

Allied Forces Join Tito for All-Out Balkan Drive

Tanks Stab 25 Mi. Toward Liege

Chairborne GIs OK Army Plan On Discharges

By Arthur W. White
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

GIs and WACs, including London chairborne troops as well as combat veterans on leave, voiced one practically unanimous opinion yesterday on the War Department's new four-factor discharge plan to go into operation after Germany's defeat.

It was: "The combat credit should carry the highest number of points." (The others are service credit, overseas credit and parenthood credit. The point values will be announced after Germany's capitulation.)

Of 15 soldier-clerks and office workers canvassed, most of whom had more than a year's service in England and who said their only ambition was to go home, all admitted that the fighting men should get out first.

M/Sgt. Al Young, of Philadelphia, recruiting sergeant and a chairborne man. (Continued on page 4)

U.S., British Units Deploy In Yugoslavia

Anglo-American Might Is Ranged Beside Reds For First Time

Allied land, sea and air forces, going into action at the moment the Red Army reached the Yugoslav border along the Danube, have joined Marshal Tito's Partisans in a combined all-out offensive in Yugoslavia, Allied Mediterranean headquarters announced in Rome last night.

The disclosure that the Allies have embarked on their first Balkan operation since the British withdrawal from Greece in the spring of 1941 placed Allied ground forces alongside the Russians for the first time and marked a still further unfolding of the plans reached at Teheran last December for the "scope and timing" of joint operations.

Coming a few weeks after Prime Minister Winston Churchill had conferred with Tito in Italy, the new offensive marked the fourth punch thrown at Hitler's staggering forces in little over three months—a period that saw the landings in Normandy June 6, the opening of the Red Army's summer offensive June 23 and the landings in southern France Aug. 15.

Five Commands Take Part
Five offensive commands are participating: Tito's National Army of Liberation, the Balkan Air Force, the U.S. 15th Air Force, land forces in the Adriatic and Allied naval forces. Rome dispatches did not say where the Allied troops were operating, although for a week past Tito's army and Allied planes have been cutting German communication lines, particularly railways linking Yugoslavia with Greece and Hungary.

Even as the Allies took a hand in the Balkans, Berlin broadcast an unconfirmed report that Russian tanks had rolled into Greece after a lightning sweep through Bulgaria while other columns, speeding 60 miles across southwest Rumania in 24 hours, captured the Danube port of Turnu Severin, just below the famed "Iron Gate" gorge.

A force of Red tanks, self-propelled artillery and jeep-borne machine-guns were reported fighting for the town of Orsava, beyond the Iron Gate and only 90 miles east of Belgrade.

Cairo Radio said that the Reds had (Continued on page 4)

U.S. Casualties 305,795

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson announced today that U.S. Army casualties in all theaters up to Aug. 21 totaled 305,795. This included 57,677 killed, 156,933 wounded, 45,967 missing and 45,218 prisoners. Of the wounded 63,986 have returned to duty.

Yanks Fight Bloody Battle To Cross Moselle in Rain

Infantrymen Open Hole For Patton's Tanks To Go Through

By John Wilhelm
Reuter War Correspondent

WITH GEN. PATTON'S TROOPS, Sept. 7—This war is still not a push-over. This may sound queer after stories of fleeing Germans and imminent victory, but there was a bloody battle in one spot on the rain-swept Moselle River last night.

Units along the Moselle had orders to advance against what communiques might term "isolated pockets," or "some entrenched enemy positions." Soaking wet in drenching rain, they waded down to the river edge, plunged waist deep into the water and started to cross with a good chance of never making the far bank.

Here was the invasion all over again. The same desperate importance, the same sickening fear—and no optimistic headlines could help these boys.

We have got so used to tanks rushing ahead boldly, knocking a pathway for the infantry to move up with what at times seemed agonizing slowness to correspondents riding through territory unclear except for the armored drives—but there are times when the tanks must wait for the infantry to open a hole.

Entrenched Across River

One such time is when the enemy is entrenched across a river, with anti-tank guns commanding the water barrier. Such was the scene here.

About 2 o'clock the order came, and after an artillery barrage which only made the Germans dig in deeper, some boys crawled out of foxholes in which the rain had already created three inches of mud.

Then, with their mud-soaked clothing slopping about them, they ran down the slippery edge and pushed across. Here is the most terrible situation a man can encounter—exposed, helpless, and unable to return fire without exposing oneself as a target.

Desperately they plunged across; desperately they crawled on to the far bank and with maddened determination hurled hand grenades; and when the (Continued on page 4)

Tornado in Ohio Valley Results in Little Damage

PITTSBURGH, Sept. 7 (ANS)—Residents of the Ohio River valley between Pittsburgh and the Ohio State line yesterday experienced their second tornado in less than four months as a twister, which caused little damage, swept through the same area hit by one of five that caused widespread damage last June 23.

The June tornadoes traveling approximately 40 miles apart caused \$5,000,000 damage in Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio and Maryland and resulted in 153 deaths.



Moselle River—last before the Rhine.

Britain Eases Blackout Rules

Only Dim Lights Required After Sept. 17; Robot Battle Nears End

Britain's home front heard some of its best news in months yesterday.

A series of Whitehall announcements: (1) Changed the blackout to a dim-out, (2) Abolished compulsory Home Guard drills,

(3) Cut down fire guard duties from 48 hours a month to 12.

(4) Pronounced the robot bomb Battle of London over, "except possibly for a few last parting shots."

The new blackout regulations, effective Sept. 17, when double summer time ends, require windows other than skylights to be curtained only sufficiently to prevent objects inside the building from being distinguishable from the outside.

Ordinary peace-time curtains can be used, Home Security Minister Herbert Morrison announced, except that when an air raid alert sounds blackout curtains must be drawn or lights extinguished.

Stronger street lighting will also be permitted, and bicycle lamps may be used without screening provided the reflector has a rough white surface "to prevent dazzle." Headlights will not be changed at present.

Duncan Sandys, member of Parliament and chairman of a committee which has (Continued on page 4)

Pants Too Long?

STOCKHOLM, Sept. 7 (UP)—Goering's tailor, Richard Graser, has been arrested by the Gestapo on the personal orders of Himmler, says the Stockholm newspaper Morgontidningen. He is alleged to have had dealings with the black market.

Strong Push Made From 3 Bridgeheads

Growing Resistance Meets Belgian Drive And Moselle Crossing

Massive tank formations of the U.S. First Army made a 25-mile thrust in Belgium yesterday toward Liege and the Siegfried Line from three bridgeheads across the Meuse River.

Advancing in strength from an arc northeast, east, and southeast of Namur, the tanks met heavy mortar and light arms fire. There were increasing signs at the front that a large force of German combat troops still had to be met and defeated either on or before the Siegfried Line.

Two other American columns, south of Namur, pushed eastward—one from Givet, and the second through the Ardennes Forest from the Charleville region.

35 Miles from Germany

German News Agency reported last night that American troops in Belgium had reached the Albert Canal beyond Diest—about 35 miles from the nearest point to Germany.

Third Army forces met stiff German resistance as they closed in on the Moselle River on a 50-mile front from Thionville to Nancy.

They reached the river north of Metz and edged forward in the outskirts of the town. Soldiers both above and below Metz met fierce artillery fire, but an Associated Press dispatch from the front said that armor and infantry had enforced a crossing of the Moselle River below Metz.

A Reuter dispatch from the Third Army front said, however, that the Yanks continued to try to establish bridgeheads over the Moselle in the Metz-Nancy area, and that American long-range artillery destroyed a column of panzer troops and grenadiers southeast of Nancy.

Last Ditch Stand

A United Press report from the Third Army said that Germans lining the Moselle were believed to have received "fight to the last man" orders, to give other forces time to take up positions nearer the Siegfried Line.

German positions in the hills overlooking "Little Cassino," the small village of (Continued on page 4)

For Two-Way Traffic

U.S. Engineers Have One Goal—Rhine Bridge

By Earl Mazo
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH COMBAT ENGINEERS IN FRANCE, Sept. 7—This company of combat engineers which lifted mines, blew road blocks and built bridges across France from Normandy to the Marne is pushing on with an armored division with one purpose foremost in mind.

And that is to build a bridge across the Rhine so strong that it will not only hold everything that will pass into Germany but also carry all the weight of a victorious American Army headed back toward a French port and home.

The company, under Capt. Donald W. Hatch, of Boston, put up 12 substantial bridges in the 1,200-mile armored sweep from Normandy across France almost to the German border. En route the men of the outfit did every imaginable Army job. They even fought in the line as doughboys.

At one town a squad under Lt. Eugene F. Johnson, of Wayne, Neb., reconnoitering a situation, established a road block, and with only three jeeps wiped out a column of German infantry, which included six vehicles.

Hot Fighting Results

Fighting in that town was as hot as there has been in the French campaign. Johnson, with Cpl. Robert Anderson, of West Haven, Conn.; Pfc Raymond Ball Jr., Tonawanda, N.Y.; T/5 True W. Day, Portland, Me.; Pvt. John Zera, Port Griffith, Pa., and Pvt. Francis Gelbuda, Minersville, Pa., had a bridge up in no time and the squad safely on the other (Continued on page 4)

The War Today

France—Tank formations of U.S. First Army make 25-mile thrust in Belgium toward Liege and Siegfried Line. . . . Germans say American troops in Belgium reached Albert Canal, about 35 miles from German frontier. . . . Third Army forces meet stiff resistance along 50-mile Moselle River front. . . . Germans also put up determined resistance around Calais, Boulogne and Le Havre. . . . British threaten new stretch of Channel coast after capturing Ghent. . . . Canadian spearheads seven miles west of Dunkirk. . . . Gen. Patch's Seventh Army in southern France rolls northward without contacting retreating German 19th Army.

Russia—Allied land, sea and air forces open joint offensive in Yugoslavia with Tito's Partisans as Russians reach Yugoslav border and take Turnu Severin near "Iron Gate." . . . Germans report Red Army tanks in Greece after lightning sweep through Bulgaria. . . . Four Russian armies engaged in "savage fighting" for breakthrough northeast of Warsaw, Berlin says.

Italy—Fifth Army within six miles of Gothic line's west flank at number of places but Eighth Army meets stubborn resistance in drive toward Rimini on Adriatic, still six miles away.

Pacific—Daily bombings of Japanese mainland approaching, U.S. 20th Air Force Chief of Staff predicts. . . . Jap Prime Minister warns people to prepare for invasion of home island and more air raids. . . . Jap Navy minister admits "our forces are inferior" and "we haven't the necessary air support."

Pattern of Liberation in Belgium



Liberated Belgians expressed their joy in varied ways. Girl of Beaumont at left sports U.S. and British flags on her skirt. At



Rongy, townspeople turned out to cheer American soldiers and armored cars as they passed through en route to the front.