

KAISERSLAUTERN, GERMANY

day 25

On March 20, the war was taken to the industrial city of 100,000 citizens, Kaiserslautern, Germany. It had been a former supply center for the German army.



Present day Kaiserslautern

Both Combat Command A and the combat command Melvin was part of, Combat Command B, moved east from St. Wendel on the Autobahn, which even in those years was a four-lane super highway with a grassy median much like present highways.

The median was used extensively for surren-

dered and retreating German soldiers who would make visible a small piece of white cloth as the 10th rolled past them on their way to a new destination and battle. The back echelon would process the surrendering Germans.

Kaiserslautern was lightly defended. Unlike St. Wendel, its capture was quick. The first to enter the city were the armored divisions (CC A and CC B) of the 10th Armored.

History will show that Kaiserslautern was captured by the 80th Infantry. However, the facts are that as a message was being written to send to division head-



10th Armored Division utilizing the Autobahn towards Kaiserslautern

quarters about the 10th's capture of the city, Lieutenant General William Morris, Commander General, ordered the message destroyed and another written giving the 80th credit for the capture because they were to be left behind to occupy the city.