

Nazis Abandon Houffalize To 1st Army Yanks

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Along the highway from Houffalize to St. Vith, other American units cleared Cherain, St. Erpigny and Vaux. The 75th Division threw the Germans out of Chalm Chateau.

Against stiffest opposition and in foul weather, the 90th Division operating east of Bastogne recaptured Niederwampach inside the Luxembourg border.

East of the Moselle River, American forces advanced a mile and a half to clear the towns of Borg and Tettingen.

Fresh Advances Scored

North of Vielsalm, a spokesman for Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower announced, the 424th regiment retook Ennall. The 30th Division cleared Terrmont, while the First Division recaptured Steinbach.

In the Sixth Army group sector, the German salient around Biche is being gradually reduced despite heaviest counterattacks. Headquarters reported house to house fighting in Hottel.

North of Strasbourg, Allied positions were improved, with a mile and a half advance recorded north of Herrlisheim, where the Zorn River was crossed against artillery and mortar fire. Improvements also were reported at Gamburgheim, while American Seventh Army troops gained several hundred yards in Hatten and now hold the main crossroads in the center of the town.

German Drive a Failure

American occupation of Houffalize removes the last doubts that Von Rundstedt's offensive has deteriorated into one of the most colossal failures in military history.

When the presumably brilliant German commander sent his forces hurtling out of the Eifel region of the Rhineland through a weak and comparatively unguarded position between the United States First and Third Armies, Houffalize was chosen as the radial point of action and supply.

Hub of German Drive

Its excellent position on a fine concrete highway and the fact it is surrounded by heavily wooded country and high ground that afford protection made it a most valuable acquisition and the Nazis lost no time in utilizing it for the dispatch of speedy armored formations to the north, south and west.

With Houffalize gone, the secondary Nazi concentration point of St. Vith to the northeast — a town only four miles from the German border, will soon become untenable, and unless all signs are misleading, the Allied armies so rudely set back on their heels from Dec. 16 onward, will be plunging back into the soil of the Third Reich.

1945-01-16 Nazis abandon Houffalize to 1st Army Yanks PART TWO

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