20,000 Surrender to 24

Twenty thousand Nazis were put behind barbed wire in the strangest surrender in modern times. They capitulated to a single American platoon, to 24 men, who crossed the River Loire to arrange terms. From as far as the Spanish border Germans on garrison duty drove, rode, cycled and marched to the rendezvous on the banks of the Loire. They had first tried to escape back to Germany. That plan was frustrated by the Maquis and the American 9th Airforce. The choice was surrender or

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annihilation. They soon made it. At the rendezvous the salute was taken by the German General Elster.

He refused to surrender to the Maquis, so the Americans had to despatch a general officer to accept the capitulation.

(bikes) All arms and equipment were dumped at the end of the surrender march. The Germans could have made a fight of it if they'd had the spirit. The fact that they hadn't indicates that the rot has started in the German army.

Nazi General Elster put the best face he could on his humiliation. He didn't appear to be troubled by the apparent absurdity of 20,000 men surrendering to twenty-four; he saluted Generam Mason, knowing that behind the American were the 9th Air. Force, the Maquis and the whole U.S.

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so the 20,000 marched over the river into captivity.

Its doubtful whether any wanted to escape, but to the Americans counted them in just in case. These Germans made a sizeable contribution to the amazing total of prisoners taken sice D-Day - nearly half a million.

(Last man) This, for the 20,000, is the end of Hitler's dream of a Third Reich lasting a thousand years. This strange incident may turn out to be the first of several as the German Army goes down to defeat.

TO BOTH ERITISH 2ND ARMY AND U.S. IST ARMY ENDEAVOURS
TO POUR ARMOUN AND MEN ACROSS THE ALBERT CANAL THE ENEMY IS PUTTING
UP THE STRONGEST OPPOSITION HE CAN MUSTER TO THE POINT OF BRINGINS DOWN ARMOUR WRICH CAN ILL BE SPARED AND INFANTRY RESERVES DRAWN
FROM FAR DISTANT CAMRISONS. OVER TO THE WEST ON THIS MORTHERN
SECTOR THERE ARE SIGNS THAT THE ENEMY IS STAGING A HOLDING ACTION WE
GETTING AS MANY TROOPS AS POSSIBLE ACROSS THE SCHELDT.

ELGHTY WOUNDED WERE BROUGHT FROM AN IMPROVISED AIR STRIP IN THE

WHILE INESE COLUMNS ARE STEADILY PUSHING TOWARDS THE MAIN ARE ARREAD OF THE SIEGERIED LINE OTHER FORMATIONS OF THE SAME ARMY ARE MEETING FIERCE AND STUBBORN RESISTANCE TO THEIR NORTHERN ADVANCES. PARTICULARLY IN THE REGION OF THE ALBERT CANAL BRIDGEHEAD WHICH THEY HAVE ESTABLISHED IN THE VIGINITY OF HASSELT.O

ON THE EASTERN FRONT OVER WHICH GENERAL HODGES COLUMNS ARE OPERATING THERE IS HEAVY FIGHTING PARTICULARLY IN THE FORWARD AREAS, TEN MILES NORTH OF LUXEMBOURG AT MERSCH THE ENEMY IS STIFFLY OPPOSING ANY FORTHER ADVANCES; BUT BETWEEN LIEGE AND ARLOW THE IST ARMY IS EXERTING PRESSURE AND FORCING THE GERMANS BACK TOWARDS THE SIEGERIED LINE.

FORCES ON A FAIRLY WIDE FRONT,

THE APPROACH OF THESE SOLDMNS, ALMOST TO WITHIN EFFECTIVE
WARTILLERY RANGE OF THE WEST WALL AND ONE OF 1TS CHIEF
WALLIAGES AT AACHEN CONSTITUTES A SERIOUS PROBLEM FOR HITLER'S
MILITARY CHIEFS, THE AMERICANS IN FAIR STRENGTH ARE ONLY
TEN MILES FROM THE FRONTIERS OF THE REICH AND THERE IS STILL
NO NEWS OF A SERIOUS ENEMY COUNTER ATTACK BEING LAUNCHED TO
HALT THEIR PROGRESS, ALTHOUGH THE DEFENCES ARE NATURALLY STIFFENING
AS THEY GET NEARER TO THE SILCFRIED LINE.

THE LIBERATION OF THE THIRD EUROPEAN CAPITAL BY AMERICAN.
IST ANAM FONCES IS NOT WORRYING THE GERMAN HIGH COMMAND SOMUCH AS THE CLOSER PROXIMITY TO THE REICH OF THESE.

ADD SIEGRKIED LINE, SERIOUSLY THREATENED.

MAINTALK ABEQUATE RESEARCH INTO THE MALADIES AFFECTING ELCODSTOCK,

MOMENATIONS WILL BECOME A REGULAR ANNUAL METHOD OF HELPING TO

MR R W BAHNETT.

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MR MARYIN BENSON HAS GIVEN CHE OF HIS OWN MOMINATIONS