

New York—London
Paris—Rennes
Monday, Sept. 11, 1944
Vol. 1, No. 59

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Ici On Parle Français
Vous avez des yeux charmants.
Voo zavay day zyuh sharmon.
You have charming eyes.

Nazis Stiffen at Border

Bowed Heads Bespeak the Eloquent Silence of the Vanquished



Firm Stand Being Made In 3 Sectors

**Patton's Men Reported
In Major Battle; First
Shells Hit Reich**

German resistance stiffened yesterday along the entire battle line near the Reich border and while a news blackout hid developments in a major battle being fought by the U.S. Third Army along the Moselle River, the first Allied shells landed in western Germany.

Striking the initial artillery blow against Germany were cannoners of Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges' First U.S. Army. The shells landed at Bildchen, a little less than a mile across the Reich's frontier from Belgium, after the First Army's advance to the area of L'burg had brought it to within ten miles of the border at Aachen.

Correspondents reported that the

**Russians Enter
East Prussia**

Some of them smile, some stare arrogantly, others simply bow their heads because they can think of nothing else to do. These German prisoners, brought in by an artillery captain, Phillip Hawks, of Belmont, Mass., near Brest, apparently are of the head-bowing variety.

**Premier, Aides
Reach Quebec**

Mortain Battle Earns Praise For 30th Div.

Once 'Training Outfit,' It Halted Major Counter-Drive

By Paul V. Connors

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer.

A year ago this month the 30th Infantry Division was going about the rather boring business of maneuvers in Tennessee wondering if it would ever get the chance to wear combat ribbons. The "sharps" said the division would never go overseas, that it was a training unit preparing men who would serve as replacements for other organizations. The "sharps" were wrong.

Last week the 30th Division received a special commendation given by Maj. Gen. Lawton J. Collins, Seventh Corps commander. The award was given for the magnificent job the 30th had done in holding off the last major attack of the German Seventh Army in the vicinity of Mortain early last month. Addressed to the Division's commanding general, it read in part:—

"Your division, with the aid of the Third Armored Division and an infantry regiment of the Fourth Division, bore the brunt of the desperate attack of the German Seventh Army. With the assistance of the artillery of the Fourth Division and the Third Armored, the 30th Infantry Division checked this penetration and then destroyed the German force which made the advance."

120th Cited Specially

Gen. Collins paid special tribute to "the tenacity of the Second Battalion of the 120th Infantry which, when isolated on a hill east of Mortain, held out for five consecutive days against determined efforts of the Germans to annihilate it."

For five rugged days the "Old Hickory" Division slugged it out with the best of the Wehrmacht, five infantry-armor divisions, including the SS Adolf Hitler Panzers. The Germans were shooting for Avranches and the sea, attempting to split the American armies in Normandy and Brittany. They didn't quite make it.

The 30th didn't just "happen" to be holding the sector from Le Mesnil Tove through St. Barthelmy to Mortain when the Germans threw their last desperate punch before turning to run.

Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley, commanding the 12th Army group, had selected the division to hold the major part of the bottom of the "pocket," releasing other units to work the side of the bag in which thousands of Heinies were finally trapped.

Attack Came Quickly

Attack Came Quickly

The Germans attacked shortly after the 30th took up its position. Taking advantage of good road networks, the enemy struck furiously in several sectors. The fury of the attack stunned the Yanks.

A battalion was overrun in the St. Barthelmy sector; the second battalion of the 120th was isolated, "lost" on a hill overlooking Mortain. An artillery battalion used direct fire, so close were German tanks. In several instances, engineers, artillerymen and cavalrymen fought as infantrymen. The bayonet was an overworked weapon—it was that kind of scrap.

The bazooka played the most prominent of rôles, knocking out numbers of tanks, stalling others which were then duck soup for rocket firing Typhoons of the RAF which flew to support the foot troops on the afternoon of the first day of fighting.

And so it went with the fighting division which a year ago wondered if it ever would see combat. After three days of wild mixing the Germans were beaten off in most sectors, the supply line between the peninsulas remained intact. It took five days to rescue the heroic "lost battalion." Though its casualties were high, the 30th Division had completed its assigned mission in a superb manner.