

GERMANS PAID TO WORK FOR U. S. ARMY



Associated Press Wirephoto, from U. S. Army Signal Corps
These civilians of Pruem help engineers build and repair roads for the United States Third Army.

Blue Ridge Boys on the Move

MacGowan Visits 80th Division, Which Found Him After Escape From Nazis.

By GAULT MacGOWAN.

Staff Correspondent of THE NEW YORK SUN.
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With the Third Army, March 20.—I spent last night at the headquarters of the Eightieth (Blue Ridge Mountain) Division, which rescued me from life with the Maquis when I escaped from the Nazis last August. They were driving behind the last remnants of the Siegfried Line.

I sat with a tall Nebraskan, Gen. Horace McBride, in his command post and heard his explanation of the drives which have brought him from Saarburg to within eleven miles of a burning mountain outside of Saarbruecken that has been smoking from a smoldering coal seam more than 200 years.

Today the Blue Ridgers picked up the speed of an armored division and sped fifteen miles in the longest advance by an infantry division in the Third Army cam-

lots of other actions, one of the high spots was when McBride's newly painted jeep with a new engine was blown up by a German rocket as he entered a forward command post.

Gen. McBride and his Brig.-Gen. Owen Summers of Portland, Ore., used to take turns going to the front line, much to the uneasiness of the general's aid, Major Ken Clark, son of H. K. Clark of Williams, Lawrence & Crestmer of Chicago, Western advertising representatives of The New York Sun. Clark was a captain when we last met, but

writing on them in ink the name of each place captured.

But the man who keeps the general happiest is a Damon Runyonlike character, Guy Foote, his orderly. Foote is a sophisticated New Yorker who knows all the film stars and celebrities through long years of service as a valet. While I talked with the General, Foote brought in in relays some newly prepared popcorn and refreshments.

According to Major Clark, if Gen. McBride had to choose between his aid and his orderly, Foote would win every time.

"He is the one man in the Army the General couldn't dispense with," said Major Clark.

In the present Saar operations, the Blue Mountaineers are living up to their reputation: "Look up and down the line and where you see the biggest bulge—that's the Eightieth Division."

In addition to Steve Early, the President's secretary, other distinguished veterans who have served in the division include Gen. (Vinegar Joe) Stilwell of Burma fame and Patrick J. Hurley, Secretary of War in President Hoover's Cabinet and now President Roosevelt's special emissary to China and other nations.

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Today the Blue Ridgers picked up the speed of an armored division and sped fifteen miles in the longest advance by an infantry division in the Third Army campaign. The latest reports put Gen. McBride's men at a point seven miles west of Kaiserlautern, thus lengthening the narrow escape gap from the Saar between themselves and the Seventh Army in the Saarbruecken area.

Hemmed in for days with difficult forest fighting, McBride has broken out now into open country beyond St. Wendel, where the medieval saint lies buried. Ninth Air Force pilots reported horse-drawn vehicles and motor transport is jammed between Gen. McBride's division and armor operations in the adjacent Palatinat, and they used up their bombs and ammunition within a few minutes.

Record of Achievement.

The Eightieth was Steve Early's old division in the last war and when the President's press secretary visited the war front recently he specially sought out the Eightieth and had a long talk with the general. He promised to tell the President about the division's record from the breakthrough at Argentan and of the casualties suffered.

The division participated in the battle of Chalons (where they picked up your correspondent), won the first bridgehead across the Moselle, destroyed enemy resistance in the Maginot Line, fought the Battle of the Bulge, and shared the honors of bringing relief to Bastogne with the Fourth Armored Division. Amid

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The division captured two Germans and one machine gun for every man wounded in the first world war and its gunners boasted more days of continuous combat firing than any other division in that war. When activated for this war its commander was Major-Gen. Joseph Patch and McBride was his artillery brigadier.

The division officers became well known to many New Yorkers in 1944 when the division was quartered at Fort Dix before sailing for England and France. The division's reputation for toughness stems from the fact that

lots of other actions, one of the high spots was when McBride's newly painted jeep with a new engine was blown up by a German rocket as he entered a forward command post.

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An Orderly Out of Runyan.

One of Gen. McBride's busiest staff officers is Lieut.-Col. Richard Fleisher, former merchandising manager of Gimbel's store in Philadelphia. Lieut.-Col. Edmond Arthur Oall, civil affairs executive, keeps a diary of regimental conquests on his slippers by

Lieut.-Gen. Ben Lear selected for the United States' first and realistic Ranger school afterward it participated famous desert maneuvers in California and Arizona. Since met these men outside of on the Marne, they have nearly 20,000 Nazi prisoners destroyed more than 125 tanks.