

MONDAY AFTERNOON, MAY 7, 1945

Troops Take News Calmly

By **DON WHITEHEAD**

With the U. S. First Army in Germany, May 7 (AP) — The announcement of complete victory over the Germans will come as an anti-climax to American doughboys who have seen the German army disintegrate. They are now asking themselves: "Where do we go from here?"

It is a strange ending to a strange war, an ending nobody could have quite visualized and without the dramatic conclusion most of us had pictured. Suddenly the war just melted away into nothingness and the guns were still.

The war came to an end for this army some weeks ago. That is why V-E Day will be little more than a symbol to troops who had seen victory in the making for days. It took no official announcement for them to realize it was all over.

There is no enemy across no man's land to come forward with upraised hands in final surrender. Across the Mulde River are the Russians. There is no desolate battlefield and the doughboys are not in foxholes. They sat in the warm sun cleaning their battle-worn gear and weapons.

There will be no wild celebrations among the troops. These men have seen too much death and suffering. They have seen this Nazi world come apart at the seams and its miserable people straggling along the roads of defeat, marked more plainly with signs of a fallen nation than any proclamation ever could.