

HEADQUARTERS V CORPS
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PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OF MAJ. GEN. L. T. GEROW

About the first of August, when the V Corps consisted of the 2nd, 5th and 35th Infantry Divisions, the 2nd Division was attempting to push South from TORIGNI-SUR-VIRE to the Vire river, secure a beachhead and then push on to the town of VIRE. The 102nd Cavalry Group was proceeding in advance of the 2nd Division, but the advance was delayed because of enemy destroyed bridges over the Vire river.

Gen. Gerow, anxious to see for himself the conditions at the head of his troops, proceeded by car to the south edge of the town of CAMPEAUX accompanied by Maj. Gen. Robertson, CG of the 2nd Division, and their respective aides. From that point he was led forward on foot by Lt. Col. Dolph, CO 102nd Cavalry Group, and just as the party rounded a bend in the road within sight of the Vire, machine gun fire was directed at them from the height across the river, Gen. Gerow took refuge in the ditch on the right side of the road while enemy fire broke windows in a house directly across from him. A few minutes later, enemy artillery fire struck the road behind him and between him and his transportation. During a lull in the firing, the General returned to his vehicle by a series of rushes made in a similar manner to an infantryman advancing under enemy observation. When he arrived at his jeep, he found that a shell fragment had hit in the front seat.

While the above action was in progress, Gen. Robertson had taken cover beside the house which was riddled by fire so for a few minutes the enemy had succeeded in pinning down by small arms fire his opposing Divisional and Corps commanders.

JAMES M. ROBERTS, JR.,
Captain, Infantry,
(ADC to Gen. Gerow at time
of above incident.)