

# SIGNALMEN REACH RHINE

By **RANDY DIXON**  
(Courier War Correspondent)

PARIS—Not far behind the First Army spearheads as they established their Remagen bridgehead over the Rhine was the Fortieth Signal Construction Battalion which several months ago became the first Allied Signal Unit to build lines in Germany.

Since the Roer attack began more than a fortnight ago they've been eager to extend the line they started at Carentan in Normandy and laid all the way to Aachen in Holland behind the First Army. They've built lines in France, Holland, Luxembourg, Belgium and Germany.

When Rundstedt recoiled in Bastogne bulge, these signalmen were rushed over to repair lines torn up by the German thrust and to establish new links joining Allied forces. Working under heavy robot artillery and mortar fire and subject to air bombardment and strafings, they finished the job.

## AWARDED UNIT CITATION

The Signal Officer of the First Army was so impressed that he gave them the unit citation . . . "Your speedy work without sacrificing quality aided tremendously in regrouping our troops in orderly manner which otherwise might have resulted in confusion and rout."

Some of the members of the battalion are Sgt. Lewis Willie, Dallas, Texas; Pvt. Henry Brown, Philadelphia, wearer of the Purple Heart; 1st. Sgt. Waddell Spain, Brooklyn; Battalion Sgt. Maj. Winfield Walker, former newspaperman of Little Rock, Ark.; 1st Sgt. William Johnson, New York City; Pfc. Elmer Jones, Ardmore, Okla.; Sgt. Henry Davis, New York City; Pvt. James Farrell, Chicago, and Cpl. James Williams, Marshall, Texas.

The unit was activated September 1942, at Camp Campbell, Ky., and is commanded by Maj. William Cobb.

## EAGER TO FIGHT ON NAZI SOIL

Men of other colored units within striking distance of Germany and likely to be there sooner than others are constantly expressing their eagerness to get into the fighting on Nazi soil. Some of their reasons are interesting.

"Of course the battle itself is the big thing," says Warrant Officer Ralph Campbell of Chicago, "but I want to check claims of ethnologists that Beethoven was of Negroid extraction."

Capt. George Moore of Iowa and 1st Lieut. Subbeal Toombs, Richmond, Va., observed that not since the occupation of the Rhine by Senegalese troops after the last war had German civilians seen colored soldiers. "They'll see plenty of 'em in just a short time," chorused Warrant Officers Emerson Davis of North Carolina and George Neally, Chicago.