

## OLD HICKORY UNIT SETS RHINE PACE

30th Division Plunges  
Through Open Country  
As Defense Falters

WITH THE U. S. NINTH ARMY, (AP) — The famous "Old Hickory" 30th Division broke clear through Hitler's Rhine defenses into open country north of the Ruhr Sunday in one of the most brilliant infantry successes of the war.

The 30th troops found German resistance apparently completely disintegrated at a point eight miles from the Rhine, and jumped on tanks shortly after noon and "took off."

Every element of a breakthrough—such as characterized the armored-infantry gallops after the Roer River crossings and in dashes through France—was indicated. Field officers of the 30th said the division had gone clear through organized German defense lines and "broken into the open."

The 30th's surge carried it to the head of all other advances in the 21st Army group.

The U. S. 79th Division on the 30th's flank made almost as good progress, but encountered some spotty German armored pockets which held it up slightly behind the 30th.

These two veteran outfits spearheaded the Ninth Army's burst across the Rhine, and the 30th had a bridge over the historic river just 14 hours and 15 minutes after it launched its attack.

Resistance in front of the 30th dwindled to almost nothing as the morning progressed and cooks, bakers and all sorts of odds and ends which characterize rear areas flowed into the prisoner cages.

With more than 2,000 prisoners taken up to noon, officers of the 30th reckoned the German 180th division which faced them was destroyed almost completely.

The forward surge carried the bridges which the 9th Army threw over the Rhine in record time out of artillery range. The engineers were so little bothered that some sat in pontoons, fishing in the Rhine while fighters circled over barrage balloons on the lookout for German planes which never showed up.

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