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EXCLUSIVE

FIRST EYE-WITNESS STORIES OF 69TH DIV- RED ARMY LINK-UP

THREE PATROLS OF THE 273RD INFANTRY REGIMENT-MAKE CONTACT WITHIN THREE HOURS OF EACH OTHER AT SEPARATE POINTS

With the 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION--(April 25)--- Unknown to each other three patrols of the 273rd Infantry Regiment, commanded by Colonel Charles M. Adams Jr., made contact with three separate elements of the First Ukrainian Army at 1330, 1545, and 1640 hours on Wednesday, April 25.

LT. KOTZEBUE MAKES FIRST CONTACT AT 1330 IN KAUSSWITZ

Kausswitz, Germany--- The first recorded linkup with the Red Army was made by a patrol of 11 men, led

MAJOR CRAIG'S PATROL MEETS SOVIETS AT 1545 IN CLANZSCHWITZ

Clanzschwitz, Germany--- In the small town of Clanzschwitz between the Mulde and Elbe Rivers the second dramatic juncture of American and Soviet Forces took place at 1545 on the afternoon of April 25.

A patrol, led by Major Fred W. Craig and consisting of 31 men from companies "E", "H", and Regimental headquarters of the 273rd Regiment had just scouted out the

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ENTIRE WORLD SCOOPED

Yesterday's WORLD NEWS story on the 69TH's linkup with the Soviets was the first authentic announcement in the world of one of the "hottest" stories of the war.

Today WORLD NEWS carries the first detailed accounts direct from the men who were there.

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This news has not yet been released. Therefore this bulletin cannot be sent home or reproduced in any form

THIRD JUNCTURE MADE ON SLOPING GIRDERS OF BLOWN-OUT BRIDGE

By Sgt. Robert Loftus

WITH THE 69TH INFANTRY DIVISION--(April 25)--- The 69TH Infantry Division met the 58th Guard Division of the Red Army at 1640 today. The historic meeting equaling if not rivaling in color any other event of the war took place between a second lieutenant from the 69TH and an enlisted man from the Russian Army on the sloping girders of a blown-out bridge spanning the Elbe River about 100 yards east of the German town of Torgau.

The lieutenant is 2nd Lt. William D. Robertson, S-2 of the 1st Battalion, 273rd Inf. Reg., who resides in Los Angeles, Calif.

"I didn't know what to say when I met him on the girder. I pounded him on the knee, shook his hand a couple of times and said

TODAY'S WAR NEWS

N O R T H E R N E U R O P E A N T H E A T E R

Red Army Fronts

More inroads were made yesterday into Berlin by Red Army troops who cutting the city up street by street. Most violent fighting was reported in the suburb of Charlottenburg and in the area around the Tempelhof Airport. The Gorlitz railroad station has been captured and more gains were made toward the heart of the city. The Deutschlandsender, powerful Nazi-propaganda radio station is now in Soviet hands as is a suburb that contains a great percentage of Berlin industry.

North of Berlin -- Stettin has fallen to Marshal Zhukov's forces and a 20-mile advance beyond it has been reported.

In Czechoslovakia Soviet forces have taken the country's second city of Brno along with 30 towns and villages in the area.

British 2nd Army Front

Bremen has fallen. British troops entered the city yesterday after a bitter 10-day battle at the gates of the city.

U.S. 3rd Army Front

General Patton's tanks and infantry have advanced 8 more miles toward the Austrian border and now are fighting some 7 miles from the frontier town of Passau. Regensburg is nearly encircled and its fall is expected momentarily.

7th Army Front

7th Army forces along with the 3rd Army and the French 1st Army now control 180 miles of the upper Danube. 7th Army forces are advancing toward Munich on a 60 mile front and were last reported less than 45 miles from the Nazi stronghold. Augsburg is threatened by General Patch's troops, while on their right flank French 1st Army troops control the German side of Lake Constance and have taken the town of Constance.

Inside Germany

Goering has been reported to have "resigned" as head of what's left of the Luftwaffe because of "heart trouble".

S O U T H E R N E U R O P E A N T H E A T E R

5th Army Front

The Italian front has broken wide open. Italian patriots have seized control of the large north Italian cities of Milan, Genoa, and Turin. 5th Army troops thrust over 35 miles north of the Po River to capture Verona, southern terminus of the railroad that passes through the Brenner Pass into Austria.

P A C I F I C T H E A T E R

Japan

For the second time within 24 hours superforts from the Marianas attacked airfields on Kyushu, southernmost of the main Japanese Islands.

L A T E B U L L E T I N

The 3rd Army has crossed into Austria near the border town of Passau.

7th Army forces have advanced to within 25 miles of Munich.

LT. KOTZEBUE MAKES FIRST CONTACT AT 1330 IN KAUSSWITZ

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by Lt. Kotzebue of the 273rd Infantry Regiment.

On the night of April 24 the patrol entered the little town of Luppä where they encountered the German garrison who put up a fight but finally surrendered to Lt. Kotzebue and his men.

After spending the night at Luppä; the patrol continued toward the Elbe River and the town of Riesa.

At Kausswitz just outside of Riesa the patrol was moving cautiously up a hill and suddenly encountered a column of horsemen. Momentarily the two groups, face to face, sprang into firing position. Someone hollered and the units recognized each other. Then there followed a joyous union with general handshaking and mutual exchanges of good will.

Lt. Katzebue continued on with the Russian cavalry unit to the 58th Division headquarters where he was later joined by Major Craig whose patrol contacted the Soviets several hours later.

NEWS NOT YET RELEASED

At 1 o'clock today the world still knew nothing of the meeting between the Soviets and the 69TH Division. For a week now the press and radio has been tensely standing by for the news.

At 2 o'clock today CBS in New York reported that the news of a possible linkup was expected momentarily.

THIRD JUNCTION MADE ON SLOTTING GIRDERS OF BLOAN BRIDGE.

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from the 273rd. They are: Cpl. James McDonnell of Peabody, Mass., Pfc. Frank Huff, Washington, Va., and Pfc. Paul Staub of the Bronx, New York.

Commanding the Russian platoon, first to make contact with Robertson and his three men was Lt. Alexander Sylvashko of the 58th's 173rd Reg.

The first discussion between Lt. Robertson, who crossed to the east bank of the Elbe, and a Russian major oddly enough was conducted in German by an American naval officer, who had been a German prisoner, and was making his way to the American lines when picked up in Torgau by Robertson and his crew.

Robertson and his men first established their identity by flying a crude replica of an American flag from the tower of a castle in Torgau. They broke into a drugstore & obtained some red and blue coloring matter. They made ragged red stripes on a piece of white cloth and printed in a field of blue in the upper left corner.

MAJOR CRAIG'S PATROL MEETS SOVIETS AT 1545 IN CLANZSCHWITZ

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town of Liebschutz, where they learned that four German trucks had pulled out of town just as they entered from the other side.

Proceeding on their way toward Major Craig's patrol was approaching Clanzschwitz, when as Major Craig says, "My jeep was three or four hundred yards ahead of the others and most of my attention was on the town ahead. There was a road skirting one side of the town, but I hadn't watched it too closely, when suddenly someone yelled, 'the Russians'. There wasn't a shot fired. They had recognized us first. It was a cavalry unit of the 175th Infantry Regiment. They galloped up, dismounted and came running over to us. By this time we were all standing on our jeeps, waving our helmets and hollering! From

then on confusion reigned. Handshaking and backslapping went on "for hours".

"Nearly every Russian soldier had a camera and they were even more excited than we", said Major Craig, who, incidentally, was recently awarded the Silver Star.

"A Russian Captain was dispatched to inform Marshal Stalin of the meeting."

Later the patrol met the assistant Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Rusakov at the 58th's Headquarters. There they also met Lt. Kotzebue who had made the first contact two hours earlier.

Third Juncture (Continued from Page 3)

"Then they fired on the castle with an anti-tank gun and followed it up with small arms fire. I left the flag there, but came down from the tower. It wasn't until later that I learned from them that they fired because they got no answer to their flares and only the other day the Germans tried to trick them. The Germans waved an American Flag and when the Russians came to greet them, the Germans opened fire on them.

"I first saw some of the Russians while I was in the tower. That was just after they fired the flares. They saw me and yelled. I don't know what they yelled. I yelled back, 'No flares'. Then they opened fire," said the short, stocky, mustached Robertson.

After coming down from the tower, Robertson started working his way toward the river bank and the blown-out bridge. As he reached the approach, he saw the Russian infantryman doing the same from the east side of the river.

After making the crossing to the Russian side of the Elbe River, Robertson was surrounded by a swarm of Russian Infantrymen. Through the naval officer he disposed of the business of identifying the 69TH and his unit to the Russian major. Then some of the Soviet soldiers brought him a bottle of wine and a can of sardines. Another offered him a canteen filled with German "schnapps".

Through an interpreter, Russian Lt. Sylvashko, who commanded the platoon which made contact with the 69TH expressed his reaction upon seeing the American soldiers.

"I was so glad. So astounded. I did not know what to do. To go riding with them. To drink vodka with them, or to go fight the Germans together. I was overjoyed to meet the Americans."

The circumstances leading up to the meeting with the Russian Army was precipitated by the sudden deluge of German civilians pouring into Wurzen.

Robertson and his three men made the trip back to 273rd Regimental Headquarters with four Russian soldiers.

At Division headquarters that night a Russian major, a captain, Lt. Sylvashko, and two Russian enlisted men gathered with Major General Reinhardt and his staff to informally cement the meeting of the American and Russian forces.

More than 50 war correspondents were on hand to cover the meeting.