their squad leader to withdraw but refused, staying in position and firing their M-1s until they were killed, but being instrumental in staving off the attack. Next morning, 22 dead Germans were found in front of their position, some within a yard of the pair.

Valiant bazooka work prevented tanks from closing in. When it became certain that a bridge could not be built and the bn was being shelled, and attacked constantly and continually, evacuation was ordered. It took place the night of the 10th, starting at 2100 hours, using bullet-riddled assault boats, rafts, expedients and by swimming. As the last man reached the west bank, division artillery, supported by some corps units, walked a heavy concentration from the west bank of the river across the river, and up through the woods on the east bank to catch the German forces closing in on the bridgehead force. That it did kill large numbers was reported by a G Company private who lay unconscious in his foxhole all night, then awoke early on the 11th to walk over dead Germans to the river bank, where he swam back to the west bank.

ARNAVILLE CROSSING

While the 11th's bridgehead was being decimated, it was accomplishing one purpose, other than killing hundreds of Germans. It made possible a crossing of the 1st Bn 10th infantry at a site three thousand yards farther south. The 11th bridgehead drew the German artillery and the 10th's crossing on the night of the 9-10 September was made in its first stage without receiving any artillery fire. The mission of the 10th was to cross the river and seize the high ground northeast of the village of Arry, 1500 yards inland, on Hill 386 and Hill 310.

This river crossing epic, whose action speaks for itself, began about 0430 hours on the 10th, the leading wave of the 1st Battalion making its surprise crossing and advancing three hundred yards

before being discovered. After the discovery, began incessant machine gun, mortar and artillery and tank fire on the infantry assault units and constant artillery fire on the village of Arnville and the crossing site.

The 1st Bn crossed the main north-south road but was pinned down at the foot of Hill 385 by a perfect Metz OCS school fire plan and at the same time the 2nd Bn started across the river, coming up on the 1st Bn's left with the mission of taking Hill 310, the Bois de Gaumont. Major Wilfred Haughey, commanding the 1st Bn, saw that his troops had to get off the flatland on to Hill 386 and ordered his S-2, Lt. Leo Harris to reconnoiter the best route up the hill. The next time he saw Harris, the lieutenant was on top of Hill 386. He had taken one platoon from A Company and one from C on his way forward, by-passed a chateau on the edge of Arry, ordered "fix bayonets" and the two platoons charged Germans entrenched on top of the hill, killing six by bayonets and forcing the rest to flee. The hill is a steep one and the way was muddy so the men were exhausted when the position was taken and could have been pushed off had not Companies A and C exploited the charge and consolidated the hilltop, company C being credited with knocking out an 88mm and its crew of six on the way up.

Meanwhile companies F and G advanced up Hill 310 with marching fire throwing white phosphorus grenades ahead of them to help screen their movements. Three-quarters of the way up, a line of Germans entrenched in foxholes held. 1st Lt. Andrew Paulshen, executive officer of F Company, passed the order to fix bayonets and use grenades liberally. The cold steel and the hot grenade fragments brought the battalion to the top of the hill, the bayonet alone accounting for a German heavy machine gun crew.

Both battalions quickly organized their positions to beat off counterattacks they knew were coming. Forward artillery observers prepared concentration calls. Enemy artillery rained down on the battalions as they dug in, and the first enemy counterattack was broken up by division artillery concentrations. No antitank guns were across the river and the infantry had only their rifles, machine guns, mortars, rifle grenades and hand grenades to beat off the tanks and infantry. They had those weapons plus the greatest weapon of all — determination to hold at all costs. Troops the quality of Sgt. Angelo Speggen and Pfc John Yezzi, Company D machine gunners, beat the Germans. During one counterattack, Speggen observed a Jerry squad attempt a sneak flanking movement, waited until the Germans were almost on him, then killed the nine with machine gun bursts. Yezzi was riddling

the ranks of counterattacking Germans who advanced firing machine pistols and rifle grenades even as they yelled "Kamerad" in an obvious ruse.

"Kamerad, hell", shouted Yezzi to his squad. "Pass me another belt of ammo!"

Cpl. Russell D. Bruqler knocked out a tank with 5 bazooka rounds. Pfc John Greentree, also of Company D, hit a tank with 3 rounds, which failed to knock it out, then killed Germans with his M-1 to stop an attack.

When German tanks broke through to 81 mm mortar positions, Sgt. Walter Jenksi ran down a road beside one tank, firing rifle grenades at the treads and throwing a grenade inside the turret. Bazookas were fired until they burned out.

Leadership such as Captain William B. Davis, C Company Commander displayed, inspired. Capt. Davis was with his SCR-284 radio operator observing on the flank of his company when the radio operator was killed. Though wounded in the legs, Capt. Davis strapped the radio on his back, called for artillery on tanks in Arry he observed and rolled downhill to his company to which he gave essential orders and stimulation. He refused evacuation until forcibly put on a litter. He was fatally hit as he lay on the litter.

Litter evacuation was by hand carry one and a half miles to the river crossing and ammunition supply meant carrying it up one and a half miles from the river over the heavily shelled flatland.

The morning of the 11th the 3rd Bn 11th Inf. plus B Co. crossed at the 10th infantry site, turned north and advanced 2500 yards to the village of Carry by nightfall, thus helping the troops on Hill 310. The morning of the 12th, a German counterattack on Carry with four tanks, a half-track and a company of infantry was repulsed. One tank was knocked out by a 57mm gun and two tanks and the half-track by 818th Tank Destroyer direct fire from the west bank of the Moselle. One tank escaped. German infantry following the tanks were mowed down by B Company, 11th, as Captain Harry Anderson placed his men on top floors of buildings in Carry, let the tanks pass through, then killed 38 by rifle and carbine fire, capturing a like number and causing the rest to withdraw.

German shelling of the 10th regiment reached a terrific crescendo on the 11th. On the night of the 11th, the importance of acting upon orders or initiative only and not rumors was dramatically shown by Captain Eugene Witt, commanding Company F. A company runner, passing the 2nd Bn CP, noticed the headquarters officers moving and reported to G Company that battalion headquarters was retreating. Communications were out so the G Company commander told Captain Witt, who had received no word from battalion and retorted:

"I don't give a damn what battalion is doing, I'm going to hold. I'm the senior officer here, and until I get word otherwise, you hold, too." They held and finally found out that the Bn CP had only moved 100 yards to a position of better defilade and protection.

The town of Arry had been cleaned out by the 3rd Bn of the 10th on the 10th after fighter-bombers set the town on fire and broke up a tank concentration. 3rd Bn also took Hill 394, to the east.

By 1630 hours 11 September six tank destroyers were crossed and by 1730 Company B of the 735th was across by means of a ford. At 0330 hours on the 12th the Germans made their strongest counterattack with an estimated battalion of infantry and a company of tanks. Supporting artillery fire of light, medium and heavy artillery battalions and tank destroyers broke up the attack. The bridge was completed by noon on the 12th and Company C of the 735th crossed as did advance elements of Combat Command B, 7th Armored Division. The bridgehead was secured and on the 15th was expanded. On the 16th the 1st Bn, 11th Inf. relieved the 2nd Bn, 10th Inf. and subsequently all elements of the three infantry regiments except the 2nd Bn, 11th, moved into the bridgehead. The hard fighting was not yet finished, however. On 20 September, the 10th attacked and captured Pournoy-la-Chétiève and the 1st Bn 2nd Infantry captured Coin-sur-Seille. Both received severe counterattacks but held on, due chiefly to the superior artillery support. It was at Pournoy that T/A John Kasid of the 735th Tanks jumped out of his tank with his sub-machine gun to kill the gunners of two anti-tank rocket guns who were too close to the tank for its 75mm to depress. He was wounded twice in so doing but continued to drive his much-needed tank for 36 hours thereafter. On division order the 10th withdrew from Pournoy on 24 September. Until the end of September, the enemy counterattacked several times against positions around Cuvry, Coin les Cuvry, Coin sur Seille and Sillegny in unsuccessful attempts to prevent enlargement of the bridgehead. Artillery battalions were in the bridgehead area, however, and their close support turned the tide.

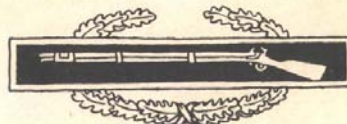
Construction of the bridge was a real triumph for the engineers, who built it under continuous artillery fire. An incessant smoke screen had to be kept over the bridge at all times, during construction and ever after until the fall of Forts Driant and Sommy. Division artillery of Brigadier General Harold Vanderveer played the leading role in maintaining the bridgehead.

The bridgehead won across the Moselle was the first permanent bridge of the Third Army and the key to the successful attack on Metz in November.

FORT DRIANT AFFAIR

Fort Driant, kingpin of the Metz fortress system, on the west side of the Moselle, north of Dornot, was attacked on 3 October by a special tank company of the 735th and the 2nd Bn, 11th infantry, less F company, plus B Company, 11th, and K Company of the 2nd. The southwestern third of the fort area, including two concrete barracks, two subterranean connecting tunnels and the perimeter defense of pillboxes, was seized successfully but troops above ground took a great pounding from artillery of surrounding forts which could fire on Fort Driant without hurting its structure. Subterranean and above-ground battles for the casemates were fought, in which troops from each regiment fought under command designated as Task Force Warnock for assistant division commander Brigadier General Aln D. Warnock who took over on the 5th when a composite battalion relieved the 2nd Bn 11th Inf. The attack, with all its weird complications, continued until 12 October when Third Army called it to a halt because of inability to pierce the fort without suffering excess losses.

The division continued to hold the bridgehead in a defensive, static role until relieved by the 95th Division on 20-21 October. The Red Diamond then retired to the Maginot Line, near Luxembourg for a ten-day period of training on attack of fortified pillboxes, and returned to the muddy foxholes in the same Moselle bridgehead, on 1 November, relieving the 95 Division.



The Fall of Metz.

"Congratulations on the capture of Metz and the splendid advance..... in spite of floods and mud and bitter enemy resistance".

-radiogram from General George C. Marshall to Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr.

Metz, fortress city and capital of battle-torn Lorraine, had never been captured by a direct assault in all its history, until Third Army troops sparked by the Red Diamond took it in November. The city was ringed by an inner and outer circle of 22 great forts and miscellaneous bunkers. Some of the forts were used merely as living quarters and had no turreted guns. Some, notably Fort Driant, St. Blaise, Sommy, Jeanne d'Arc and Marival, had firing casemates of 100 and 150 mm guns. All were constructed of steel-reinforced thick concrete. They had their own power plants, water tanks, and workshops and many subterranean connecting tunnels. They were all shrewdly situated on commanding ground surrounding Metz. When troops reached their objectives and looked back the way they came they often wondered how they had managed to do it.

The 5th proved the practical impossibility of trying to take the forts by direct assault in the attempts to take Fort Driant and the Verdun group in September and October. As a matter of fact the story of the fall of the forts and the fall of Metz are two different stories. The city was taken by disregarding the forts, by-passing them and containing their garrisons and pushing in to capture the city itself.

The Third Army's offensive to capture the city began on November 8 when 1300 heavy and medium bombers roared over the German lines between Metz and Nancy, bombing towns, forts and cross-roads and disrupting communications. On the following day the 2nd CT started the division's drive east. The Moselle river was at its highest flood in 30 years as the division push began and engineers, supply forces and the medics worked miracles of supply and eva-

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uation over the one bridge left intact by flood waters at Pont-à-Mousson. Approaches were four feet under water and assault boats carrying patients and supplies had to be pushed by manual labor through the water to the bridge.

The Seille river was also in its highest flood stage as the 2nd CT jumped off from its west bank and drove east 19,000 meters or 13 miles in three successive days to the flooded Nied river. Some elements of the 6th Armored Division worked at times with the 2nd CT.

Battling veteran German troops, thick mud, swollen rivers and minefields, the 2nd CT captured the villages of Cheminot, Louvigny, Vigny, Pagny-lès-Goin, Sully-en-Saulnois, Buchy, Dain-en-Saulnois and Beux. Exemplary of the aggressive action displayed by troops of the 2nd was Pfc. Harold Estep of Company C, expert in neutralizing German 88's and mortars. Estep, a BAR man, sneaked up on an 88 in Louvigny stepping around the corner of a building in front of the 88's muzzle just as the crew was loading it. One blast from Estep's BAR killed the crew and enabled his outfit to enter. It was also near Louvigny that Pvt. Duane N. Kinman, aid man with Company D of the 2nd inf, demonstrated the battlefield efficiency of all aid men of the 5th Medical Battalion by performing a tracheotomy, or windpipe operation on a muddy battlefield with a pocketknife. It wasn't that his action was any greater than that of the other medics in the division for whom there was never too much praise, but it did come to the attention of Western Reserve University in Ohio who offered him a surgical scholarship, and won high praise from the 30th Field Hospital, attached to the division.

E COMPANY AT THE SANRY-SUR-NIED BRIDGE

On 12 November the 2nd established a bridgehead east of the Nied river, protecting a bridge which the 6th Armored Division captured intact. There occurred another remarkable example of the type of foresightedness and tenacity that trademarked Red Diamond troops, as Company E of the 2nd, under Captain Joseph Fekete, held the bridgehead against 6 enemy counterattacks in 18 hours.

The main escape route of the Germans was 6000 yards north of Sanry. The rest of the bn, after crossing, proceeded east to seize objectives at Bazoncourt, Vaucremont and Ancerville. Captain Fekete organized the Company E positions, checking them personally, as the enemy indicated its intentions by an intense bombardment of artillery and mortars. One platoon of tanks, one of t. d.'s reinforced E at 1400 hours. Casualty-producing artillery continued to fall and Captain Fekete kept his command alerted for counterattacks, the first of

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which came at 1400 hours 13 November. The enemy force of two companies was stopped by Cannon company, tank and t. d. fire. A second counterattack formed immediately and was broken up by light machine gun fire. One of his 57mm guns, a truckload of ammunition and a t. d. were knocked out. Again the Germans attacked in darkness but were beaten off with heavy losses by small arms fire and emergency artillery concentrations. Captain Fekete withdrew his forces to within the town of Sanry and reorganized. The heaviest of attacks came at 2230 hours. Tanks and t. d.'s fired ricochet fire off the street. Riflemen, grenadiers, bazookamen, and machine gunners fought off the attack from rooftops, top floors of buildings and garden walls. The Germans withdrew at 0230 hours. Again at 0500 hours the enemy made one more desperate attempt to destroy the bridge. They penetrated to a point near the north end of the bridge but were thrown back for the final time by close-in small arms and grenade fighting.

As the 2nd CT drove eastward south of Metz, the 90th and 95th Infantry divisions and the 10th armored drove eastward north and northwest of Metz in an encirclement. The 11th CT on the river bank as the left flank and the 10th infantry east of the 11th changed the direction of the division attack from east to north and the 2nd CT did the same thing after driving out to the Nied river. Several forts stood between the 5th and Metz. Under continuous artillery support of division artillery and battalions of 8-inch howitzers, 240mm guns and 4.5 inch guns of XX Corps the regiments pushed north. The 11th by-passed St. Blaise and Sommy, passing so close that the guns could not depress enough to fire on the troops. The 10th drove the Germans out of Verry and captured Forts L'Aisne and L'Yser, the first forts to fall around Metz. Forcing the Germans out of the small villages south of Metz was slowgoing as was the business of by-passing the forts, although there was good air support during the operation. Trenchfoot, arising from the days and nights spent in the cold, wet, mud, caused more casualties than enemy fire.

ENTRY INTO METZ

At 1630 17 November the 2nd Bn 10th Infantry crossed the city limits of Metz at Fort Queuleu. The 11th entered the city limits the next day, bypassing Fort St. Privat. Street fighting began and on the following day, the 19th November, the 2nd CT made contact with the 90th division recon at Vaudreville, having driven north in a night attack to do so. This closed a ring around Metz that cut off escape. Later the same day the 10th contacted 95th

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division north of Fort Les Bordes and a tighter ring of encirclement was closed. A new corps boundary line gave the heart of the city to 95th Division but the 2nd Bn 10th Infantry CP was already in the city proper. Division troops completed mopping up operations within their zone on the 20th and after 95th division troops finished their mopping up operations on the 21st, the city was officially declared liberated from the French point of view, captured from the German viewpoint. Red Diamond troops had won another signal victory over mud, rain, flood and shot and shell from all types of enemy — from SS troops to Volksstur.

METZ



Fall of the Forts.

"The Bigger they are, the Harder they Fall"

Reading from left to right, or clockwise, from the west bank of the Moselle, the forts surrounding Metz were: Driant, Bois de la Dame, De Vaux, St. Hubert, Marival, St. Quentin, Jeanne d'Arc, De Caen, Plappeville. On the east bank, clockwise, north to south, were: Bellecroix, St. Julien, Champagne, Les Bordes, Lauvallières, Marne, Sorbey, Queuleu, Chesny Nord and Sud, L'Yser, L'Aisne, and the Verdun group, St. Blaise and Sommy.

Forts Driant, St. Blaise, Sommy, Chesny group, De Vaux group, Marne, Sorbey, St. Privat, Queuleu, Lauvallières, Plappeville, St. Quentin, Les Bordes, L'Aisne, L'Yser and Bois de la Dame all fell to the 5th Division, although some were inherited from the 95th Div.

Driant, with its supplementary Battery Moselle, was the largest, along with Jeanne d'Arc, and together with St. Blaise and Sommy, inflicted the most damage on the division. Driant and the Verdun group continually pounded the bridgehead forces with 100 and 150mm fire. Driant was attacked unsuccessfully on September 27 by the 11th Infantry and again on October 3, Company B, 11th, breached the fort defenses with a special 735th Tank Company. On the 5th the 2nd Bn, 11th, was relieved by Task Force Warnock, with a composite force of troops from the 10th and 2nd regiments, 735th Tank Bn, and 7th Engineers. Attack was abandoned on 12 October, without any appreciable headway against the concreted casemates. On 23 November the 3rd Bn 2nd Inf. took over the job of containing Fort Driant's garrison from the 95th Div. Div. arty placed continuous harassing fire on the fort and the fort fell to the 3rd Bn 2nd Inf. on 8 December with 670 prisoners and an amazing stock of material.

St. Blaise and Sommy, the Verdun group, fell on Sunday, 26 November, to the 3rd Bn, 11th inf. The 11th had suffered casualties in attacking the fort September 8, 9 and 10, then the 3rd Bn had crossed the Moselle on 11 September into the 10th regiment's left to come up from the south toward the Verdun group and contain

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them. They were bypassed in the drive for Metz and the garrison of 150 contained until it finally fell.

Forts **L'Aisne** and **L'Yser** actually were the first forts to fall to any Third Army troops when the 2nd Bn, 10th CT attacked Vervy and occupied the fort L'Aisne while the 1st Bn occupied L'Yser on 13 November.

Fort **Queuleu** was bypassed by the 10th regiment in the drive into Metz, although the bypassing had to be done under cover of darkness. The garrison surrendered on 21 November.

Fort **Sorbey** was captured by the 2nd Infantry on 17 November.

Groupe fortifié **Marne** was captured by the 2nd Bn, 2nd inf on 19 November.

Fort **Les Bordes** fell to the 3rd Bn of the 10th on 19 November as the 10th contacted the 95th Div in Metz to close a tighter noose on the Metz garrison. The next day, not far from Les Bordes, Company E of the 10th captured the first SS general to be captured by the Allies in the person of SS Major General Anton Dunckern, commander of the Police and Armed SS of the Lorraine and Saar basin.

Fort **Marival** was first contained by the 90th, then the 95th and, beginning on 23 November, by the 2nd Bn, 2nd inf. 2nd inf patrols found the fort unoccupied on 26 November.

Fort **St. Hubert** fell to the 2nd inf the same date and way as Marival, as did Fort **Bois La Dame**. Forts **De Vaux Nord and Sud** were found unoccupied on the 27th.

Fort **St. Privat**, which covered the Frescati airfield by fire, was bypassed by the 1st Bn, 11th inf in the drive on Metz, contained and then fell to the 1st Bn on 29 November with its garrison of 27 officers, 486 enlisted men.

Fort **St. Quentin**, originally a thorn in the 95th's side, was contained by the 1st Bn 10th Inf beginning 23 November until 27 November when the 2nd Bn 11th took over and the garrison capitulated on 6 December.

Fort **Plappeville** had the same history as St. Quentin, except that the garrison capitulated on 7 December.

Fort **Chesny** group surrendered to 1st Bn 10th on 17 November.

Fort **Jeanne d'Arc** was bypassed by the 95th Div in its drive from the north and contained by the 95th until relieved by 2nd Bn 2nd inf on 23 November. Jeanne d'Arc was dropped food by German planes and was the last fort to fall, not being overrun until after the 2nd inf was relieved of the task by a new unit on 9 December.

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Thus ended the fall of the forts. Those forts not taken by the 5th were seized by the 95th Div. The forts were pounded by 5th Division Artillery and reinforcing corps artillery and occasionally dive-bombed by fighter-bombers carrying 500 lb, 1,000 lb and 2,000 lb bombs, from September 8 to their last days in November. Their turreted guns resisted practically anything but a direct hit and most of them gradually wore out through excessive use. In taking the forts, none were directly assaulted but were surrounded close-in and their supply routes cut off while harassing fire kept troops inside and direct fire from SP guns created havoc.

• • •

After the fall of the forts and the capture of Metz, the 5th Division pushed eastward to the Saar-Lorraine international boundary line, to begin the battle for Germany. But that is another story and one that will be chronicled as the 5th's Campaign through France has been in this booklet.

It should be reiterated at this point that the individual acts related in this preceding narrative were related because they were exemplary of the thousands of similar acts. There were thousands of other acts, the skill and courage and sacrifice and endurance displayed therein earning the division's reputation. They cannot all be chronicled but they will never be forgotten by those who did them or saw them done.



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The Fifth Division in Iceland, England and Ireland.

A Brief G. I.-View of the Red Diamond Overseas

"See that left arm, Mac? If I had my blouse on now, it would have six gold stripes on it, one for each six months I've been overseas in the 5th Division."

The Sergeant was talking to a new replacement who had just been assigned to the division and was being given a brief history of the Red Diamond troops by the Sergeant, who knew it from Alabama to Zimring and all points in between.

"Yeah", continued the Sergeant. "I joined the division in Fort Mc Clellan, Alabama in 1939. After that came Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indiana, then Fort Custer in Michigan, with Tennessee and Louisiana maneuvers of 1941. About that time, Mac, the outfit started to infiltrate overseas. The 10th Infantry, less the 2nd Bn., plus the 46th field artillery battalion got seasick on the Barenquin from September 5 to 15 in '41 and when they got off they found they were in Iceland. The rest of the division, like I say, infiltrated over on tubs like the Orizaba and Minargo until it was all over by April 17, 1942."

"Cold, was it?" asked the replacement.

"We-ell", said the sergeant, reflectively chomping on a D-ration. "Now that I look back on it, it wasn't so bad. At least the wind was the only thing that whistled around your ears. 88 shells didn't. What we did was garrison the island from possible German invasion. Things were pretty rough in the North Atlantic around that time as the U-boat hadn't been licked yet and we had observation posts and outposts all over that jagged rock. Places like Hvammstangi, Reykaskoli, Sauerbaer, Utskalar, Seydisfjardur, Kambar Pass, Hvalfjardur, Grotta, and Eyjafjallajökull, not to mention Hofn, Vestmannaeyjar, Borgarnes, Hafnarfjardur, Selfoss, Pingvellir, Blonduos, and Snaefellsjökul. Kronur was what they called money, 100 kronur being worth about 15 bucks and the usual poker bet.

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WAVE WOMEN SONG IN FIVE COUNTRIES



"We unloaded ships and did stevedore work, too; built camps of Nissen huts and out on the Keflavik peninsula helped the Sea-Bees build Meeks Field, one of the largest military airports in the world. Worst thing was the wind and the loneliness in most of the camps. There were goodlooking girls but they were mostly all in Reykjavik, the capital, and if you weren't camped in or near there it was a long, rough ride to it when you could get a ride. Major-General Cortlandt Parker commanded the division. In July you could read a newspaper at midnight by the sun and in December and January there were only about four hours of light. We had a heavy Arctic ration and nearly everybody gained weight. Had a few submarine scares and lots of ships were torpedoed just off the coast. German planes came over on photo recon and once in awhile strafed a lighthouse or two for the hell of it. Snowed, of course, and we had a terrible time supplying the sectors and keeping open the Kambar Pass. Now, let me set you straight on a point or two, Mac. There are no trees igloos, polar bears or Eskimos there. There are sheep and fish. Definitely fish. My God, the cod. I was there two years, chum, and it did something to my sense of smell that Chanel No 5 had a hard time rivalling.

"Then Major-General S. LeRoy Irwin came up from North Africa where he had been div arty commander with the 9th Infantry Division in Tunisia, and took command of the 5th division on July 3, 1944". "When did you leave Iceland?" interjected the replacement, figuring the chapter on the Rock was kaput.

BOUND FOR OLD BLIMEY'S SHORE

"Advance party left July 6 in '43 and the rest came the following month. We descended on our training area in Wiltshire in south central England. A lot of the men had grown nervous in the service from two years of very little social life so passes and leaves to London and other places were a big morale-booster. The Red Diamond became very well-known in England and Scotland. We never got used to drinking mild-and-bitter, and it took a few weeks to get so we could understand the English language as spoken with the broad A and by the Scottish, Yorkshire and Lancastershire guys and gals. I won't mention the number of times I got lost following directions of people who said you simply can't miss it'. We fired on the range a lot and I'll never forget some of those soggy days and nights with the artillery firing down at Exmoor. Our cannon companies were born down there. Matter of fact, we were entirely re-equipped in England with new motors, crew-served weapons and the latest wrinkles.

"We left there in late October, a little reluctantly, to continue our training in North Ireland. The division was scattered in comfortable camps and billets through County Down, and Mac, we really trained in that place. In all kinds of weather, most of it rainy and disagreeable. The artillery fired everything but human cannonballs on the Hilltown and Annalong ranges and the infantry and engineers got to know personally every hill, stone fence, flax mill and farmyard in County Down the eight months we were there. The places had some fascinating names like Ballywillwill, Slieve Donard, Castlewel-lan, Mount Panther, Maggie's Leap, Killeel and Ballyedmond. Some cute colleens, but practically everybody was in uniform. Belfast swarmed with soldiers, sailors and marines of all nations. Its chief product was finest old Irish Whiskey, with or without labels, which cost between three and four pounds. That's twelve to sixteen dollars, Mac. That's what I remember most about Ireland.

IRELAND — THE RAINS CAME

"That and the constant rain and the green fields with all the stone hedges and the shaggy sheep; and the houses and hotels with fire-places but no central heating; and the way they named houses; instead of numbering them, and the pony traps. They had lots of holidays and the people took it easy except when it came to catching streetcars. Funny how that sticks in my mind, Mac, but I never saw anyone catch a street car in Belfast standing still. They ran to get on while it was moving and jump off when it was moving. Fascinating. Like the way people jump on the sub the last minute in New York, or on the tube in London, the Metro in Paris, or the 6 x 6 to the showerpoint. Yeah, we had some good times in Ireland, chum, but we trained hard too, because we knew our turn was coming. It came on July 4, when we turned our camps back to the British and took the train to Belfast harbor where we got on troop transports that let us off in France, 33 days after D-day.

"Just a few more words, Mac", continued the Sergeant. "It's tough coming in as a replacement among a bunch of guys you don't know, but just remember that you're in a great outfit that has a lot of experience and a crack reputation, just as it did in the first World War. And that means the men and officers are some of the best in this man's army.

"And now, chum, suppose you tell me about those United States. I got an idea I'll get back to it some year. Is beer still ten cents a glass?"

Routes of the Red Diamond.

Now that the dust has settled on roads and fields of France that was raised by the whirlwind advance of the 5th Division in August, a look at the routes reveals the rapidity of the campaign. Glance at the sketch-map in the center of the book now and then read the following dates, places and intervening mileage of the combat teams and the division command posts. To paraphrase Civil War General N. B. Forrest, the 5th "traveled fastest, got there firstest with the mostest".

ROUTE OF THE DIVISION COMMAND POSTS

- July 10 — Utah Beach to Montebourg vicinity, 16 miles.
- 14 — To Balleroy, 70 miles.
- 23 — To Cerisy la Forêt, 20 miles.
- 28 — Littcan, 4 miles.
- 31 — Aux Malles, 5 miles.
- Aug. 4 — Rouffigny, 52 miles.
- 5 — St. George de Reintembault, 25 miles.
- 6 — La Fresne, 36 miles.
- 8 — Becon, 37 miles.
- 11 — Angers, 9 miles.
- 13 — St. Calais, 92 miles.
- 14 — Authon, 25 miles.
- 15 — Harville, 25 miles.
- 17 — Pezy, 10 miles.
- 18 — Levesville, 22 miles.
- 22 — Malesherbes, 54 miles.
- 23 — Nemours, 15 miles.
- 24 — Villeneuve, 10 miles.
- 26 — Gumery, 50 miles.
- 27 — Sézanne, 33 miles.
- 29 — St. Imoges, 15 miles.
- 30 — Reims vic., 20 miles.
- Sept. 1 — Verdun, 52 miles.
- 6 — Pintheville, 17 miles.

- 7 — Vionville, 17 miles.
 - 13 — Chambley, 7 miles.
 - 27 — Villers-sous-Prény, 14 miles.
- (The division was out of the line for ten days, then returned to the bridgehead to start the drive for Metz.)
- Nov. 1 — Piennes to Villers sous Prény, 50 miles.
 - 12 — Les Menils, 10 miles.
 - 16 — Fort l'Aisne, 10 miles.
 - 23 — Metz, 16 miles.
 - Dec. 4 — Zimming, 25 miles.
 - 6 — Mine de Houille, vic Kreuzwald, Saar—Lorraine border, 10 miles.

Route of 2nd CT

- July 9 — Beach — Transit Area B, Utah Beach.
- 10 — Transit Area B — Division Concentration Area via Montebourg, 16 miles.
- 13 — Cormolain, 73 miles.
- Aug. 4 — Cherancy Le Heron, 15 miles.
- 5 — St. George De Reintembault, 25 miles.
- 7 — Vic Vitré, 40 miles.
- 8 — St. Clement de la Place, 49 miles.
- 9 — (1st Bn only) St. Clement de la Place — Vic Nantes, 45 miles.
- 12 — Angers, 14 miles.
- 15 — Authon, 108 miles.
- 16 — Illiers, 22 miles.
- 17 — Fresnay, 12 miles.
- 18 — Maintenon, 22 miles.
- 21 — Vic Etampes, 34 miles.
- 22 — Maise, 12 miles.
- 23 — Ury, 15 miles.
- 24 — Thoury Ferrotte, 22 miles.
- 26 — Fontaine Macon, 38 miles.
- 27 — Courtavant, 9 miles.
- 28 — Reims, 67 miles.
- 30 — Cernay les Reims, 3 miles.
- 31 — Fermes, 42 miles.
- Sept. 1 — Montblainville, 6 miles.
- 3 — Eix, 32 miles.
- 5 — Buzy, 12 miles.
- 7 — St. Marcel, 12 miles.
- 10 — Verneville, 6 miles.

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- 15 — Charey, 18 miles.
- 16 — Pagny sur Moselle, 12 miles.
- 18 — Lorry, 3 miles.
- Oct. 20 — Marfontaine, 67 miles.
- Nov. 1 — Lorry, 67 miles.
- 10 — Champey, 4 miles (consequent CP's in Metz drive).
- 23 — Metz.

Route of the 10th CT

- July 9—10 — Utah Beach, Normandy.
- 11 — Debarcation completed at 1900 and moved Vic Montebourg, 20 miles.
- 14 — Vic Montebourg — Vic Sallen, 55 miles.
- 24 — Vic Sallen — Foret de Cerisy, 26 miles.
- 27 — Vic Mouffet, 6 miles.
- Aug. 1 — Vic la Frene, 12 miles.
- 4 — Vic La Trinite, 53 miles.
- 5 — Vic Ardennes, les Feins, 60 miles.
- 6 — Vic Vitré, 33 miles.
- 8 — Vic Becon, 58 miles.
- 9 — Vic Ste Jeanne des Loir, 7 miles.
- 13 — St. Calais, 90 miles.
- 14 — Vic Authon, 21 miles.
- 15 — Vic Meslay, 32 miles.
- 17 — Vic Nicorbin, 7 miles.
- 18 — Vic Bretigny (outposting a line to E & S of Chartres), 5 miles.
- 22 — Malesherbes, 43 miles.
- 23 — Vic La Chapelle La Reine, 9 miles.
- 24 — Vic Ville St. Jacques, 19 miles.
- 25 — Montereau, 3 miles.
- 27—28 — Trainel, 22 miles.
- 29 — Le Baizel, 48 miles.
- 30 — Vic Epoye, 35 miles.
- 31 — Vic Cernay, 35 miles.
- Sept. 1 — Vauquois, 22 miles.
- 2 — Fort de Douaumont, 18 miles.
- 5 — Fresnes, 15 miles.
- 7 — Chambley, 18 miles.
- 9 — Vandelainville, 7 miles.
- 18 — CP at Arry, 6 miles.
- 20 — Marieulles, 3 miles.
- 25 — Lorry, 1 mile.

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- Oct. 1—14 — Defensive positions S. of Metz.
- 20—21 — To rest area North of Joppécourt, 70 miles.
- Nov. 1 — Lorry, 70 miles.
- 13 — Fort de l'Aisne, 10 miles.
- 21 — Metz, 16 miles.

Route of the 11th CT

- July 9 — Normandy Coast (Utah Sugar Red Beach).
- 10 — Division concentration area near Valognes, 20 miles.
- 13 — Caumont, 75 miles.
- 23 — Cerisy la Foret, 25 miles.
- 26 — Couvain, 10 miles.
- 29 — Vic St. Germain d'Elle, 12 miles.
- Height Vidauville, 2 miles.
- Le Heron, 15 miles.
- 31 — Le Heron, 15 miles.
- Aug. 4 — Vic Villedieu Les Puelles, 53 miles.
- 5 — Vic St. James, 60 miles.
- 6 — Vic Vitré, 50 odd miles.
- 7 — Angers, 63 miles.
- 11 — Chateau Gontier, 52 miles.
- 13 — Vic St. Calais, 94 miles.
- 14 — Vic Authon du Perche, 25 miles.
- 15 — Bailleau-le-Pin, 4 miles W. of Chartres.
- 17 — Prunay, 15 miles.
- 18 — Advance on Chartres, 5 miles.
- 20 — Bivouac 5 miles East of Chartres.
- 21 — Vic Roinvillers, 55 miles.
- 22 — Milly, 25 miles.
- 23 — Fontainebleau, 13 miles.
- 26 — Forges, 12 miles.
- 27 — Nogent-sur-Saine, 35 miles.
- 28 — Morangil, 50 miles.
- 29 — Advance on Reims, 50 miles.
- 31 — Verdun, 55 miles.
- Sept. 2 — Fort de Belrupt, 5 miles.
- 5 — Vic Marcheville, 15 miles.
- 7 — Vic Buxières, 14 miles.
- 11 — Bayonville, 10 miles.
- 26 — Arry, 6 miles.
- Oct. 20 — Errouville, 50 miles.
- Nov. 1 — Arry, 50 miles.
- 18 — Augny, 6 miles.
- 21 — Metz, 5 miles.

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Red Diamond Roll-Call in France

Commanding General Major General S. LeRoy Irwin.
 Division artillery commanding general Brigadier General Harold C. Vanderveer.
 Assistant Division commander Brigadier General Aln D. Warnock.
 Chief of Division Staff Colonel Paul O. Francon.

Infantry Regiments

2nd Infantry Colonel A. Warrell Raffe, commanding.
 10th Infantry Colonel Robert P. Ball, commanding.
 11th Infantry Colonel Charles W. Yuill, commanding February 3, 1942 to November 21, 1944.
 Colonel Paul C. Black, commanding since November 21.

Artillery Battalions.

19th Field Artillery Lt. Col. Charles J. Payne.
 21st Field Artillery Lt. Col. Robert L. Brunzell, to October 6, 1944.
 Lt. Col. Charles P. Baerman, since October 6, 1944.
 46th Field Artillery Lt. Col. James R. Johnson, to October 7, 1944.
 Lt. Col. Brunzell, October 8 to December 14, 1944.
 50th Field Artillery Lt. Col. William R. Calhoun.
 7th Engineer Battalion Lt. Col. Hugo J. Stark.
 5th Medical Battalion Lt. Col. Howard H. Bass.
 75th Tank Battalion Lt. Col. Abe Bock.
 818th Tank Destroyer Battalion Lt. Col. Clebert L. Hall.
 449 AAA AW Battalion Lt. Col. Frederick D. Kenison.
 5th Signal Company Capt. Joseph E. Kohnstamm.
 5th Recon. Troop Capt. Donald E. Robinson.
 705th Ordnance Company Capt. Max D. Thomson.
 5th Quartermaster Company ... Capt. Ralph F. Kubal.
 Division Headquarters Company Major John O'Haver.

(It is not possible to give further unit designations and still have the book sent through the mails.)

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Postscript

This is a book of, for and by the division. A large enough appropriation was secured to pay for the cost of printing enough copies to give one copy to each member of the division, including the former members who have been transferred out for one reason or another. It is realized that if each member wants one book he also probably wants one for his family, his girl or friends. Therefore a second edition will be printed but the cost will have to be borne by charging a nominal price for each copy. The edition will be printed as soon as paper can be obtained and will be sold through PX channels.

This book, as noted on the back cover, has been censored by the Third Army Field Press Censor and approved so that it may be mailed anywhere.



Wasthead

Illustrations throughout were drawn by Tec 5th Grade Keith T. Pitzer, 10th Infantry Regiment.

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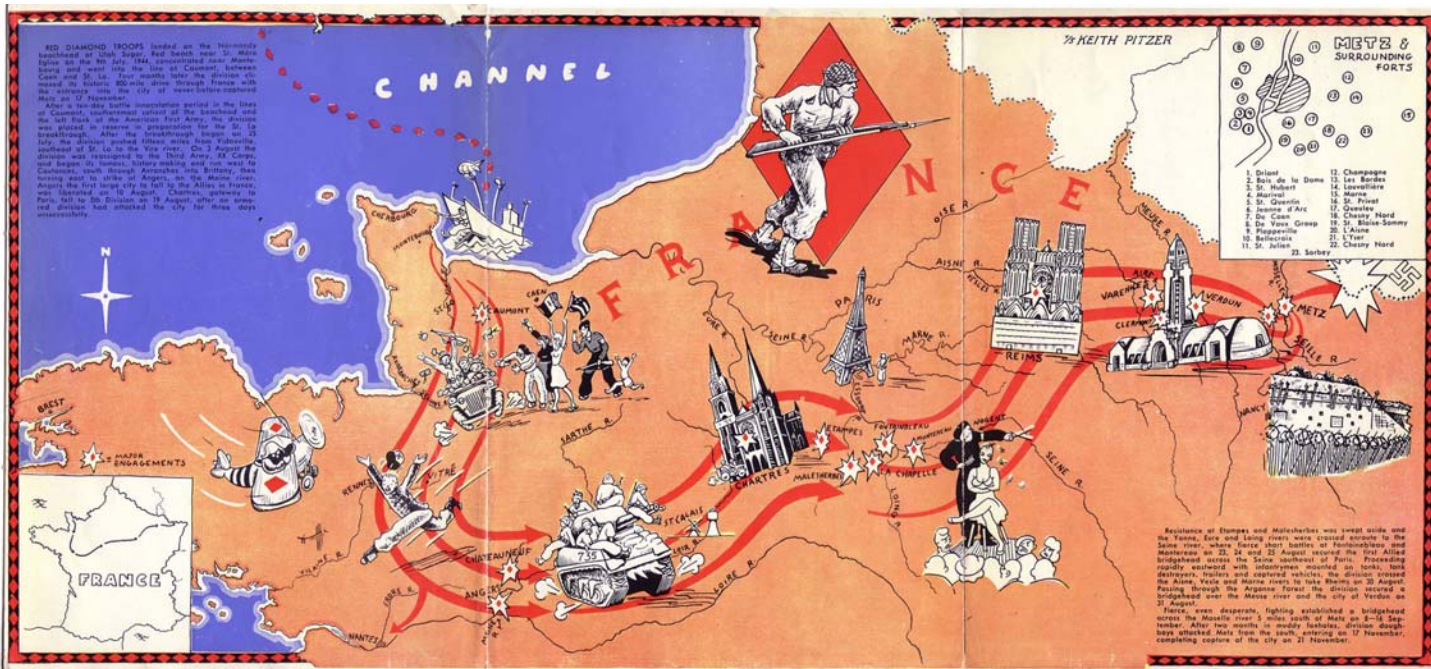
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RED DIAMOND TROOPS landed on the Normandy beachhead of Utah Beach near St. Marigny on the 10 July, 1944, concentrating near Ste. Beuve and west into the line at Caumont, between Caumont and St. Lo. Four months later the division crossed its historic 80-mile drive through France with the veterans, now the city of never before captured Metz on 17 November.

After a two-day battle in succession period in the line of Caumont, breakthrough opened in the direction of the left bank of the American First Army, the advance was directed in general toward the St. Lo breakthrough. After the breakthrough began on 27 July the division pushed fifteen miles from Caumont, southeast of St. Lo to the Vire river. On 2 August the division was reorganized by the Third Army, 9th Corps, and began its historic battle making way for west to Caumont, south through Ardenne, into Brittany, then moving east to the line of Angers, on the Maine river. Angers, the first large city to fall to the Allies in France, was liberated on 16 August. Caumont, gateway to Paris, fell to the Division on 19 August, after an unopposed advance had attacked the city for three days unopposed.

METZ & SURROUNDING FORTS

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. Dilsdorf | 12. Champagne |
| 2. Bois de la Dame | 13. Les Bordes |
| 3. St. Robert | 14. L'Archevêque |
| 4. Marfouly | 15. Marne |
| 5. St. Germain | 16. St. Privat |
| 6. Jumeau d'Arc | 17. Orléans |
| 7. De Camille | 18. Chateau Nord |
| 8. De Vaux Group | 19. L'Assommoir |
| 9. Pignerville | 20. L'Assommoir |
| 10. Belleville | 21. L'Yser |
| 11. St. Julien | 22. Chateau Nord |

Resistance of Buzancy and Malancourt was swept aside and the Yser, Aire and Long rivers were crossed en route to the Meuse on 21, 24 and 25 August secured the first Allied bridgehead across the Seine southwest of Paris. Proceeding rapidly eastward with infantrymen mounted on tanks, tank destroyers, trailers and captured vehicles the division crossed the Aisne, Vesle and Marne rivers to take Reims on 20 August. Plying through the Argonne Forest the division secured a bridgehead over the Meuse river and the city of Verdun on 21 August.

France, even desperate fighting established a bridgehead across the Moselle river 3 miles south of Metz on 6-16 September. After two months of muddy battles, division dugouts boys attacked Metz from the south, entering on 17 November, completing capture of the city on 21 November.