

Monday, Oct. 16, 1944

WalkerHeaded Third Army's Dash to Reich

WIFE THIRD ARMY, Oct. 15.—The 20 Corps, commanded by Maj. Gen. Walton H. Walker, spearheaded the U.S. Third Army's eastward drive across France in August and September, it has been revealed.

This corps, which was removed from the Army secret list today, directed the armored and infantry divisions. In less than 15 days the units crossed six rivers—the Loir, Seine, Vesle, Marne, Aisne and Meuse—to liberate scores of French towns including Chartres, Melun, Montereau, Fontainebleau, Epernay, Reims and Verdun. During the thrust across France, 20th Corps units destroyed or captured 200 German tanks, 350 personnel carriers, 80 aircraft, 500 guns of large calibre and 900 vehicles, and killed or captured over 20,000 of the enemy.

Walker, a West Pointer, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for directing the establishment of a bridgehead across the Seine near Melun, and received a second cluster to his Silver Star for gallantry at the Vire River in the vicinity of Airel.