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ACROSS THE RHINE

An hour for the great assembly of armour fanning out in the drive up to and over the Rhine. This mighty deployment of tanks goes through with the purposeful deliberation of a parade-ground manoeuvre. Infantry and tanks cross the open plain with bulldozer effect.

With the Rhine as the objective for both Armies, men of the British 2nd Army and the American 9th link up on the outskirts of British-held GELDEREN. For men within striking distance of Germany's prime river these are historic days.

Among the places captured by the 9th in this drive was the famous castle at RHEYDT, Goebbel's country home. With a characteristic gesture, the local Nazi party ordered the citizens of Rheydt to "give" their castle to the Little Doctor. The American guard pacing outside suggests that this is an advance example of the way in which the Nazi party bosses will be stripped of the loot they have collected since 1933.

In the drive to the Rhine, the rocket tank has proved its claim to be one of the most devastating weapons of the War. Allied soldiers have named them "the pipe organs" - what the Germans call 'em is probably less complimentary. Each tank has sixty rocket tubes giving a fire power equal to sixty 5.5 inch guns.

A group of these tanks can put down a barrage as intense as the famous naval rocket barrages which made history at Salerno, Anzio and Normandy. Tank-borne rockets can be fired in salvos, or in succession at intervals of a quarter of a second.

General Hodges' U.S. First Army men made the Ludendorff Bridge over the Rhine at Ray Margen the most-talked-of bridge in the world. It was taken ten minutes before the time the Germans had fixed for its destruction. Combat engineers went across expecting the whole structure to blow up at any moment. Said the American Colonel who gave the order to cross, "Our orders were to capture the town of Ray Margen. We did that and then found the bridge still standing. There we were, sitting on the Rhine with an open bridge staring us in the face. There it was, begging to be crossed, so we crossed it."

The Americans took a chance. They risked what might be waiting for them on the other side. Results were worth the risk. They now have a firm bridgehead and don't even have to get their feet wet.

How that bridgehead on the Berlin side of the Rhine was established is a living story for to-morrow's history books.