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THE ROAD TO THE RUHR

The skeleton remains of German churches purposely wrecked by the retreating Huns mark the path of General Dempsey's 2nd Army, advancing on Geilenkirchen. The destruction and sorrow the Nazis dealt abroad has now come home to roost. The fighting here marked the first great battle by British troops on German soil. They were quick to disprove this German boast: "We will never capitulate."

A scene over which to recall Gen. Eisenhower's urgent message to American munition workers to step up shell production. Consumption was far outstriking supply until the reminder from the front line dispelled the illusion that the war in Germany is a pushover.

A profusion of mines was laid in an attempt to delay our advance. Some were scattered around loosely and others carefully buried in the hope that the mine-sweepers would miss them. It needs a keen eye and a steady hand to deal with these boxes of trouble....

Geilenkirchen fell after a two-day 'plane and artillery bombardment and dawn-to-dusk infantry fighting which swept right through the town.

Germans who weren't quick enough in making a get-away are routed out of the houses and marched off to join their captured comrades. The total bag of prisoners here was around the 300 mark. Jointly conquered by the British Second Army and the Ninth American Army (in what has been called the most concentrated offensive the world has ever known) the desolate broken town of Geilenkirchen is a warning of the future which faces the German Nation if it chooses to carry on its losing struggle. The Hindenburg Strasse; while rain adds to the drabness of the scene, the ever-resourceful soldier finds that a German brelly comes in handy.

Outside the town the whine and crackle of rifle fire as German snipers are met with.

Lower down the front; troops of the American 1st Army enter Eschweiler at the edge of the Cologne plain. This is as far as the tanks go, but the allied forces aren't stepping here - They are well on their way along the nearby Adolf Hitler Highway which runs from Aachen to Cologne.

Buildings in which the Nazis have planted teller mines are attended to.

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The Allied Military Government has already moved in on the captured soil of the Reich. Notices stipulate that from now on the official language is English.

The first appointed British Military Governor of Germany - Major Reitz of South Africa, nephew of the late High Commissioner for South Africa in England.

At the Southern end of the Allied push the French Army sweep on to take Belfort. With the memory of France's bitter years behind them, Frenchmen with a score to pay are clearing more Germans from French soil. The people of Southern Alsace witness another historic change in the broken history of Alsace-Lorraine. In this sector alone over 100,000 prisoners were taken....And all along the 400 mile front the Allied Armies are thrusting through the gates of Germany.
