Vol. 1-No. 241

Sunday, March 25, 1945

khine Crossed in No y Three Allied Armies

Where Allied Armies Stormed Agross Rhine



Five Allied armies are across the Rhine today on a 125-mile front. In the north, the British Second Army has bridgeheads north and south of Wesel. Below Wesel, U.S. Ninth Army troops are four miles Army has bridgeheads north and south of Wesel. Below Wesel, U.S. Nilth Army troops are roll links beyond the river. Inland, the First Allied Airborne Army, dropped yesterday morning, is fighting to link up with bridgehead forces. To the south, the First Army's Remagen bridgehead has swelled to 33 by 10 miles, and between Mainz and Worms the Third Army is pumping troops and supplies into its bridgehead won Thursday.

Airborne Troops,

By Robert L. Moora Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

The Allies hurled three armies across the northern Rhine River yesterday, one of them by air, to open the grand offensive to win the war in Europe.

American, British and Canadian troops, crossing at night with the aid of the U.S. and Royal Navies and in the wake of the greatest softening-up aerial offensive in history, stormed onto the east bank of the river at scattered points along a 25,000-yard front just above the Ruhr. Within 24 hours they had secured strong bridgeheads, had thrown pontoon bridges across and were in control of the east bank at one point for a distance of more than 12 miles.

As daylight came, long columns of troop-carrying aircraft and towplanes, 3,000 strong, roared over the area to deliver thousands of paratroops and glider troops behind the enemy's riverfront defenses. By afternoon ground and airborne forces had linked.

From dawn until dusk, Allied air forces, using every plane they could get into the air, brought to a smashing climax the program of devastation they had carried on day after day across northwest Germany. Bombers and fighters blasted rallways, road networks, airfields and supply points and rained bombs and bullets on enemy troops facing the attackers.

It was a combined operation second only to the Normandy

Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery, commanding the 21st Army Group, launched the offensive shortly after 9 PM

Turn to Pages 4 and 5 for Airborne Operation Pictures

Friday. From the west bank, which had been shrouded by a 66-mile-long smokescreen for days, American troops of Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's Ninth Army and British and Canadian troops of the British Second Army crossed the river in assault craft of every type used in previous river crossings—and, in addition, small naval craft brought overland for the task.

Their attacks were north and south of Wesel, a city of 24,000

peacetime population on the east bank only a dozen miles north

of the congested factory districts of the Ruhr Valley. Headquarters of 21st Army Group announced late last night that the Allies were in control of the east bank for a distance of (Continued on Page 8)

An Air View, Start to Finish

Carriers Swept

By Russell Jones

WITH 436th CARRIER GP., Over Wesel, March 24.—The para-troops had hit their dropping zone almost an hour before the first glider-tows swept over. All that could be seen were the burning wrecks of planes which had swung back toward friendly territory west of the Rhine, and the multicolored patches of 'chutes hanging in the trees and crumpled against the ground on the east side.

The carrier planes—the RAF Lancasters and Halifaxes, pulling giant Horsa gliders, and the C47s of the Ninth Troop Carrier Command, with their twin-towed CG4s—seem-ed as slow as freight trains as they plowed northeast from their assem-

bly point near Brussels. When they neared the landing zone, they were in rigid formation, the RAF on the left and the Americans on the right.

Our group commander, Col. Adriel N. Williams, of Shelbyville, Ky., had taken the first ship off on schedule and the operation had run like clockwork—the assembly points were hit on the second—and 1/Lt. D. F. Rhoades ("Dusty," naturally), of Maryland, Wis., had our plane in the glider run exactly on time.

Despite the fighters which were constantly sweeping the ground looking for gun emplacements, flax and small-arms fire came up from the area northeast of Wesel. Rhoades and his co-pilot, 2/Lt. C W. Alderdyce, of Toledo, Ohio were

(Continued on Page 8)





St. Patrick in Paris

Sure and what was David* doing that he never found the Irish colony in Paris. They all gathered as usual in the Irish Church on the Avenue Hoche on Saturday afternoon. Even during the German occupation you would have found them there, singing the old Irish songs and the priest talking about "auld Ireland" until the tears ran down his cheeks.

Then, they would go down to the Irish Convent and sing more songs and maybe someone would do an Irish jig.

I was not present this year but my friends told me all about it. And I looked in on the way to the office to say "Good morning" to St. Paddy and there he was as usual, more than life size, installed in the sanctuary, surrounded by banks of white and gold flowers and with the encrmous green white and gold flag flying over his head.—Sibyl Console.

*(Stars and Stripes reporter David A. Gordon, who wrote the "Twas St. Paddy's

*(Stars and Stripes reporter David A. Gordon, who wrote the "'Twas St. Paddy's Day in Paris" piece in the Saturday paper.—Ed.)

Happy Landing

"You are cordially invited to a dance." That's what it said on our bulletin board, so we looked at the poster on the wall and saw it was a battalion dance of the 82nd Airborne Div. We went—sure we went—and we had a swell time. In fact, when we were invited soon after to the 2nd Battalion's dance, more Wacs attended than had turned out to any of the many dances. Odd? Heck no!

The efforts and arrangements made by the Troopers and the consideration and attention we consideration and attention we received at the dance convinced us they were one of the grandest outfits in the ETO. As far as the ceiling of our admiration goes—it's unlimited. And we want them to know it. To all you jumpers—blue skies and best foot forward!—27 GI Janes.

'Frisco' Problem

The Stars and Stripes has been taking undue liberty with a name which is near and dear to the hearts of her native population. Your frequent reference to the coming San Francisco Convention as the "Frisco Convention" is a breach of etiquette, which because of frequent repetition can no longer be overlooked.

The right to call San Francisco "Frisco" is one reserved for residents of that city, and even when so called, it is not spoken or written in the presence of outsiders. It is requested that the term San Francisco, or its authorized abbreviation "S.F." be used.—Lt. Col. D. Mayers (and 7 Majors.—Ed.) The Stars and Stripes has been

GI OK

In reading gripes of soldiers, I'm both amused and annoyed to hear of soldiers complaining because they've been called GIs.

First of all, if a man is a front-line soldier, he has little time for such trivialities. Secondly, I feel there is a certain dignity in being a common, ordinary GI.

These fellows who complain probably have never gotten their feet cold, wet and muddy.

have never sweated out a barrage

have never sweated out a barrage or sniper's bullets. Let's hear from the boys.—Pfc Howard Drasner, 320th Inf.

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BAG S F. Delegates Will Be Given Soldier Views

FDR Sees Delegates

In Washington, President Roosevelt conferred briefly with five of the eight San Francisco delegates, and the Associated Press said it was reported he had assured them they would have much freedom of action to chart the U.S. course. Stettinius, former Secretary of State Cordell Hull and Comdr. Harold Stassen were absent.

The AP said the delegates come.

Harold Stassen were absent.

The AP said the delegates came from the White House "apparently with the impression that Mr. Roosevelt intends to leave largely to them the evolution of the U.S. program, with the understanding that they work within the general framework of the Dumbarton Oaks preliminary formula."

Yalta Provision Criticized

Rep. Thad F. Wasielewski (D-Wis.), in a statement inserted in the Congressional Record, called upon the President and the State Department to instruct the San Francisco delegates to move for reconsideration of the Polish provisions of the Yalta agreement. He said he believed the "wrong" committed in the "unilateral dismemberment of Poland" might "still be righted."

The State Department announced that the official name of the San Francisco meeting would be: "The United Nations Conference on International Organization."

An Editorial -

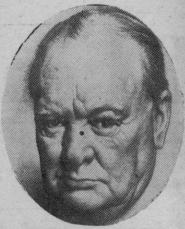
A Word to the Wise...



66 THE doomed enemy er must be our vigilance and |hurls his last forces the heavier must be our into action, resists desper- blows at the enemy." ately in order to escape stern retribution. He grasps and will grasp at the most extreme and base means of lap that races are gained or dered." struggle. Therefore it should lost. The effort must be

- Stalin, in a recent Order of the Day.

"It is always in the last be borne in mind that the forthcoming . . . This is no nearer our victory, the high- moment now to slacken."



Churchill, to the British people.

"We must never make the mistake of assuming the Germans are beaten until the last Nazi has surren-

- Roosevelt, on the State of the Union

Now Say No Divorce

HOLLYWOOD, March 24 (ANS).—Errol Flynn and Nora Eddington, who have spent the past year and a half denying that they were married, spent today denying that they will be divorced

Flynn said:

Up Front With Mauldin

"The restaurants are closed, but you can buy something from the Americans."

"In spite of efforts in some quarters to arrange a divorce for me, it is highly improbable that those efforts will be crowned with success."

Something to Smile About

WASHINGTON, March 24 (AP) —An onion peeling machine which uses jet steam to blast off the outer skin, has been invented by the Department of Agriculture. It probably means no more paring knives or tears.

Errol Flynn and Nora Service and AF Troops Must Wait for Discharge

WASHINGTON, March 24 (AP).—Although the Army plan for partial demobilization after the defeat of Germany has not been announced in detail, discharges for soldiers in the Army Service and Air Forces now appear unlikely.

The plan seems to call for some demobilization of combat troops.

since the full strength of troops now deployed in Europe cannot, for geographical reasons, be brought to bear against Japan.

Furloughs Likely
Furloughs are expected to be granted to troops going through the U.S. en route to the Pacific.
Service troops are believed needed in the Pacific to construct bases. Air Forces personnel will be needed to intensify agrical hombardment of

Air Forces personnel will be needed to intensify aerial bombardment of the Japanese.

Meanwhile, a further explanation of the Navy's policy was given by Fleet Adm. Ernest J. King, who said that there would be no partial Navy demobilization because "all naval forces are required to prosecute the war in the Pacific."

All Power to be Shifted

All Power to be Shifted

King, chief of naval operations and CIC of the fleet, said:

"It is the intent to shift to the Pacific all naval power now devoted to the war in Europe and in the Atlantic as soon as possible."

King emphasized "that it is most important for people of this country to understand clearly that the Navy must use every ounce of its strength to hasten the end of hostilities against Japan.

"Any half-hearted measures will result in prolonging the war and increasing the loss of American lives," King said.

A. Thompson, engineer's con-

HOLLYWOOD, March 24 (ANS).

-Actors voted against participation in the studio workers' strike as it went into its 13th day today.

Nazi Strength In NorthPutat 20 Divisions

By Austin Bealmear
Associated Press Correspondent
SHAEF, March 24.—Field Marshal Albert von Kesselring—who according to prisoners has succeeded Von Rundstedt as German commander in the west—is believed to have 15 to 20 divisions facing Montgomery's 21st Army Gp., which smashed across the Rhine north of the Ruhr today.

They comprise the German 25th Army and First Parachute Army, which form Army Group "H," now believed to be under command of Blaskowitz who has been succeeded as commander of Army Group "G" in the south by Gen. Wolfgang Houser.

The First Parachute Army holds a front east of the Rhine extending from the vicinity of Emmerich to a point opposite Krefeld. The 25th Army holds the sector from Emmerich west to the sea, virtually all in Holland.

At least ten German divisions facing Montgomery are in the First Parachute Army, but their present strength is probably equivalent to no more than four or five American divisions.

lied prisoner cages at an average rate of more than 500 a day since the First Army crossed the Rhine, has had no time to refit following its retreat across the river. It includes the Fifth Panzer and the 15th Armies. In the south the German First and Seventh Armies have been chewed to pieces by the American Third and Seventh Armies' converging attack.

The German 19th Army at the southern end of the Western Front was reduced to ineffectiveness when the Colmar pocket was eliminated.



NEW ORLEANS, March 24 (ANS).

—Mississippi River floodwaters poured through ten 20-foot bays of the Bonnet Carre Spillway today, in an engineering move to check the height of the oncoming flood crest and send the water into Lake Pontchartrain.

For the second time in its existence, the Spillway 25 miles upper the second time in its existence, the Spillway 25 miles upper the second time in its existence, the Spillway 25 miles upper the second time in its existence, the Spillway 25 miles upper the second time in its existence, the Spillway 25 miles upper the second time in its existence and the sec

tence, the Spillway, 25 miles upstream, is channeling rising waters which would have inundated surrounding lowlands.

sultant, said that more bays will be opened daily, as warranted,

Actors Refuse to Join Strike

ACROSS THE RHI

Easy Co. Rides First Wave of Boats, With the Ninth: Hits the Shore and Heads Due East

By Ernest Leiser Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH NINTH ARMY, East of the Rhine, March 24.—Easy Co. materialized out of the cellars and the shadows and scuffed down the road single file toward the Rhine. They were crossing in the first wave of storm boats.

Cuts Loose

first wave of storm boats.

A guy in front said: "All I hope is that those bastards on the other side know they're supposed to be losing." As he spoke, 1,250 artillery pieces, plus tanks and TD guns, plus mortars, all cut loose at once in a cyclone of sound. No one bothered to talk any more.

Over the shoulders of Capt. Warme Parker's doughs shone the full spring moon. In front of them, on the other side of the river, the burst of shells painted figures in their life-preservers.

They walked across the open fields to the Rhine, fields that stank of burned powder and rotted cabbages. They walked through their own artillery, through solid waves of thunder that shook the marshy earth.

marshy earth.

marsny earth.

In fits and starts, they moved up and reached the boats 300 yards from the river. The engineers who manned the assault craft were there, waiting. Seven men to the storm boats, 15 to the assault boats, they heaved them over and slid them down to the open ground. In a long row, they dragged and carried them the 300 yards that seemed like 3,000. Crouching as they rested, they watched the far bank pounded to powder.

At 0.155 all the boats of the first waves were at

At 0155, all the boats of the first waves were at the water's edge. The doughs and engineers knelt, panting, at their sides. Five more minutes to wait. Three more minutes. One.

It was H-Hour.

The crash of artillery along the opposite shore

lifted and softened to rumbling in the distance. The boats were shoved calf-deep into the water before the men clambered aboard. Silently, they before the men clambered aboard. Silently, they started paddling as we were caught in the current. At the tiller of our boat, Pvt. Chester Dabrowski, of Minneapolis, fiddled with the outboard motor. It sputtered, died. The men kept on paddling. It sputtered again, caught, and hummed to a crescendo. We pulled our paddles in and the boat veered left, then right, then straight across. In the boat, T/5 James Sorbert, of West Chester, Pa., flashed signals to Dabrowski with a fluorescent light.

light.
As the boat headed across, we were swallowed in the smokescreen laid down on the river and the moon disappeared. The doughboy passengers—2/Lt. Stanley Das, battle-commissioned Joe from Methen, Mass.; Pfc Earl Barefoot, of Erwin, N.C.; Pfc James C. Winters, of Sarasota, Fla.; Pfc George Yokell, of Lewistown, Me., and Pfc Noah Kelley, of Clarksburg, W.Va.—and INS Correspondent Frank Conniff burged the bottom and ducked the spray.

burg, W.Va.—and INS Correspondent Frank Conniff hugged the bottom and ducked the spray.

On either side came the hum of 55-horsepower motors racing 25 miles an hour through the smoke—and then it cleared away and we could see the moon again and the other boats—and the shore. The boat headed in, the motor was cut, and we scraped the bank. The tracers from two machineguns outlined the crossing boundaries, and the ripping noise of a burp gun answered their staccato.

The doughs hopped out and headed toward the dike 100 yards from the bank, Sorbert, the T/5, yelled after them: "Take it easy, guys," but no one turned to answer.

They just kept on going, over the dike, past the cringing German who popped out of a stone cistern, crying, "Nichts, nichts, kamerad," across the flat on a dead run. They were headed east when last seen-due east.

Ike Warns Germans Against Executions

Disclosing that the Allies had captured secret orders from Hitler's headquarters for the execution of Allied airborne forces and paratroops, Supreme Commander Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower last night broadcast a warning to the Wehrmacht and SS that those involved in such executions would be punished severely.

The broadcast declared that airborne and parachute troops are not terrorists but soldiers carrying out legitimate military

"It will not be regarded as an excuse to have acted under superior orders," the broadcast

House Cheers

WASHINGTON, March 24.—The House applauded today as Rep. Andrew J. May (D-Ky.), chairman of the Military Affairs Committee, gave it the news of the airborne landing east of the Rhine and the Ninth Army's crossing in boats.

"The American Armies have cross ed the Rhine; the battle cry
'On to Berlin!'." May shouted.

House members unanimously approved a proposal by Rep. John E. Rankin (D-Miss.) that the speaker send Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., a congratulatory message on the "magnificent showing he is now making on the West Front."

Splash of Big Type

The newspapers dug out some of their biggest type to banner the day's sensational West Front developments. Prominent in all correspondents' accounts were descriptions of the battle as the war's climary. Correspondents also emclimax. Correspondents also emphasized negligible German resis-

The airborne landing and Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's drive stole the headlines from Patton, who had been dominating them personally since the Third Army's Rhine crossing.

Headline writers invariably refer to "Patton's Army," "Patton's Tanks" or sometimes just "Patton," when dealing with the Third Army, whereas other U.S. Armies are merely called by their numbers.

Stocks Slump On War News

NEW YORK, March 24 (AP).— Stocks slumped today under the impetus of a selling reaction to the war news, reflecting fears of indus-

Navy Reveals Loss of Carrier

GUAM, March 24 (ANS).—Adm. Nimitz today reported the loss of the escort carrier Bismarck Sea, even as Tokyo radio described a two-day American carrier-plane attack on the Japanese naval and air base at Okinawa in the Ryukyu Islands, midway between Japan and Formosa

manders to realize that their great military achievements of the past few weeks have registered a high point in American military successes."

Luzon Yanks, Guerrillas Push on Toward Baguio

There was no American confirmation of the Tokyo reports, which said that on Friday 230 U.S. planes opened an assault on Okinawa, 400 miles southwest of Kyushu. Kyushu was a prime target of Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's Sunday and Monday attacks in the Japanese inland sea.

inland sea.
The 10,200-ton Bismarck Sea, Nimitz said, was sunk by Japanese planes off Iwo on Feb. 21, third day

10,000 Planes Support Allies' **River Crossing**

The greatest co-ordinated daylight aerial blow in history was struck in support of trans-Rhine operations between dawn and dusk yesterday by an estimated 10,000 Allied planes. Strategical and tactical air forces devoted almost their entire efforts to clearing the way for supplying and maintaining an aerial blanket over the invading forces.

over the invading forces.

The Ninth AF dispatched 1,806 fighter-bombers and 800 mediums in attacks on communications north of Wiesbaden and rail targets at Darmstadt, Frankfurt, Giessen and Fulda. Six fighter-bombers were lost and three ME109s were shot

Vandenberg Directs Operations Maj. Gen. Hoyt Vandenberg, CG of the Ninth AF, directed operations over the Ruhr for three hours as he flew his own Mustang. Maj.

Praises Patton

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau
WASHINGTON, March 24.—The House applauded today as Rep. An
he flew his own Mustang. Maj. Gen. E. R. Quesada, of Ninth TAC, piloted a P47 over the landings.

First TAC sent more than 1,000 planes against rail targets and escape routes, dive bombed the Nazi-held bridge at Germersheim on the Rhine and hit a 900-foot viaduct across the Enz River at Bretigheim, 32 miles east of Karlsruhe.

The Eighth AF contributed 2,590 aircraft in three missions.

aircraft in three missions.

More than 1,050 heavies, escorted

More than 1,050 heavies, escorted by 850 fighters, attacked 12 Ger-man airfields north of the Ruhr to forestall defensive air moves. The fields were at Hopsten, Achmer, Vechta, Vechtel, Rheine, Hesepe, Nordhorm, Steenwijk, Zwischenahn, Plantlunne, Varrelbusch and Varrell.

Libs Supply Airborne Troops

Approximately 240 Liberators, flying in the slipstreams of First Allied Airborne Army C46 Commandos, parachuted and dropped 6,000 tons of supplies to waiting

The Eighth also sent 450 heavies against two airfields south of Kassel, one east of Hamm and one west of Munster, in Holland.

Long processions of RAF Hali-faxes backed up the British crossings while Lancasters were dropping 11-tonners on a railway bridge over the Weser at Bremen. Berlin re-ceived its nightly visit from bomber

ceived its nightly visit from bomber command planes.

Italy-based 15th AF heavies hit the Daimler Benz tank works in Berlin for the first time. Mustangs flew close support in the longest escort mission ever flown over Europe.

Marshall Lauds Bradley on Saar And Remagen

Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff of the U.S. Army, sent Gen. Omar N. Bradley the follow-ing congratulations for handling of operations by the Third and First Armics

of operations by the Third and First Armies.
"Dear Gen. Bradley: I am filled with admiration over your handling of the operations involved in the establishment and development of the Remagen bridgehead and the clearing of the Saar Valley. I want Gen. Hodges and Gen. Patton and their division and corps commanders to realize that their great military achievements of the past

Push on Toward Baguio

MANILA, March 24 (ANS).— Thirty-third Div. infantry have moved to within 16 air miles of Baguio, former Philippine summer capital now reported to be the headquarters of Japanese troops on Luzon.

The 33rd, moving forward with guerrillas toward Baguio from San Fernando on the northwest coast, crossed the Naguilian River to seize the Naguilian town and airfield. Other elements of the 33rd, moving on Baguio from the south, last reported in tortuous Kennon canyon, eight miles south of the summer capital.

With the British:

By Richard McMillan United Press Corresponder

WITH BRITISH SECOND ARMY, March 24.—
The 51st Highlanders, wearing lifebelts, led
British forces across the Rhine.
They crossed in buffaloes, and up to now—many
hours after the Rhine ceased to be a barrier—we
can say the program is very much
on schedule.

The Watch

Defense

On the Rhine
Proves No
Defense

There was practically no opposition. Men who were supposed to be standing watch on the Rhine must have been asleep or dead.

It was a tactical surprise and there were not a great many troops holding towns like Rees and Wesel. It looked as if they might be deeper, waiting to see where first landings would

Rees was surrounded quickly by the 51st. Street fighting was nearly over in Wesel by dawn, and the garrison commander was captured.

Buffaloes climbed the high bank of the Rhine,

Highlanders Catch Foe by Surprise; Watch on Rhine All Asleep or Dead

waddled down the grassy slopes and took the plunge and soon became a regular shuttle service.

A brigadier of the commandos exclaimed as his craft took the water: "Hannibal crossed the Alps with elephants. We're making history crossing the Rhine with buffaloes."

I saw one buffalo hit, Its gasoline tanks shurted fire, adding a crimson flush to the water. Another zigzagged under enemy fire and began to glow. As far as I could see these were the only casualties in this area.

I climbed into one buffalo when it came near the west bank and talked to Commando Fred Taylor. He told how he was arranging ammunition on the other side when in the flare of a light he saw three Jerries.

Three Jerries

Taylor. "They came running, screaming surrender. Just at that moment I noticed my weapon was just a piece of stick."

With the Third: By James Cannon

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
WITH THIRD ARMY, Over the Rhine, March
23 (Delayed).—These men of a field artillery
battalion were going over the bridge in a weapons

"It's just like any other river we crossed," said road-dirty travel-tired 1/Sgt. Basil Slaughter.

"Except there's no shooting. So that makes it a beautiful river for me."

The MP on the far shore was hoarse from shouting and his eyes leaked from the blowing dust of the constant stream of traffic, said the MP, Pvt. George Tanase, of Detroit, Mich. "I get no kick out of anything over here. I'll get my first kick the day I get home."

Time bursts freckled the sky and from down-stream came the snarling rasp of an enemy plane. Tracers spurted in crimson slashes. Flak boomed red against the stars.

boomed red against the stars.

"The first thing I did," said Pvt. Morris Berkowitz, a rifleman from the Bronx, N.Y., "was to spit a big one right in the river. I seen enough rivers to last me for the rest of my life. The only one I want to cross is the Bronx. You got to cross the Bronx River to get into the Bronx."

You couldn't hear the plane now, and the ack-ack and the machine-guns were quiet and there was only the sound of the traffic on the bridge.

Enemy Planes Snarled Close Over Valley, But to Sergeant the River Was Beautiful

"You take the Rhine," said Pvt. Anthony Marino, of Boston. "Just give me the Charles back

Pfc Walter Stotler, of St. Louis, thinks the Rhine is more beautiful than the Mississippi. But on the shores of Old Man River is where he wanted to be tonight, not standing guard on a bridgehead far from home.

WITH THIRD ARMY, Over the Rhine, March 23.

"We're leading the league again," said Pvt. Chickie Johnson, of New York, of the 452nd AA, an all-Negro AA outfit with a fine reputation. "We just hit another home run."

The gunners squatted in the pit around the 90mm and looked at the moon-dappled Rhine flowing under the bridge, their slender-barreled piece protected.

Night Scene "Seems like they've been coming in every minute," said Pfc Sullivan And Talk of Washington, of Chicago. "We just got an ME109 a half hour ago."

"Five of them come in at the bridge," said Cpl. Dan Haynes, of St. Louis. "Real low and poing like hell. This gun got one of them. It caught on fire and fell in the woods over there."

They came again, one at a time, snarling down the valley of the Rhine. But the ack-ack went up and the plane turned around and went back

up and the plane turned around and went back to the mystery beyond the enemy lines.

The gunners listened to it until the motor faded to a snarling whisper. They watched the Rhine smoked and waited for the planes to come

Ike and Gen. Simpson Were There to Watch the Jumpoff

By a Stars and Stripes Staff Writer WITH NINTH U.S. ARMY, March 24.—Gen. Eisenhower was at the front this morning with the men who are doing the real job." Ninth U.S. Army. He and Lt. Gen.
William H. Simpson, the Ninth's commander, watched the tremendous artillery bombardment by more than 1,250 guns which preceded the assault. From a church tower over-

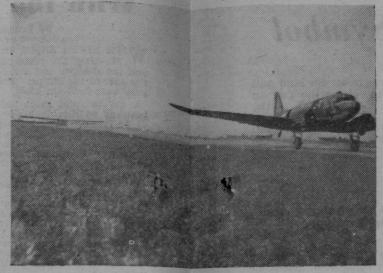
"How do you feel," Eisenhower asked a doughboy as I walked alongside him. "To tell the truth, sir." said the infantryman, "Tm a bit nervies."

Transports Rev Up... Nylon Ropes Pull Tight... The Glider Heads for the Rhine



Scene before takeoff time yesterday morning . . .





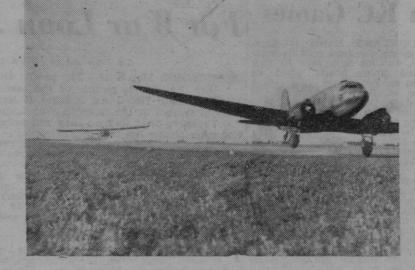
. . slack is pulled out of the nylon rope . . .

There Were Wisecracks, Too, as H-Hour Neared

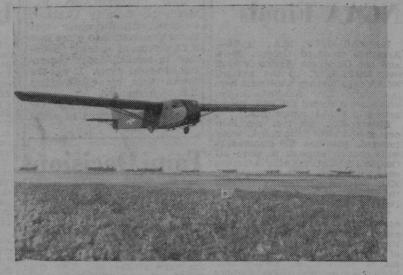
Airborne Joes in Special Camp Find It a Doughfoot Heaven

Some Played, Some Wrote and Some Sweated

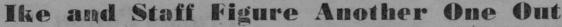
While Awaiting Glider Invasion of Germany



. . . the glider jerks to a start . . .



. . . and takes off to cross the Rhine.





His hands outstretched over a map of western Germany, Gen. Eisenhower outlines his plans for breaking across the Rhine while Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., Third Army commander, and Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, Sixth

Army Group commander, look on attentively. Picture was taken recently during the supreme commander's visit to Sixth Army group headquarters. Censor has masked out part of the map.

Five Months of Planning Pay off in Rhine Battle By a Stars and Stripes Staff Writer WITH NINTH ARMY, Germany, March 24.—Five months of planning, tens of thousands of tons of assorted crossing equipment and all the sweat and ingenuity the U.S. engineers could muster went across the Rhine with the Ninth Army today. at a steady, 11 mile-an-hour rate—double assault boats that held 15 infantry and used a crew of three engineers. They, too, required special selection and special training. They, too, got it in week after week of rehearsal along the River Maas. All the details were carefully worked out. Motors were warmed up in advance to minimize the number of balky ones, then covered to keep them from cooling off. Infantrymen were instructed to take over the tiller in case something happened to the engineer crews.

Gliders Plunge

A War Dance Enlivened the Night As the Old Man Said 'They're Ready'

By Ed Clark
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

AN AIRBORNE MARSHALLING AREA, Somewhere in France,
March 24.—Takeoff time is 8:58. There is still half an hour PROOP CARRIER COMMAND BASE, Somewhere in France, March 24.—The airborne invasion of Germany gets under way to go. Just as the sun came up out of the east for the start of a cloudless day, the column of glider troops marched from camp This American airborne division is going to jump across the to the field, massed with rows of gliders and transport tugs.

Rhine with the task of securing a bridgehead for the flood of Allied manpower which is scheduled to smash the Reich's last western barrier.

The men seem happy, many of them sing and whistle, the field is lousy with wisecracks.

Stuffed with a final garrison meal of steak, fried potatoes and coffee, they are loaded with the equipment of an airborne "We'll get down there, make fast our area and sooner or later assault.

head east on the road to Berlin," the old man said last night. Hear Message From Montgomery

He didn't make any fancy speeches to the already battle-hardened Before they board the gliders, the Chief of Staff calls them paratroopers. He just said what the score was and we went out to watch the evening sun go down. It was a good sunset.

When the purple came over the hills beyond the field, Capt. Herb Sieben's Item Company troopers—every man of them with "Sucker," "Ruth-less," "Steamboat Fulton No. 2."

Before they board the gilders, the Chief of Staff Cans them to attention, reads a message from Field Marshal Sir Bernard Law Montgomery, and gives them his own wishes of good luck. Each glider and transport is smeared with names, all in fancy color. There are "Nancy, Chattanooga," "The Big Ten Special," "Sucker," "Ruth-less," "Steamboat Fulton No. 2."

his head shaved clean except for an Iroquois scalp lock-began The transports warm motors, the tugs move down the runa war dance. They put one man on a post of the barbed wire stockade and did a mock war dance around a fire at the foot of the post. You had to look pretty hard to be sure it was a mock troops will be fighting east of the Rhine.

AN AIRBORNE MARSHALLING AREA, Somewhere In France, March 22 (Delayed).—American glider troops, part of the "They're ready," the regimental commander, a West Pointer rom Philadelphia, told his executive officer, a West Pointer from Philadelphia, told his executive officer from Philadel

IntoPallofSmoke

IntoPa

muster went across the Rhine with the Ninth Army today.

The Rhine crossings began last November—began when the Army engineers started working out a comprehensive plan for the greatest inland amphibious operation ever conceived—began even before the "where" and "where" and ground reconnaissance, alt and ground reconnaissance, study of currents, river bottoms, and ground reconnaissance, study of currents, river bottoms, and the went across the Rhine with the Ninth Army today.

The Rhine crossings began last November—began when the Ninth Army today.

The Rhine with the Ninth Army today.

After the assault boats came that covered the stretched nearly three miles. The haze of battle combined with the smokescreens that covered at Ward.

After the assault boats came the Live miles and content to the said with flat stretched nearly three miles. The haze of battle combined with the smokescreens that covered at Ward.

With planes study does that down for the sements of the cross aid "Uh-huh," absently, and looked hard a stretched nearly three miles. The haze of battle combined with the smokescreens that covered the bridgehead operations provided a gloomy column to the haze of battle combined with the smokescreens that covered the with a train that stretched nearly three miles. The haze of battle combined with the smokescreens that covered the with the smokescreens that covered the with the smokescreens that covered the bridgehead operations provided a gloomy column to the said with flat tain that stretched nearly three miles. The haze of battle combined with the smokescreens that covered the bridgehead operations provided a gloomy contrast to the said with flat tain that combined with the smokescreens that covered the bridgehead operations provided a gloomy contrast to the said with flat tain that combined with the said with flat with the said with flat the with the said with flat with the served the bridgehead operations provided a gloomy contrast to the said with flat with the served the with the said with flat with t

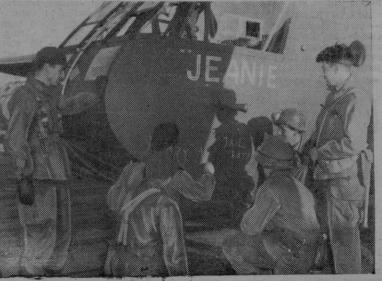
Air and ground reconnaissance, study or currents, river bottoms, the near of Germany, over the last real terain obstacle to the first Then came the gathering of all the equipment necessary, seconding from the their instight the first powered by 5 HF street with the same time the LCVFs, which hauded from the power of the same time the LCVFs, which hauded from the power of the last real terain obstacle to the first from coded areas and everyone tensed of all the equipment necessary, seconding from the their instight that the lead plane, flashed the red light warning that the lead plane, flashed the red light warning that the lead significance in the last light. The rest of the time the LCVFs, which had been brirefed to expect small-arms fire from wooded areas and everyone tensed as LL Col. William H. Parkhill, in the lead plane, flashed the red light warning that the lead was considered to the first flashed the red light warning that the lead warning that



Some of the boys loosen up for the day's activities with a bit of horseplay. They spent months readying for the event and were all set.



ast-minute checkup on equipment finds everything in condition Gliders, too, were quickly gone over for final arrangements.



He Knew They Were Ready

Arkansas and **Aggies Reach NCAA** Finals

KANSAS CITY, March 24.— Arkansas trounced Oregon, 79-76, and the Oklahoma Aggies romped and the Oklahoma Aggies romped over Utah, 62-37, in the western NCAA cage tourney semifinals here last night. The Arkansas-Oregon affair set a record for total points scored in NCAA competition. Shorty Kok, six foot ten inch center, and Mike Schumchyk, lanky forward, provided the Razorbacks with enough impetus to stave off Oregon's belated rush after Arkansas enjoyed a 47-34 edge at the half.

Oregon's belated rush after Arkansas enjoyed a 47-34 edge at the half. Kok plunked 22 points through the hoop, while Schumchyk was close behind with 20.

The Webfeet opened the throttle early in the final period and almost overhauled Arkansas, chiefly through the spectacular shooting of Dick Wilkins, who made 19 of his 23 points in the second half. With the score tied, 76-76, and only seconds to go, Earl Wheeler crashed through for a short layup and was fouled on the play. He converted from the line to clinch the verdict for Arkansas. for Arkansas.

Utah's defending champions, riddled by the loss of Arnie Ferrin, who was drafted last week, and Center Fred Sheffield, confined to the campus because he is a naval trainee, never had a chance against seven-foot Bob Kurland and the rest of the Oklahoma Aggies. Kurland, using his height to full advantage under the basket, tapped in 14 field goals for a total of 28

with Kurland directing opera-tions, the Aggies opened fast and held a 22-12 lead at the intermis-sion. Their power really came to the fore in the second half and Utah collapsed in a hurry.

Revolta Leads Field With 68

GREENSBORO, N.C., March 24 —Johnny Revolta, veteran pro from Evanston, Ill., shaved three strokes off par in the opening round of the \$7,500 Greensboro golf tournament to take the lead with a 68 here yes-

Byron Nelson, Sammy Byrd and Amateur Avery Beck were tied in second place with 70's. Mike Tur-nesa and Jimmy Gauntt carded 71 each, while Sammy Snead came home in 72 after running four over par on the outgoing nine.

Army Calls Higgins

DETROIT, March 24.—Michael "Pinky" Higgins, 35, veteran Tiger third baseman, today was accepted for service at the Detroit induction

Army Changes Mind, Drafts Litwhiler

NEW CUMBERLAND, Pa., March 24.-Danny Litwhiler Cardinal outfielder whose draft board previously had given him a 2A deferment as being "essential" to baseball, today was accepted by the Army. It was the fourth time his classification had been changed.

Draft officials did not say when Litwhiler would be called to active duty.

Tami Decisions Oma in Garden

NEW YORK, March 24.—Tami Mauriello, portly Bronx heavy-weight who entered the ring a 14-5 underdog, slapped out a decisive ten-round victory over Lee Oma, Detroit playbox

Detroit playboy, before a packed house of 19,000 fans last night in Madison Square Garden. Mauriello's

left hook was the decisive weapon last weapon last night and he was far ahead on points when Oma rallied slightly to win the ninth and tenth rounds.

Tami Mauriello Although Oma cut Tami's mouth and nose, his timing was off badly.

Gunder Haegg

CLEVELAND, March 24.—Gunder Haegg, Sweden's running luminary, won his first race in four United States starts when he

edged out Forest Efaw of Bain-bridge Naval Station with a strong final kick in the mile fea-ture of the fifth annual Knights of Columbus Relays last night.
The Wonder was clocked in 4:16,7, 4.6 seconds slower than his pre-

race estimate.

Haegg hit the Gunder Haegg quarter at 65 seconds, the half at 2:20 and the three-quarter mark at

2:20 and the three-quarter mark at 3:20. He tried to coax more speed from his rivals by motioning to them to catch up, but they were unable to heed the call.

Haakan Lidman, Gunder's countryman, was defeated in the 45-yard high hurdles by National Champion Ed Dugger of Ohio State, who won with an effort of 105.7

Steve Donoghue Dies

LONDON, March 24.—Steve Donoghue, 60, famous British jockey who rode six Derby winners, died here after a brief illness. After riding for 34 years, Donoghue obtained a trainer's license in 1938 and became one of the best in the



BALTIMORE, March 24.—The Philadelphia Athletics outlasted Curtis Bay Coast Guard, 14-13, here yesterday in the first game of the season for both teams. The A's scored eight runs in the seventh and added five more in the eighth to thwart a nine-run splurge by the sailors in the seventh. Charlie Metro's double with the bases full in the eighth was the deciding blow.



the bases full in the eighth was the deciding blow.

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo.—The Browns thumped the Toledo Mudhens, 12-1, here yesterday with Al Hollingsworth and Tex Shirley limiting the farmhands to six hits. Johnny Whitehead and Paul Ikemeyer pitched for Toledo and yielded 16 hits, three by one-armed Pete Gray... NEW YORK.—Al Grenert, NYU basketball star, will sign with the Red Sox after the NCAA basketball meet ends. Grenert played every infield position during two years on the Violet varsity, and last year he played on Red Rolfe's Yale team as a Marine trainee. He averaged 352 at NYU and .358 at Yale... ST. LOUIS.—Mickey Owen, holdout Dodger catcher, isn't so dumb. Faced with the necessity of selling a tractor at the \$900 ceiling price when he knew he could get \$500 more for it, Owen said, "This tractor goes to whoever buys the plow," pointing to an old plow worth about \$100. Result: The plow brought \$750 and the tractor \$900.



This Happened in America Yesterday:

Outfoots Field Flag on Iwo Is Selected In KC Games For War Loan Symbol

NEW YORK, March 24.—The people throughout the land will see the famous picture of the marines raising the flag on Mt. Suribachi, Iwo Jima, because it has been selected as the official symbol of the Seventh War Loan.

Treasury officials said they will display it more widely than

any other picture has ever been displayed in history. The photograph was snapped by Joe Rosenthal, Associated Press photographer, who followed the marines up the mountain slope while the fighting raged. (This photo appeared on page one of The Stars and Stripes, Feb. 28th.)

Spring softened the country. Some signs: the return of the swallows to San Juan Capistrano, Calif.; geese by the thousands in Fremont County, Iowa; the Ulen hatchery in Minnesota shipping the first hatchings of baby chicks, and an ice truck standing in the 90 degree temperature in Newton, N.C., bursting into flame.

Things Are Tough Everywhere

IN Springfield, Mo., a woman registered a loud beef about the drinking of witch hazel, which, she maintained, was going down gullets on Sundays as well as weekdays and thereby undermining peace and morals.

There was a move in North Carolina to acquire by public subscription Grandfather Mountain, most rugged peak in the Blue Ridge range, as a war memorial,

FOR the first time in nearly 100 years, people living near the Jay Eddie Ranch, Medecine Lodge Creek, Idaho Falls, saw buffaloes— two of which had crossed the Continental Divide from the Horse Prairie Creek region in Montana.

Art Christianson, a ranch employee, of Gillette, Wyo., wouldn't be balked in paying his income tax when he was stopped by the flooded Little Powder River. He weighted his return with a rock and tossed it to the other side, where a friend carried it off to the tax

OAL miners and soft coal operators, who haven't been able to reach a meeting of minds in annual contract negotiations, chose a fourman subcommittee in Washington to tackle the job. The miners are represented by John L. Lewis, UMW chief, and John O'Leary, UMW vice-president, while the operators' representatives are Charles O'Neill, of Altoona, Pa., and George Campbell, of Chicago. The old contract expires March 31, and the miners will take a strike poll Wednesday.

It's the battle of the sexes in Shambaugh, Iowa, a community of 269, where an all-woman slate is opposing an all-man slate in a local

William M. Glasgow, county clerk at Hillsdale, Mich., has a deep sympathy for romance, but he's tiring of the man who has come to him for the last seven years to apply for a marriage license. The gay husband remarked that he gets a license each March and marries his wife again. "Ever been divorced?" Glasgow asked. "Certainly not," the man replied. "I'm married to the one and only girl on earth." girl on earth.

Celebrities' Children Goes on Stage

THE daughters of two celebrities made their stage debuts this week:
Tony Eden, daughter of Walter Winchell, and Maria Manton,
daughter of Marlene Dietrich.
Chief stage offering on Broadway was a musical, "Firebrand of
Florence," starring Melville Cooper as a bewildered woman-hungry
duke who didn't like the old master, Benvenuto Cellini. Ira Gershwin
did the lyrics and Ed Justin Mayer the book.
Another opening was "Kiss Them For Me," a comedy with a touch of
pathos, about three aviators from the Pacific on a four-day pass. It
was based on Frederick Wakeman's novel, "Shore Leave," and was
written for the stage by Luther Davis,

Top movie is "Fury in the Pacific," a factual report of island

Top movie is "Fury in the Pacific," a factual report of island fighting, which was made jointly by the Army, Marines, Air Corps, Coast Guard and Navy. Variety, the showman's publication, commented: "Effective in making necessary wartime restrictions on the home front easier to understand and to bear."

"Without Love," a new movie starring Spencer Tracy and Katherine Hepburn, describes the chance meeting of two scientists alone in the world, who decide to marry for professional reasons and then fall in love.

MOST popular tunes being hummed by Americans "Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive," "Rum and Coca-Cola," "Saturday Night Is the Loneliest Night in the Week," "My Dreams Are Getting Better All the Time," "A Little on the Lonely Side," "I'm Beginning to See the Light," "Candy," "Don't Fence Me In," "More and More," and "Sweet Dreams, "Sweetheast"."

Harper's Magazine carries an article by Hanson Baldwin which says peace-time conscription must be judged on military merits alone; New Masses says the State Department is surprised at receiving fan mail on Dumbarton Oaks; Liberty praises the work conscientious objectors are doing in the medical corps; Look declares the American boy is our secret weapon; Time says the curfew remedy was worse than whatever disease it was supposed to cure; Newsweek favors a relieve of German labor, being account of the company labor. policy of German labor being used in payment of crimes committed; Life has a picture layout about the Parisian black market that pulls no punches; and the Saturday Evening Post raps male egotism.

New York Yankees-

1945 Major League Flag Prospects

major league prospects for 1945.)

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., March 24. —Having cleared the air of all tom-foolery, highlighted by a phony kid-napping story, the Yankees have settled down to the business of preparing themselves for the 1945 pen-



Johnny Lindell

nant race, and their chances look just fair at the moment.

The Yankees, just like the Tigers, are still losing players to the armed services, while the Browns apparently will go along with virtually the same team that won last year.

(This is the fourth in a series on ager Joe McCarthy's head is the returning, so there is no worry about ajor league prospects for 1945.) prospect of losing Johnny Lindell, third base. prospect of losing Johnny Lindell, his leading runs-batted-in contributor last year. Long John says he expects to enter the Army, perhaps within 30 days. He was placed in the Navy pool last year but recent communications with the Temple City, Cal., draft board have convinced Lindell he won't be around long. around long

However, with Herschel Martin, Russell Derry, Bud Metheny, Tuck Stainback and antiquated Paul Wa-ner available, the Bombers have a picket line which compares favorably with any other in the American

The infield is another—and sadder—story. Nick Etten still is among the missing, and Frankie Crosetti has incurred the wrath of Leland Stanford MacPhail with his Salary demands. That leaves Joe Buzas as probable shortstop and Oscar Grimes at first base, unless the Yankees can come up with a

trade, which seems unlikely. George Stirnweiss still has those anti-draft ulcers and has signed ne same team that won last year. his contract, which takes care of righthander one of the chief worries on Man-second base. And Don Savage is newcomers.

Herb Crompton, drafted from Toronto during the off-season, and Bill Drescher are expected to help Mike Garbark with the bulk of the catch-

ing.
The Yankee pitching staff again



Frank Crosetti looms as a fearsome problem for opposing teams. Hank Borowy has signed and Ernie Bonham is expected soon. Emerson Roser is still missing, but McCarthy is very happy about Ken Holcombe, a strong righthander who heads the mound

Oilers, Ambrose Reach | Zollners Duel Acmes **AAU Basketball Finals**

DENVER, March 24.—The top-seeded teams and perennial fi-nalists—Phillips "66" Oilers and the Denver Ambrose Jellymakers— swept into the final round of the annual AAU basketball tourney here last night. They will play for the crown tonight.

Barons Purchase Overman

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., March 24 -The Birmingham Barons of the Southern Association have purchas ed Outfielder Joe Overman from Rochester of the International League. Overman swatted .341 for Allentown last year.

For Pro Cage Title

CHICAGO, March 24.—The favored Fort Wayne Zollners, National League champions, and the dark horse Dayton Acmes qualified for the finals of the annual world's professional basketball tournament by winning their semi-final games last night. The title game will be played tonight.

The Zolliners trounced the New York Rens, 68-45, and the Acmes slaughtered the Chicago American Gears, 80-51, in a game that set a scoring record for the meet. Bobby McNeill of the Acmes netted 23 points, and his three-game total of 70 also eclipses the former mark.

By Al Capp

Help Wanted -AND GIVEN

Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, The Stars and Stripes, Paris, France. APO 887.

CAMERA EXCHANGE

SWAP: Erko film-plate camera, accessories, for smaller hand camera.—
Pfc J. M. Bailey.
FOR SALE: Univex, f2 lens; Argus C2,
f3.5 lens.—T/4 R. Nelson. SWAP:
Argus 4.5 35mm camera for portable type-writer.—Pvt. Fred Kellum.

A CCORDION, 120 bass plano.—W/O J.L.

MISCELLANEOUS

"FRONT-LINE BOYS," GFRS Pool, APC 545. We have letter for you from Janie Mansfield.

Janie Mansfield.

APOS WANTED

MARVIN Baer, Oklahoma; Sgt. Samuel

Ballard; Maj. Carl H. Bischoff,
Washington, D.C.; Jack Davis, Pa.; Pvt.
Robert Van Dam, Grand Rapids, Mich.;
Pic Walter W. Fallette; Sgt. Ted M.
George, Tenn.; Robert S. Gun, Detroit;
Wac Sixta Gurule, Zucumcari, N.M.; T/5
Donuel Hodermarski; Opl. Charles Johnston, Michigan; Pvt. Larry Jarvill, Iowa;
Cpl. Marcella A. Knauf, Drexej Hill, Pa.;
Cpl. John F. Kelly, Kenmore, N.Y.; S/Sgt.
Karraski; Sgt. Milton J. Kline; Sgt. Thomas Lane, Alameda, Califf; Pvt. Albert
Martinez; Pvt. Louis Mancini; Pvt. Leonard
Maniccia, Oswego, N.Y.; T/3 Ralph Pace,
Steubenville, Ohio; Cpl. Herbert, F. Riffle,
Dayton, Ohio; Cpl. Edgar M. Rosenthal,
Washington Heights; Hugh Sanigham,
Chicago; Capt. Harold S. Stanley, Anniston, Ala.; Billie Welms, Pa.; Capt. Morton R. Zucker, Cleveland; Sgt. William
Zuehlke.

Births Folks at Home Send These GIs Swift News of Sir Stork's Arrival:

CAPT. Bernard H. Bernstein, Pittsburgh APT. Bernard H. Bernstein, Pittsburgh
—Susan Lee, Jan. 27; Cpl. George T.
King. Newark, N.J.—boy, Dec. 27; Lt.
Roger K. Johnson, Claremont, Calif.—
boy, March 13; Pvt. Garnell Osborne.
Glasgow, Ky.—Paulla Jane, Jan. 29; Pvt.
John E. Horning, Detroit—Lina Lee, March
18; Pfe Jack Cady, Canton, Ohio—boy,
March 19; Pfc Albert L. Brannon, Wilmington, Ohio—Esther Ann, March 15.

Ph. William A. Tedesco, Valleic, Colif.

mington, Ohio—Esther Ann, March 15.

CPL. William A. Tedesco, Vallejo, Calif.
—Robert James, March 16: Capt.
Henry Greenbaum, New York—Jane Anita,
March 17; Sgt. Donald T. Johnson, West
Hartford, Conn.—girl, March 20; S/Sgt.
Warren R. Schuster, Brooklyn—girl, March
19; Lt. Arthur William Pedersen, Yonkers,
N.Y.—Patricia Diane, March 17; Maj. William I. Marlett, Gary, Ind.—girl, March
21; Cpl, William L. Bloom, Detroit—David
Lee, March 19. 21; Cpl. William Lee, March 19.

CHURCH SERVICES

PROTESTANT

Sunday services at Holy Trinity Church, 23 Avenue George V, 0930; Dufayel Barracks, Boulevard Barbès, 1030; American Union Church, 65 Quai d'Orsay, 1100 hours. Communion (Sundays and weekdays) Holy Trinity Church, 0700 and 0800 hours.

CATHOLIC

Sunday mass at Madeleine Church, Place de la Madeleine, 1800; Chapel (Com Z), 5 Avenue Kleber, 1130 and 1730 hours; St. Pierre de Chaillot, 43 Avenue Marceau, 1015 hours. Daily mass: Madeleine Church, 9700 hours; Chapel, 5 Avenue Kleber, 1130 and 1730 hours. Confessions at Madeleine Church Saturdays, 1700 and 1930 hours, and before masses; and at 5 Avenue Kleber, before masses.

JEWISH

Friday, 1930 hours, Synagogue, 24 Rue Copernic; Saturday, 1930 hours, Marignan Theater, Champs-Elysées; Sunday, 1930 hours, Synagogue, 44, Rue de la Victoire.

SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quaker) 12 Rue Guy de la Brosse (Métro Jussieu), Thursday at 1800, Sunday at 1015.

FORCES-NE

Also AEFP (583 Kc. TODAY

1800-News 2400-News 1805-Mark Up Map 0015-Night Shift 1810-U.S. Sports 0200-News Headlines

TOMORROW

0600-Rise and Shine 0900-New 0700-News
0910-News
0910-Spotlight Band
0715-Song Parade
0725-French Lesson 1000-Morning After
0730-Dance Orchestra 1030-Strike Up Band
0800-Combat Diary
0815-Personal Album
0830-Modern Music
1105-Duffle Bag
1145-Melody Roundup

News Every Hour on the Hour

Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features







Terry and The Pirates

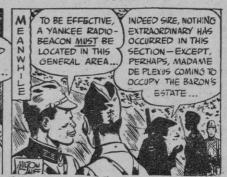
By Courtesy of News Syndicate

By Milton Caniff









Abbie an' Slats

By Courtesy of United Features

By Raeburn Van Buren









Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune Syndicate Inc.

By Chester Gould









Blondie

. By Courtesy of Arthur J. Lafave Syndicate

By Chic Young







Jane

By Courtesy of The London Daily Mirror

By Norman Pett







Reds Smash Ahead 44 Mi. in Drive on Vienna

Rhine Crossed in North By Three Allied Armies

(Continued from Page 1)

12 miles as the crow flies—and much further along the twisting river. This was from a point just south of Wesel northward

In the vicinity of Wesel itself, British First Commando Brigade took the enemy by surprise, in spite of Germany's re-beated predictions the attack was coming in that area. They entered the town, captured the commander of its garrison troops and last night were reported fighting in the streets. Maj. Gen. Deutsch, commander of flak batteries there, was killed.

Twelve and a half miles north of Wesel, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders established a bridgehead at least 2,000 to 3,000 yards deep and had entered the town of Rees, astride the Emmerich-Wesel railway.

Roughly half way between Rees and Wesel, other Second Army troops established a third bridgehead, opposite the west bank town of Xanten. It was also reported last night to be at

2,000 to 3,000 yards deep. Wesel, Bislich and Rees, British commandos were at grips with

ish commandos were at grips with fanatical German paratroops.

Ninth Army troops, who began crossing in bright moonlight between 0200 and 0300 yesterday morning established a substantial bridgehead south of Wesel, but the exact point was not named.

Wes Gallagher, Associated Press reporter with the Ninth Army, said the Ninth had crossed two miles

the Ninth had crossed two miles south of Wesel and again four miles south and had advanced three to miles northeast of the Rhine, capturing a dozen or so small towns, including Torda. The town of Dins-

laken had been reached.

Reports late last night from the front said the progress of the of-fensive was good, that resistance was lighter than had been expected and that casualties were few for such an operation. The Second Army had counted more than 1,500 prisoners and the Ninth Army, more than 700 by noon, and a returning airman said he saw "streams of German troops and civilians walking back toward the Rhine at one point with their hands clasped above their heads."

Despite the fact that the Allies were piercing their main defense, not only close to the vital Ruhr Valley but on the classic invasion highway into Germany, they found the enemy's forward positions held only in moderate strength, and it was stated at Supreme Headquarters in the afternoon that no reserve forces had yet been en-

Largest Airborne Operation

The airborne operation, described Third and First Armies officially as the largest ever undertaken by Allied forces, was carried out in broad daylight by the First Allied Airborne Army under command of Lt. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton. A skytrain totaling in length more than 500 miles, exclusive of the hundreds of fighters which gave protection carried. which gave protection, carried American and British divisions into the heart of Kesselring's defenses from airfields in France and Eng-

One report, from an American broadcaster at the front, said 40,000 airborne troops had been dropped. The gliders carried jeeps and artillery pieces, including 75s, in addition to troops.

The ground forces linked up with the airborne yesterday afternoon when a Bren gun carrier with Scottish troops met American parathat an American attempt to cross

nor the day-long aerial support provided by the Allied forces suffered interference from the Luftwaffe. Throughout the day, as Allied craft ranged across an area whose air-fields were already mere cemeteries for planes, only a handful of German fighters were spotted.

Allied pilots, meanwhile, combing the entire battlefield on the east bank of the Rhine, had set Kesselring's defenses ablaze from end to end. Vehicles and buildings were after throughout the area and were afire throughout the area, and by late afternoon all targets were Armd. Div.

obscured by smoke, according to dispatches from Second Tactical

headquarters.
In addition to bombing and strating, Allied air support included dropping of supplies About 240 Liberators of the Eighth AF dropped supplies to the airborne troops during the morning.

Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham, who was in charge of co-ordinating the work of the tactical air forces in the operation, gave the signal to start the offensive. After studying weather reports, he telephoned to Montage reports, he telephoned to Mont-gomery, according to a Reuter dis-patch, and said: "Everything is set fair. Let's go.'

First troops to cross were Scottish troops, veterans of Libya and Normandy, from the Fifth Royal Tank Regiment, which took the first vehicle across the Rhine in

By daylight, reinforcements were being rushed across the river in huge numbers. What was happen ing on the river and in the bridge-heads themselves was pictured most vividly by pilots returning from support missions.

S/Sgt. Marion Scarberry, of Dal las, Tex., a Liberator waistgunner, said: "There seem to be thousands of trucks and men going across the Rhine on barges and pontoon bridges." A Canadian recon pilot said: "It's great to see our troops tearing along the roads in half-tracks already organized into con-voys. They seem to be receiving voys. Th

Expand Bridgeheads

Both the Third and First Army both the Third and First Army bridgeheads were expanding against light opposition yesterday, accord-ing to front dispatches, the Asso-ciated Press reporting that Patton's troops now have a four-mile-deep hold on the east bank of the Rhine

in the Mainz-Worms area.

The Germans asserted that Patton made two crossings, one near Oppenheim, ten miles south of Mainz, and the second near Worms, ten miles farther south. Beyond these positions lies Frankfurt's plain, unbroken for 300 miles along a narrow waist of the Reich to the Red Army's assault line south of the German capital.

Scottish troops met American paratrops on the edge of a wood, a Reuter front-line dispatch said.

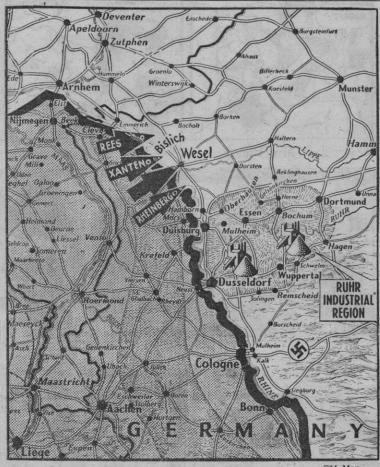
Construction of bridges on the Minth Army front, south of Wesel, was begun during the afternoon, Associated Press said.

Neither the airborne operation of the day-long aerial support properties. This morning, according to Reuter, that an American attempt to cross the Rhine over a motor bridge at Frankenthal, between Worms and Ludwigshafen, had been smashed. Although he did not mention the type of bridge or where it was, S. and S. Correspondent Jimmy Cannon reported that Third Army list," he said.

Lt. Gen. Carl S. troops were using a bridge across

> West of the Rhine the 94th Int. Div. completed clearing Ludwigshafen, and Patch's Seventh Army cut the last enemy salient almost

Cutting across the north fringe of the Bienwald forest, the 36th Inf. Div. took a number of villages east of Landau, including Hatzenbuhl, four miles west of the Rhine. Kandel, 11 miles northeast of Wissembourg, fell to the 14th Armd Div.



Into the backyard of the Ruhr Valley, holding 80 percent of Germany's industry. Allied troops advanced yesterday after their swift Rhine crossings in the north. British and Canadian troops fought for Rees, Wesel and other towns; U.S. Ninth Army troops were fanning out from bridgehead below Wesel.

Monty Wishes Airborne Men Monty Wishes Airborne Men Along the Bay of Danzig, the Soviet capture of Zoppot—at a cost of 5,000 Nazi dead—shrank the Germans' Danzig-Gdynia pocket to 30 miles long and five deep. Good Hunting -High Land

TWENTY-FIRST ARMY GRP. HQ., March 24.—"Good hunting to you on the other side," Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, 21st Army Grp. commander, told his men yesterday as they were preparing to cross the Rhine.

Declaring that the Germans had now been driven into a corner and could not escape, Montgomery said.
"Eyents are TWENTY-FIRST ARMY GRP.

Events

moving rapidly.
Complete and
decisive defeat
of the Germans

is certain."

Prime Minister Winston Churchill, at Montgomery's headquarters, also issued a message. He declared that once the river

declared that "once the river line is pierced and the crust of German resistance is broken, decisive victory in Europe will be near."

Montgomery said that if the enemy "thinks he is safe behind this great river obstacle... we will show the enemy that he is far from safe behind it."

Montgomery summed up Nazi losses—in the west and in the Rhineland—as "the flower of at least four armies," including a para-entitle army the Britsh Decay American In the sky train of 3,000 heavily-laden planes and gliders rendez-voused in the vicinity of Brussels. It had close fighter cover and arrived at the landing zones without a single loss due to German intruders. Heavy bombers hit the fields used by jet fighters to keep them on the ground. The supporting armada, in addition to the giant sky train's own 3,000, numbered "well over 2,000," the airborne chief of staff said.

The aerial column which in

chute army, the Fifth Panzer Army, the 15th Army and the Seventh Army. "The First Army further to the south is now being added to the list," he said. including a para

ist," he said. Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz, commanding U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe today received the following message from Montgomery:
"I would like to convey to you

"I would like to convey to you personally and to all ranks in the U.S. Strategic Air Forces my grateful appreciation for the quite magnificent co-operation you have given us in the Battle of the Rhine. By your action you have made possible the crossing of the river by the land Army. Please convey thanks to all your crews and ground staff."

Germans Say Russians Gain In Berlin Push

Red Army troops in Hungary have launched an offensive toward

have launched an offensive toward Vienna and driven forward 44 miles along a 62-mile front between Lake Balaton and the Danube, Marshal Stalin announced last night.

The Russians captured the important communications towns of Szekesfehefvar. Mor and Veszprem "and more than 350 other inhabited places," taking more than 6.000 prisoners and capturing or destroying 745 self-propelled guns and tanks, and more than 800 guns, Stalin said.

Capture of Mor, 38 miles west-

Capture of Mor, 38 miles west-southwest of Budapest, placed the Russians 74 miles from the Austrian border and 73 miles from the Bratis-lava gap leading to Vienna.

Neisse Also Falls

Marshal Stalin also announced the capture of the southern Silesian cities of Neisse, 14 miles northwest of captured Neustadt, and Leob-schutz, 13 miles southeast of Neu-

The captures marked an extension of Marshal Ivan Koniev's recent Silesian offensive southwest of Oppeln, which cost the Nazis 30,000 dead and 15,000 prisoners. At Leobschutz the Russians were 34 miles from industrial Moravska-Ostrava, gateway to Czechoslovakia.

Moscow dispatches said nothing of Soviet activity along the Oder River east of Berlin, but a German broadcast yesterday placed Soviet troops 10 miles west of the Oder in the direction of the Reich capi-

Clockwork . .

(Continuea from Page 1)

holding the plane steady in read-iness for the release when a plane several hundred yards in front suddenly burst into flames.

landings on the east bank of the Rhine by the Sixth British and 17th U.S. Airborne Divs. is a complete success, Brig. Gen. Floyd L. Parks, First Allied Airborne Chief of Staff said tonight.

The immediate objective of securing the high ground across the river from 21st Army Grp. troops between Wesel and Rees has been accomplished. With this high ground in Allied hands the river may be bridged without being under observed enemy fire.

The irre swept down the hull of the big ship but the pilot held it steady until his gliders cut loose.

As the plane swung up and to the right in the prescribed turn, our crew chief, Pvt. Enloe Wilkinson, of Evanston, Ill., swore and said, "Whip it! Whip it! The fire will blow out." Almost in answer, the plane started a steep climb, but suddenly broke off, flipped over on its back and plunged down. The escape hatch flew off the top of the plane, but that was all.

Just as we reached the landing

Just as we reached the landing zone, another C47 plunged by us but no one said anything because Alderdyce, his face set, reached up and pulled the handle releasing our gliders, and our plane, suddenly free, surged and pushed us hard against our seats.

We were swinging back when S/Sgt. Finous L. Rood, the radio man from Dallas, Tex., said, "Oh, oh. We got it that time." He looked out the window at the wing, then crossed to the other side and stared again. He said, "Damn it, I know we did. I felt it in my feet." The trip home took an hour less

ant sky trains own 3,000, introder of "well over 2,000," the airborne hief of staff said.

The aerial column which in ingle file would have reached from lew York to Cincinnati, was over leaves for three hours.

The trip nome work at hour less time than the outgoing one and Alderdyce and Rhoades talked about the combat, whiskey and steaks at camp while Rood and Wilkinson argued about being hit by flak.

Rood was right: The hydraulic system had been hit and the wheels had to be let down manually. The flaps came down and couldn't be controlled.

Rhoades took most of the runway

in putting the ship down and everyone jumped out to look at the belly, where light flak or 50-calibers had punctured it.

Then they walked over to a group where men who had returned earlier were staring into the sky and saying: "B for Baker. That's Charlie. There's K for King—Shorty. That leaves four more. They gotta be in soon."

Churchill Credits U.S. Forces

single file would have reached from New York to Cincinnati, was over the target area for three hours. The 17th Div. used some of the new C46 Curtis Commando planes

which carry more than the man-load of the C47, and, with doors on both sides of the fuselage, para-

troopers can pile out twice as fast.

By Andy Rooney Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

SHAEF, March 24.—The Airborne

landings on the east bank of the

observed enemy fire.

The 17th Div. was loaded on the Continent and the Sixth Div. came from the British Isles, Gen. Parks

3,000 Planes, Gliders

LONDON, March 24 (AP).— Prime Minister Churchill, con-gratulating Lord Louis Mountbatten today on the liberation of Manda-lay, said the capture was due in part to American combat and transport forces.