

# Overrunning An Enfeebled Nazi Defense

PARIS, Feb. 27 — (AP) — A swift column of mobilized American infantry struck like an arrow 10 miles through enfeebled German defenses before the Ruhr industrial valley today, by-passing the steel center of Muenchen-Gladbach on the west and roaring on in a spectacular thrust toward Duesseldorf, 18 miles beyond.

Enemy defenses were shattered by the truck-borne column — known as “Task Force Church” — as it bored straight for the Ruhr in a northward surge from Matzerath, just to the west of captured Erkelenz.

Hundreds of demoralized German prisoners streamed to the rear in the wake of the doughboys, members of the 84th division. Tonight the striking force was plunging north beyond captured Waldniel, six miles northwest of Muenchen-Gladbach.

Gen. Eisenhower’s whole mighty offensive swept irresistibly toward the Rhine through German forces officially described as being in “extreme confusion.” Several German divisions were counted as completely destroyed since the First and Ninth U. S. Armies slammed across the Roer river last Friday.

At the center of the assault the 30th division powered up to the Erft river midway between Duesseldorf and Cologne, capturing the river village of Morcken on that last natural barrier before the Rhine. East of Dueren armored spearheads of the First army blasted to within nine miles of blackened Cologne and almost to the banks of the Erft, beating down desperate Nazi counter-attacks on the way.

1945-02-26 30th powers up to the Erft river.

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