

A Fort Worth Owned Newspaper

June 14, 1945

San Antonio Cheers Heroes Returned Home

SAN ANTONIO, June 13 (AP).—San Antonio Wednesday extended a roaring welcome to 13 generals and 45 other officers and enlisted men from battlefields of Europe.

Even the roofs of downtown buildings were jammed as Lt. Gen. Ira Eaker, chief of air staff, and his companion rode in open command cars through streets lined with cheering, flower-throwing humanity.

And in one of the flower-filled cars was a smiling, freckled-faced kid from Farmersville, Lt. Audie Murphy, who won every decoration in the book.

Murphy, who got the Congressional Medal of Honor for single-handedly stopping an attack by six Nazi tanks and 200 enemy infantrymen, was greatly abashed by the welcome.

He went along the reception line at Alamo Airport, never giving his name to anyone, and when he was recognized from published pictures he looked startled.

Asked if he would pose for a picture with General Eaker, he replied: "I sure wouldn't want to ask the general to pose for any picture with me."

Someone else asked the general and Eaker appeared delighted. Murphy saluted smartly and then Eaker, a Texan himself, grabbed the little lieutenant's hand and shook it vigorously.

"This is a real pleasure," the general said warmly.

Eaker Going to San Angelo.

Eaker, who commanded the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, said there has been no change

in his plans to fly to San Angelo Thursday to participate in a bond rally. And he will go back to his home in Eden, for a visit.

"I've been waiting three and a half years to get back to Texas," the general said.

There were three other generals from Texas, Lt. Gen. Lucian Truscott Jr., commander of the 5th Army, who was born in Chatfield; Brig. Gen. Harold L. Clark, 52nd Troop Carrier Wing, 9th Troop Carrier Command, of San Antonio, and Brig. Gen. C. P. Cabell, director of operations and intelligence for the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, Dallas.

The war heroes came from Houston where they spent Tuesday night. Eaker's plane alighted first, followed by two C-54 Skymasters. The rumbling 17-gun salute began.

For the visitors it was a crowded day with the street parade, a gondola parade down the San Antonio River; a press conference; a reception and a banquet.

Will Visit Sister

The 20-year-old Murphy plans to fly to Farmersville Thursday to visit his sister, Mrs. Corinne Burns, and other relatives. Informed that Farmersville was preparing a big reception for him, he said: "Well, I'm scared to death."

Murphy said he is "looking forward very much" to seeing Miss Mary Lee of Floyd, who is attending the East Texas State Teachers College at Commerce.