

Army Asks For Armor In Germany

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Army hopes to have its foot soldiers in Germany fully equipped in about five months with armor-protected vehicles designed to move them swiftly and safely into battle zones.

Officials estimated today it will take about 2,000 of these vehicles to outfit the 3rd, 8th, and 24th Infantry Divisions.

Shipment of the latest model M113 troop carriers already has begun and the Army has contracted for speeded-up manufacture of more of them.

The Army long has sought to mechanize its infantry in Europe where the terrain is relatively flat and where a fast moving force has an advantage. The Soviets are known to have mechanized many of their divisions.

The Berlin crisis, and its threat of a U.S.-Soviet clash of arms, has given impetus to the Army's plans for mechanization.

Perhaps two-thirds of the 2,000 personnel carriers will be the modern, aluminum armored M113, the rest the heavier and shorter range M59s. Eventually the Army hopes to replace the older models.

In the past, infantrymen have marched to the front or have been carried up in trucks affording little or no protection from shell fragments and small arms fire. Also, trucks have had to stay pretty much on roads.

The new troop carriers are not dependent on highways. Their tractor-like treads permit them to strike out across country and keep up with fast traveling tank elements. With such transportation, ground troops are in better position to exploit breakthroughs in enemy lines.

The infantry's fighting still would be done on foot. The carriers would get them to the scene of action much quicker.

The M113 and the older M59 are shielded all around — top, side, front and back. Army experts consider the top protection especially important because it prevents heavy casualties from air bursts of high explosive weapons.

These experts say such carriers would be valuable on a nuclear battlefield. As they explain it, the carriers would give troops a measure of safety from contamination in riding through an area poisoned by radiation.

The M113 can move through water. It is light enough to be air lifted—an important factor in these days of quick, long range deployment.

The new carrier has a 200-mile operating range on the ground, as compared with the 120-mile range of the M59. It weighs 10 tons, less than half the weight of the steel armored M59. Both carry a squad of 12 men.

Though designed to move troops these carriers can defend themselves, if need be, with the machine guns they mount.

Honors Set For Negroes

TALLAPOOSA, Ga. (AP) — A humble Negro couple born into slavery will be honored as "shining examples of good citizens" in a citywide ceremony Saturday.

Overwhelmed by "all the fuss," are 100-year-old John Collins and his 108-year-old wife, Elizabeth, who modestly claim they aren't worth all of the attention.

But their friends and neighbors in this northwest Georgia town of 4,000 disagree. They plan to bedeck the couple in new clothes and take them in an open convertible to the town square for a special ceremony. Another service is planned later at the Mount Sinai Baptist Church, the community's oldest.

Mrs. Collins was born in 1851 as a slave of the Pittman family in Randolph County, Ala. Her husband was born on a nearby plantation. They were married 80 years ago and the Pittman farm and soon after Collins started farming on his own.

As the years passed, Mr. and Mrs. Collins won the respect of all who knew them.

"They have been excellent citizens," said Dr. C. W. Pope, in charge of the ceremonies. Pope retired recently as executive secretary of the Tennessee Baptist Association and returned to his native Tallapoosa.

Explaining why Mayor R. J. Simonton proclaimed "John and Elizabeth Collins Day," Pope said, "We want to honor them because they have been good citizens all of their lives. They are not only an honor to their race, they are an honor to the community. We are proud of them and of the lives they have led."