

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

~~annihilation. They soon made it, but their General~~

~~refused to surrender to the Maquis, so a U.S. general~~

~~had to go to the Loire to accept the surrender.~~

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 General Mason, knowing that behind the American were the 9th Air Force, the Maquis and the whole U.S. Army;

...THE BATTALION ...

FROM PETER ...

So the 20,000 marched over the river into captivity. Its doubtful whether any wanted to escape, but the Americans counted them in just in case. These Germans made a sizeable contribution to the amazing total of prisoners taken since 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.

...HE HAS GIVEN US HOPE OF REMAINING IN BELGIUM OR HOLDING THE ...

...HAVE ESTABLISHED IN THE VICINITY OF MUSEGEL ...

...TOWARDS THE STRECHER LINE ...

...AS THEY GET NEARER TO THE STRECHER LINE ...

...THE APPROACH OF THESE COLUNNS ...

...AND STRECHER LINE SERIOUSLY IMPROVED ...

...MAINLY ...