

44-85-052001

BATTLE FOR AACHEN.

The encircled city of Aachen. The American guns open up. The Commander of the German Garrison has ignored the ultimatum to surrender or be annihilated.

Dive bombers - once Hitler's favourite terror weapon - scream from the sky, to add their share of destruction.

Tanks with infantry in close support, move in on the doomed city. Aachen with its factories, chemical works and foundries, pays a heavy price for the fanatical obstinacy of the Nazis. Both civilians and soldiers have been told by radio and leaflets that their position is hopeless. This they must surely realize, as the fury of the American onslaught rises. Snipers are dealt with by G.I.'s who clamber on into Aachen over rubble and broken walls of buildings.

Tanks fire shell after shell in the already battered streets and without waste of time the field-guns are man-handled into position. The Americans are giving the Nazis all they've got..... and that's plenty.

A white flag flies from a window. And a batch of prisoners make their dismal exit. Those civilians who could, made a get-away, and surrendered. Anything to escape from the hell of Aachen.

Feeling among some of the people of Aachen runs high against the Nazis. Many of them regard the Allies as liberators for they think they have had a raw deal from the fanatical element of the Nazi garrison. Some of those who attempted to surrender, were shot out of hand.....Perhaps they realize now how the people of Warsaw, Belgrade, London and Coventry felt, before the Luftwaffe was knocked out of the sky.

Yes.....we know all about that too.

A German shows who he thinks of the Eagle and Swastika. The people of Aachen find that, despite Dr. Goebbel's propaganda, the Allies are really human - although determined to finish off the Nazi war machine.