

Merited Tribute to A Great Soldier

For turnout and warmth of feeling, the reception accorded Lt. Gen. William Hood Simpson in Fort Worth and Weatherford was in the best Texas tradition. The welcome home for the foremost son of Texas in the conquest of Germany in World War II was as spontaneous and genuine as it was well merited. Texas has many sons who have distinguished themselves in the present war and is justly proud of all of them, but none played a greater role in the liberation of France and the defeat of Germany than did General Simpson.

In the early stages of the invasion and before the presence of the 9th Army under the command of General Simpson in France had been announced its units were driving into Cherbourg and fighting in the Normandy hedgerows. It participated in the capture of Aachen and in operations in Holland which resulted in the capture of Venlo. It established the Roer bridgehead, trapped many German soldiers in the Hartz Mountains and with the 1st Army encircled the Ruhr Valley, the very heart of industrial Germany. Then the 9th started the race for Berlin and unquestionably could have been the first to reach that prize if its advance had not been ordered halted at the Elbe.

General Simpson also has the distinction of having commanded the 9th when it was the smallest army in the campaign and later when it was the biggest army the world ever has known. It was the smallest when all but two of its divisions were transferred to the 1st Army to help stall the German breakthrough in the Ardennes last December. When that purpose had been accomplished the shifted divisions returned one after the other to General Simpson's command. Units from other armies later were transferred to the 9th until it included 25 divisions, or nearly half a million combat troops alone, with

that many or more in the supply forces to the rear.

The outstanding services of General Simpson in Europe have been recognized in laudatory letters he has received from Supreme Commander Eisenhower and Field Marshal Montgomery, as well as the award of the Legion of Merit. This decoration is given for "meritorious achievement in the performance of outstanding services to the Government of the United States." General Simpson already had the Distinguished Service Medal and Silver Star, as well as two French decorations, the Croix de Guerre and Legion of Honor, for his services in France in World War I.

General Simpson received the plaudits of his fellow Texans with characteristic modesty and humility, asserting that the welcome given him in reality was a tribute to the courage, determination and fortitude of the officers and men of his command. They encountered the best men and equipment Germany had to offer, he said, "but nothing could stop them." He also expressed his gratitude to those on the home front who produced the food, equipment and shells which made the brilliant victory in Europe possible.

General Simpson has proved himself to be a great leader, a great soldier, and a product of the best there is in Texas, and, in the words of Governor Stevenson, Texas is mightily glad to have him back home.

Paper Salvage

Fort Worth set a new high mark in Sunday's waste paper collection as an important contribution to the war effort.

It would be interesting to determine the reasons for this intensified conservation of a waste material. Some homes consistently salvage kitchen grease, tin cans and paper, and possibly they are largely the homes from which sons are absent in the armed forces. The rise in collection of waste paper has been during a period when shortages of all types of paper prevail, and conservation may be enlightened selfishness in instances. Whatever the cause, the same saving will be of immense value if extended to other waste materials, for which the need is critical, and will result in benefit to the people at home.

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