

## 'Americans Across the Seine'--Berlin

### The Trap Closes on the Nazi 7th

By Andy Rooney  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

CHAMBOIS, Aug. 20—From movie-perfect observation points on the rim of a saucerlike valley, hundreds of Allied heavy artillery guns poured round after round of fire today into concentrations of German tanks and trucks too thick to miss.

After thousands of German soldiers surrendered and when there was no longer a German vehicle moving in the battered valley, American, British, French and Polish soldiers poured down off the rim hills of the valley to occupy this town and officially close the most important trap of the war in France.

The stage for one of the greatest shows of modern war was the little valley running from Argentan to Chambois. Running through the open wheatfields of the flat basin was the only main road over which the Germans could hope to move men and equipment.

Early this morning powerful columns of German armor boldly pushed out into the valley from the protection of the woods near Argentan in an attempt to break through. For many gunners it was the first time they had seen their targets with their own eyes and within a few seconds after the first vehicle in a Ger-

man column pushed its nose from the protection of a woods the valley echoed with fire power.

With ordinary field glasses, a hundred burned or burning German tanks or trucks could be counted below. A German armored car which by mid afternoon had somehow escaped destruction would sneak out from the protection of a clump of trees and in an instant the armored car would be turned into a red inferno and a column of black smoke. Through glasses, pitifully burned German soldiers could be seen dragging their bodies from flaming vehicles while other cars and armored tanks flew oversized white flags.

American armored column pushed into the valley in an attempt to close the gap and cut the road over which the Germans were trying to escape. At ten o'clock a strong force of German tanks made their last determined effort to break out. The German armor struck the middle of the offensive U. S. tank column in a suicide attempt. The American armor withdrew from the valley and artillery shelled the German column while it burned from one end to the other.

By mid afternoon, columns of Germans divided into full platoon and companies were mashing up the little dirt roads leading from the valley to the hills all around. Many of the surrendering German columns were more than 200 strong and weary U. S. military police couldn't keep up with the influx.

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### Allies Mopping German 7th Army In Normandy Trap

German radio reports said last night that American tanks had crossed the Seine River north and south of Paris and had formed a three-quarter arc around the city, indicating that the Germans were demolishing important buildings in expectation of the city's evacuation or capture.

Other Allied units, meanwhile, locked tight the trap on the remnants of the German Seventh Army in the Falaise-Putanges-Argentan sector yesterday and were engaged last night in systematically mopping up and destroying the enemy's manpower and equipment inside the trap. A correspondent of the official Allied Press Service said the pocket was being reduced rapidly on the northern side, while to the south artillery blasted enemy troops, literally plastering the area. German prisoners streamed back toward the Albes rear.

German radio yesterday said that American paratroops had been landed on the far side of the Seine River, facilitating the tank crossings on either side of Paris.

The Normandy pocket now has been compressed to an area running about nine and a half miles from east to west and about six miles north and south, said the correspondent from Allied Press Service.

A German attempt to break out of the Normandy pocket between Trun and Chambois was crushed by heavy Allied concentrations of artillery and infantry.

Gace, eight miles east of Argentan, has already been reached by British reconnaissance units. The main body of troops is following these patrols closely. On the northern end of the front, east of Caen, Allied troops have advanced to within four miles of Lisieux. Here they encountered strong resistance. Lisieux is an important road and rail center on the main road from Caen to the east.

U. S. cavalry units of the Third Army are operating south and southeast of Paris, it was announced officially last night. Cavalry are also operating as far as 18 miles beyond Orleans, United Press reported.

In the Falaise-Argentan area, heavy and confused fighting is reported, with Allied patrols bypassing groups of the enemy and wiping out others. Fighting continues to the west of the pockets, where some enemy units have been isolated. The

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### Allies Develop 3 Major Drives From the South

#### 1,800 Sq. Mi. Liberated By Troops Pushing Steadily Inland

Allied forces driving inland from the French Riviera coast have now liberated more than 1,800 square miles of territory. Allied casualties are estimated at 800.

The Allies pushing westward have crossed the Durance River after a ten-mile advance.

Three major drives have developed: One spearhead is the American Seventh Army pushing northward into the Basses Alpes; the second is westward across Var to a point approximately 24 miles northeast of Marseilles; the third is along the coastal road east of Toulon. Most of Var has been liberated and Allies control the vital road and rail centers of the area.

French armored forces Saturday liberated St. Maximin. They are bypassing centers of resistance and advancing so rapidly that the Germans have no time for demolitions.

Advance units of British and American paratroops are reported in contact with the French Forces of the Interior. Allied planes strafed troops and bombed bridges and communications in the Durance and Rhone valleys Saturday, while the heavies once again battered oil installations at Ploesti.

In Italy the Polish and Italian forces on the Adriatic front took advantage of decreasing enemy resistance to push northwest of Mondolfo and contact German forces in the high ground near San Costanzo. Patrolling continued in the Parto Magno Mountains southeast of Florence. The situation in Florence and on the First Army front to the west remained unchanged.

### General in Jeep Machine-Gunning Bags 5 Prisoners

By Seagham Maynes  
Reuters Correspondent

WITH U.S. THIRD ARMY Aug. 20—Even the generals in the American forces are prepared to open fire at any moment on the Germans. Such is the character of the fluid warfare created by the swift U.S. drives deep behind enemy positions.

One American general has taken five German prisoners at the point of a machine-gun. The general was driving down a road in a jeep when he spotted the enemy soldiers, crouched behind a hedgerow with rifles.

The general swung his machine-gun on them, and the Nazi came out with their hands high.

On another occasion the general had to fight a running battle with a group of Germans who were at the side of a road along which the general was leading a column of troops in his jeep.

The general and the German both opened fire. The general won.

### Reds Develop Drive in North, Nearing Tartu

#### Seek to Cut Off Nazis Inside Baltic Bulge; Riga 50 Mi. Off

Seeking to annihilate German forces isolated in the Baltic bulge, the Russian Army yesterday continued to develop a strong offensive on the northern front in Estonia and Latvia and drove from seven to ten miles of Tartu, an important rail junction in Estonia.

In Latvia, the Russians were reported within 50 miles of Riga, the capital.

The Russians said German counterattacks in the vicinity of Praga, a Warsaw suburb, but added that all the Nazi attempts were thrown back. Two hundred and fifty German tanks were destroyed or disabled Saturday on all fronts, Moscow said.

### Poles Gain Ground On Italian Front

Aug. 20—Polish forces on the Adriatic sector of the Italian front have reached Gabrielli and Mondolfo, about 12 miles southeast of Pesaro. The Poles pushed forward their line in a night attack in which they were supported by tanks. They were now in contact with the enemy in the high ground above San Costanzo and have occupied Castel Vecchio in the same sector.

Italian troops farther inland have liberated Pergola, nine miles inland from the coast, and are keeping in close contact with the Germans along the upper Cesano River.

The Germans have again shelled Florence, but the Allies have now cleared all snipers out of the city.

### Super-Forts Hit Targets In Japan

The War Department last night confirmed Japanese reports that Super-Fortresses had bombed "industrial targets" on Japan's southern mainland. The Washington announcement did not announce the exact location.

However, Tokio Radio said that the bombers had attacked the Yawata steel mills, Japan's largest. It was the fourth attack by Super-Fortresses on the steel works.

**DOUGHBOY LOOKS AHEAD**  
FORT DEVENS, Mass., Aug. 20 (UP)—Hostess Dorothy Ellis of the Devens Service Club hopes a boy friend in Normandy knew what he was talking about when he wrote optimistically, "How about a date on New Year's Eve?" The GI's name was not given.

### Captive 27 Hours, 47 Pilot Winds Up Captor of 27 Nazis

Without any weapons save quick thinking and ready answers, including a little high school French, a former South Chicago (Ind.) laboratory worker convinced 27 Germans on their side of the lines that they were surrounded—then shepherded them into American custody after he himself had been in enemy hands 27 hours.

The fast-talker was 1/Lt. Emil Bertza, 24, Ninth Air Force Thunderbolt pilot.

### Hot Water, Clean Sheets for Yanks As Spas Taken

By Jules B. Grad  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

BAGNOLES, Aug. 20—The GI's dream of "the next best thing to home" was this world-famous Normandy spa where for two days and nights battle-grimed American doughboys lived in a paradise of hot baths and clean sheets.

A hamlet nestled in a deep rocky gorge on the Vee River, less than 23 miles north of Mayenne, Bagnoles was a rest center, for the Luftwaffe, up to its recent capture. It escaped the destruction of war and Yanks were quick to make use of its warm mineral baths and swimming pools.

Maj. Leonard Peters, of Boston, a headquarters commandant and the first American officer to enter the town, was greeted by wildly-cheering civilians who took him into their homes and to a chorus of toasts opened up bottles of champagne they had saved until their town was liberated.

A mecca for evacuees, Bagnoles was a town where the GI could talk with the people without need of his French guide book. Almost 75 per cent of the civilians speak English, Peters said. Four of the city's hotels and its gambling casino were owned by the Arthur Gould Corporation of New York City.

Several months before the invasion, the Germans made part of Bagnoles into a training center for what the French called "The Girls in Grey." These were young German women, dressed in long grey frocks, who learned to become teletype operators and technicians. They stayed there for six-week periods and then left for posts in occupied countries. After the landings, the school was closed and the hotels turned into hospitals for the Nazi wounded.

### 3 Major Warships Launched at Once

WASHINGTON, Aug. 20—Three major combat ships will join the U. S. Navy next Sunday when the 27,000-ton aircraft carrier and two 13,000-ton cruisers, the Chicago and Los Angeles, will be launched at the Philadelphia Navy Yards.

It will be the first occasion in U. S. history when one shipyard has launched three major combat ships at once.



German radio said last night that American tank columns had crossed the Seine on both sides of Paris after paratroops had paved the way. Allies closed trap on German Seventh Army in Normandy.

# 'Somewhere in France...'

The next time Capt. John B. (Stonewall) Jackson, of the 9th Infantry Division, gets a day off he swears by the patron saint of horse breeders he'll sprawl under an apple tree and dream of his 2,000-acre horse ranch near Albuquerque, N.M. Anyway, he won't go near the German lines.

On the eve of his pass, Jackson heard a news broadcaster announce St. Malo was occupied by American troops so he planned a visit to his birthplace—was born and reared in Dinard, a small town across the Rance River from St. Malo.

Jackson and 1/Lt. Lucian Frelier, of Palo, Cal., hopped into a jeep next morning and two hours later were in the outskirts of the "liberated" city, which he found no more liberated than the "heils" and "autungs" of Berlin.

"Don't worry Jackson told Frelier, "the citizens must be celebrating the liberation. We'll try another way in."

So the two happy holidayers skirted the city and arrived at the south-east entrance. They weren't shot at from his position but as they paused to think over the proper approach through the town, honest-to-goodness Germans began firing through a barricaded block house at American anti-tank crews. What made the scene convincing was the fact the crews were returning the fire

Maj. William P. McBride, Thunderbolt pilot from Realitos, Tex., was shot at from ABOVE by a enemy ack-ack battery. McBride's fuel supply was running low so he throttled back his engine. The plane lost altitude and the major found himself in a valley with hills on two sides.

"All of a sudden German guns started letting loose from those hilltops. They were shooting down at me. I've been fired at from below all over the world," said the veteran of the North African, Sicilian and Normandy invasion, "but getting it from above" was a new one on me."

Cpl. Vincent C. Frey, of York, Pa., and the Second Armored Division, was left behind in a recent action in France to guard a medium tank stuck in the mud. His only weapon was a rifle. Coming up a sunken road to his left was a German tank. The tank commander spotted Frey's tank and shouted an order to his gunner. Frey could think of only one way to save his tank. He took careful aim and shot the German commander through the head. The rest of the crew became panicky, reversed their tank and retreated—directly into an American artillery barrage that wined out tank and crew

It looked like a fair-sized bridge on the map and a squad of 14 infantrymen was sent down to capture the span and defend it at all costs. The group, led by T/Sgt. Thomas E. Smith, of Houston, Tex., was greatly surprised when it found "the bridge" after a search. It was a six-foot by six-inch plank over a creek. A few Germans "defending" the site ran away when they saw the Americans.

After carving his way out of a German tank behind the German lines, S/Sgt. Alvin G. Dennis, 23, Second Armored Division squad leader from Belgrade, Mo., is back with his old outfit. He didn't go to it; it came to him.

German tank crewmen, who thought they'd disarmed Dennis, held the Yank captive inside their tank for several hours. However, they missed the knife he had concealed under his combat jacket.

Figuring he was a dead duck anyway, Dennis took a chance and knifed one of the Jerries after the tank crew had become confused over encountering an obstacle in the road. In the excitement, he slashed two more Germans and jumped out the tank

OWI workers circulating in France carry papers on them that say in effect, "This man is an employee of the government and will not be interfered with in any way by the military authorities . . . by order of Supreme Headquarters Allied Expeditionary Force." The legend appears three times—in English, French and German. Recently an OWI man poking around near the front was ambushed by a posse of Germans. After they had questioned him and were arguing as to what to do with him, he desperately pulled out his paper and showed the German part to the lieutenant in charge. The Nazi looked at it blenched

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# The Story of the Lost Battalion

## 'Surrender', Enemy Demands; 'Go—, Yankee Reply

By Earl Mazo

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer  
One evening a German, nattily uniformed with iron cross and all the trimmings, came up under a flag of truce to a band of bedraggled American doughboys on a hill above Mortain. "I demand that you honorably surrender to the German government. You will be treated well. If you do not surrender by 8 o'clock tonight you will be blown to pieces."

The Americans, cut off for four days without food, water and ammunition, looked the German over and one of them, a doughboy who in 24 hours had eaten only one K-ration biscuit and some raw potatoes, gave his unit's answer:

### The Answer Emphatic

"Go— yourself. When the last round of our ammunition is fired and the last bayonet is broken in one of your bastard bellies, then we might talk surrender. But I doubt it. Now get the hell off this hill before I shoot you off."

After two more days of stubborn fighting the haggard, bearded remnants of World War II's lost battalion was saved.

The battalion on the hill had gotten there the easy way. On Sunday afternoon, Aug. 6, the Germans, seemingly in full retreat, had evacuated without firing a rear guard shot. Twenty-five German troopers on the hill gave up good naturally. The war was over for them, they said. They were happy about their lot.

### HQ in the City

Headquarters for the American battalion, was set up in the city. Road blocks of machine guns and anti-tank guns were established. All was in readiness for a day or so of holding the line.

But the Germans struck sooner than was expected. Shortly after midnight there was a movement of tanks below the hill and scouts reported they were German. Within a few hours the place was isolated.

German tank and infantry columns were making a last desperate bid to cut the American armies below and above Avranches. It was a full-scale German offensive and the battalion on the hill was in the middle of it.

A tall, tanned, drawing Texas lieutenant, Ralph Kerley, who commanded a company on the hill, said, "That first night they kept knocking out our road blocks and pouring around them, and we kept putting them back until we just didn't have anything else to put there. . . I knew when I heard Germans jabbering orders behind me that we were surrounded. I tried to get contact with battalion headquarters in the town, but there was no more headquarters; that is when I started worrying about contact with the other companies on the hill."

Small patrols were sent out to connect the battalion and by noon Monday that connection was established



Bazooka firing doughboys like these held off and threw back repeated German tank attacks aimed at World War II's lost battalion, which was cut off on a hill above Mortain for six days.

when Reynold Erikson, captain from Miles, Iowa, assumed command.

In the Mortain battalion headquarters the officer who was CO had reported to his regimental commander: "They're fighting all around and on top of me. . . I'm moving out to my troops on the hill."

But he never got there. Days later six bedraggled officers and men, the remains of the entire headquarters, told how they hid in a barn while the Germans burned everything, even the town's hospital, in a wild search for the Americans. "We fought," Lt. Guy Hagen said, "but when we had nothing left to continue with we hid and waited." For five days the men ate radishes and peas when they could sneak out to pick them from a nearby field.

Meanwhile the German attacks continued. They kept attacking the hill, not in mass, but with patrols and platoons. Once eight tanks lumbered up. Four were knocked out with bazookas, and the other four fled. German vehicles and dead began to pile up in the valley below. And American dead and wounded were piling up on the hill above.

### Pooled K-rations

On the second day the isolated doughboys pooled their reserve of K-rations. All the water was already gone. There was a well near the hill's crest but German snipers, who infiltrated and simply lived on top of the hill above and around the Americans, had the place zeroed in.

The food situation soon also became acute. Certain parts of the rations were reserved for the wounded. Other rations were doled out in droplets. Two fields on the hill, one of cabbage and the other of potatoes, supplied some half-grown raw vegetables. A man in one platoon had two bottles of cognac. These he used as fuel to cook potato soup for the wounded.

On the third day one doughboy said "to hell with snipers," and went for water for a wounded friend. He walked to the well, pumped water as bullets whizzed around him, and returned without a scratch.

The wounded on that hill were the inspiration that kept the lost battalion fighting long after many of its men had given up hope of coming out alive. Even though aid men were helpless without medical supplies and the wounded were comforted more with words than treatment, it was the wounded who shouted "No, no, no surrender!" when the German officer demanded surrender.

### Wounded Say 'No!'

And when the Germans offered a truce so that supplies could be gotten to the wounded in return for "certain" considerations, the wounded themselves said no. One boy whose stump of a leg was rotting away with gangrene said, "I want no truce with those bastards."

One morning a wounded German officer was brought in by a patrol and placed beside an American. He was surprised that he, an SS trooper, was not shot. While he slept that evening a German mortar shell fell between him and the American, killing both.

As the days dragged on and the biggest part of the German attack was stemmed, efforts to relieve the lost battalion were stepped up. When repeated relief assaults in direction of the hill failed, it was decided to drop supplies by aircraft.

Big cargo craft escorted by fighters brought the first food, water, ammunition and medical kits on the fourth day. The parachutes blossomed out like manna from heaven, but half of them floated over to the German lines, so the Americans, in desperation, sent a patrol after them. This patrol, in its frantic effort to retrieve what it could, killed a lot of

Germans and knocked out one of their tanks.

The next day planes came over again, and this time all of the supplies fell into the German lines.

That day artillerymen decided to try shooting medical supplies to the hill in blank shells like those used in hurling propaganda at the enemy. They shot blood plasma, morphine, sulfa drugs and bandages, but only the sulfa and bandages landed intact.

Many of the wounded died. Some were saved by a handful of Frenchmen who sneaked up the hill at night to bring them chicken and rabbit broth. One or two of these Frenchmen were captured and killed by the Germans.

With radio batteries fading out, the lost battalion on the 1st day limited its communications to artillery observation.

### A Good OP

The hill commanded a fine view of the German forces, and Lt. Charles Bartz and Robert Weise, artillery observers, used it to good advantage. In all, their target reports and subsequent artillery fire halted at least eight German attacks, and played a major part in stopping the German offensive.

The company commander, Lt. Ronald Woody, Jr., of Richmond, Va., who had his men lined out on boulders at one side of the hill so they might throw grenades down on advancing Germans, said everytime they attack, American artillery "made them dance a jig . . . our artillery stopped them cold."

But the Germans kept attacking, and rockblocks manned by people like Lt. Tom Andrew, of Los Angeles, littered the countryside with smashed German vehicles and with German dead. Only one of 25 vehicles which tried got by the position of which Andrew was a part. It was a half track with wounded flying a white flag.

### Germans a la GI

Several times Germans dashed up the hill in American jeeps. One American Sherman tank with German markings was knocked out. And once Yanks on the hill saw a column of Germans in American uniforms.

In withdrawing, a number of heavy artillery pieces were towed by German ambulances.

When the lost battalion was finally relieved its men first took time for a full C-ration meal, though most of them said they figured the week's biggest heroes were dead atop that Hill.

"It was the first time I ever ate green apples without getting a stomach ache," Pfc Allen Newhouse, of Paris, Tex., said.

Pfc. Joseph Perry, of Smithfield, R.I., pointed out that the situation brought a lot of "enemies" together. "Guys who used to bitch at and fight each other became brothers."

Lt. Kerley Guessey and his three-weeks old puppy, Mobile Reserve, stood the ordeal better than anyone else on the hill. "I always felt as though I had a lot of razor blades in my stomach. . . but the dog didn't seem to mind anything."

### 'Doesn't Deserve a Break'

And the man who was made commander on the spot, Capt. Erickson, said, "I learned long ago that the German doesn't deserve a break. . . there is little honor in any of them that I have seen. . . I saw many of them come out shouting 'kamerad' and waving white flags. . . then pull guns and begin shooting. . . up on that hill we were ready to fight with our bare fists if necessary."

Pvt. Oscar Shipley, a telephone operator, proved that when he went out one night with the first bazooka he had ever handled. He knocked out a Panther tank, then returned to his switchboard.

and with profuse apologies released the prisoner.

Again, after his third tank had been knocked out from under him, Gwinn volunteered to go ahead as forward artillery observer. On foot and bareheaded, he climbed into a position overlooking the enemy in the valley below. Enemy infantry caught sight of him and let go with rifle and machine gun fire. Gwinn relayed back information that enabled our artillery to wipe out the Jerries.

The Sergeant is a veteran of the Sicilian campaign, where his unit made a non-stop march on Palermo, cutting the island's defenses. He also served in North Africa.

Pfc Donald Klinger, of Williamsport, Pa., has done the old furlined foxhole one better. He found a huge German ammunition container made of sponge and his foxhole, especially the bottom, now is sponge-lined like a super-soft leather bed.

While flying their P47s and without firing a gun, members of a Ninth AF Thunderbolt squadron from the group commander by Col. Robert L. Deleshaw, of San Antonio, Tex., captured more than 300 German foot soldiers.

"We were strafing some trucks along a road north of Argentan in the Falaise pocket," said Capt. John H. Willingham, of Tuscaloosa, Ala., who led one of the flights. "We noticed a small group of men in German uniforms standing in the road waving white flags at us."

"We buzzed the men several times without shooting, and pretty soon there were several hundred there."

"Then the Germans formed into columns of four and started marching up the road toward our lines while we shuttled back and forth over them. I radioed ahead and pretty soon some of our ground soldiers came out and took charge of the prisoners."

Lt. Jos. F. Fajfar, postal officer with an armored infantry division, complains that the advance is too fast. "Hell, I've got to make a run of more than 163 miles back to the nearest APO to get mail for the boys. If this keeps up, I'll have to get a plane for the mail run," he said.

American doughboys have traveled so fast in the past we that "stripping down" has taken on new meaning. A few days ago, Capt. Quentin R. Hardage, of Madden, Miss., found his rifle company pinned down by fire from a dominating hill ahead. He decided the only solution was a frontal attack with support from mortars, machine guns and two tank destroyers. He knew his men would have to run like hell towards the enemy the minute the supporting fire lifted.

His men striped slings off their rifles, pited their packs on the ground and several ripped off their belts. The only item of equipment they carried was an extra bandolier of ammunition. When the attack started, they leaned up against it and reached the hill so fast the Jerries were caught in their foxholes and bayoneted.

Lt. . . . . Pfc. . . . . Winoert



"Imagine anyone living in a country with a bloody climate like this!"

# U.S., Britain, Soviet Delegates At Post-War Security Session

## Stettinius Heaps U. S. Group; Cadogan British Leader

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21—American, British and Russian delegates gathered here today to begin the first of two series of conversations on post-war security.

Undersecretary of State Edward Stettinius heads the American delegation and is assisted by Leo Pasvolosky, who heads the State department's post-war planning committee. Pasvolosky, who was born in Russia, is an economics and international affairs expert.

Rear Adm. Harold C. Train, who attended the London naval conference, and Maj. Gen. George V. Strong, who was present at the Versailles peace conference after the last war, are the U.S. military representatives.

Alexander Cadogan, permanent undersecretary for foreign affairs, leads the British delegation. Fifty-nine years old, Cadogan attended the Atlantic Charter, Quebec and Teheran conferences as well as Prime Minister Churchill's meeting with Marshal Stalin in Dec., 1942.

Andree Gromyko, the Soviet ambassador to the U.S., leads the Russian delegation. Gromyko, 36 years old, is a graduate of the Moscow Institute of Economics and speaks English fluently.

### PREFERS PENITENTIARY

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Aug. 20—Police arrested a man who admits he committed a long list of offenses because he wanted to be in a penitentiary, rather than have people wonder why he wasn't in uniform. The man Claude Chaney Jr., 23, of Selman, Okla., said he had been rejected by every branch of the service.

In his attempt to get himself arrested he stole a car purchased gasoline without ration coupons, drove up and down one-way streets and crossed intersections against red traffic lights. Chaney finally was ticketed when he made a U-turn in front of a police car in downtown Louisville.

### BAD BOY REPENTS

JOLIET, Ill., Aug. 20—A \$100 bill and a letter reached the teachers at Joliet township high school. It came from a former pupil, who didn't sign the note. He said the money was to pay for things he stole while in high school. "I had the habit of picking up things which didn't belong to me. Now I'm trying to make things right."

### LEGLESS, HE'S GOLF CHAMP

YEST ORANGE, N.J., Aug. 20—Two years ago Charles Blake lost his one remaining leg by amputation. He had lost his other leg some time before. A year ago, Blake started playing golf standing on his artificial limbs. Although he is now 67 years old, Blake recently had low net score in New Jersey seniors one-day

## Thanks, Captain — For the Memory

Capt. William Waikart, of Anacostia, D. C., an ordnance officer, used ten German words hastily memorized and single-handedly captured ten Nazi prisoners in a dark barn near Mayenne recently.

Told by a French farmer that the Jerries were hiding in his hayloft, Waikart paused to ask an American soldier how to demand surrender.

He drove ten miles repeating "Alles Deutschen soldaten, comen zie hier" over and over again, but when he arrived at the barn he couldn't remember how to say it.

Finally, it came back to him, and Waikart ordered the surrender.

golf tournament at Essex Country club. He shot an 87.

### BURGLAR BRINGS GIFT

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug. 20—Mrs. John Sommer encountered a burglar in her home as she returned from a shopping tour. She screamed and the burglar fled. After calling police, she checked the house to find what was missing. Nothing was missing, but Mrs. Sommer was richer by a portable radio which the burglar had left behind in the bathroom. She gave it to police.

### MEANEST BOOTLEGGERS

DETROIT, Aug. 20—The whiskey shortage has brought some pretty bad whiskey into the market but the most villainous bootleggers discovered so far, police say, are Charles Kiloughby and Jasper Manier recently sentenced to 90 days on a charge of false pretense. The two men, detectives told the court, were selling whiskey bottles full of tea.

### COMMUTERS WITHOUT MANNER

NEW YORK, Aug. 20—Twenty-eight Long Island Railroad commuters here shelled out \$21 apiece for trying to outsmart the supper hour rush one night. Railway police charged the batch of defendants with disorderly conduct for climbing through the windows of the train in a mad rush for seats.

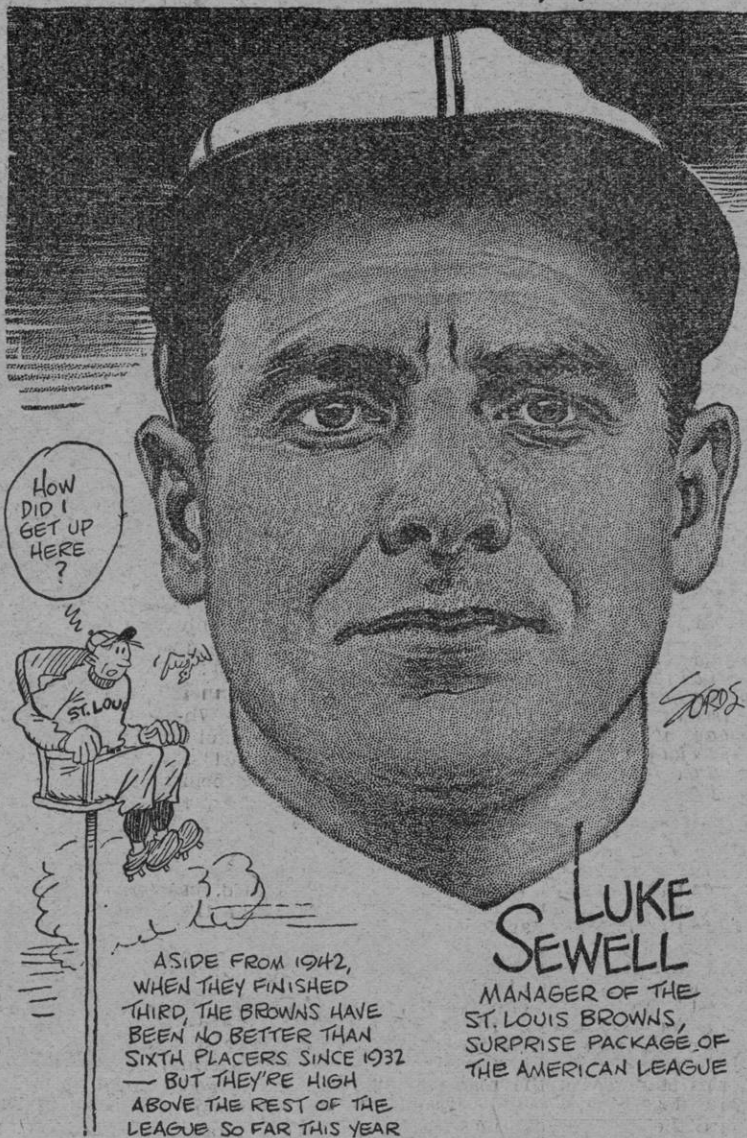
### TROLLEY CAR SHOOTS MAN

BALTIMORE, Aug. 20—Vincent F. Long was shot in the neck by a street car. Police said the trolley wheels exploded a .38-calibre bullet left on the tracks and struck Long who was on the sidewalk. The wound was not serious.

### OIL STRIKE IN PENNSY

GREESVILLE, Pa., Aug. 20—John Batt Jr. got a pleasant surprise while drilling a water well on his farm. Instead of water, he struck gas. Now oil is flowing from the 65-foot hole at an estimate rate of five barrels a day.

## THE MAGICIAN - - - By Jack Sords



## Tigers Divide As Newhouser Wins His 20th

### Red Sox Victims of 1st A.L. Hurler to Enter 'Select Circle'

NEW YORK, Aug. 20—Hal Newhouser, the Detroit Tigers' 4-F pitching ace, became the first major league hurler to win 20 games this year when he blanked the Red Sox in Boston, 3-0, in the first game of a doubleheader Friday. The Sox rallied in the nightcap, however, collected 16 hits off Johnny Gorsica and earned a 7-4 triumph over the Bengals.

Newhouser was opposed by Emmet O'Neill, who yielded only six hits, but three of them came in the first inning when the Tigers pushed across two runs. The Tiger's had a 4-2 lead going into the seventh inning of the finale but the Sox broke loose for three runs to take the lead and added two more in the eighth. Veteran Mel Harder and outfielder Roy Cullenbine teamed up to defeat the Yankees in New York, 2-0, and end the Yanks' four-game winning streak. Harder was touched for seven hits—two more than the Tribe collected—but the curveball artist was invincible in the pinches.

### Cullenbine Poles No. 13

Cullenbine provided the power for the Indians, scoring both Cleveland runs, one of which was his thirteenth homer of the season. It was the ninth time this year that the Yankees been whitewashed.

The league-leading Browns had their first-place margin cut to six and a half games as the Philadelphia Athletics rallied for five runs and won, 5-4. The Browns were leading, 4-0, going into the fifth stanza when the A's broke loose for five markers. Joe Berry received credit for the victory after relieving Don Black.

In Washington, the Chicago White Sox were held to five hits by Roger Wolf and Early Wynn in a night game, but bunched three safeties in the seventh to gain a 2-1 victory over the Senators. Johnny Humphries was the winning hurler.

### Giants Lose 11th in Row

In the National League, the Cardinals continued along the victory trail by handing the New York Giants their eleventh straight loss, 5-2. The Giants broke their string of 26 scoreless innings with two markers in the fourth inning but couldn't hold their lead. The Cards clinched the game in the eighth with two runs off Johnny Allen. Harry Brecheen went all the way for the Red-Birds, and held the New Yorkers to eight hits.

The Cincinnati Reds shoved the Brooklyn Dodgers deeper into the league cellar by handing them a double defeat, 1-0, and 7-6. Harry Gumbert held the Bums to three hits as he shut them out in the opener. Art Herring had the dubious honor of losing both games.

## League Standings

### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Detroit 3, Boston 0 (1st)  
Boston 7, Detroit 4 (2nd)  
Cleveland 2, New York 0  
Chicago 2, Washington 1  
Philadelphia 5, St. Louis 4

	W.	L.	PCT.
St. Louis	68	47	.591
Boston	61	53	.535
Detroit	60	53	.531
New York	59	53	.527
Chicago	55	59	.482
Cleveland	55	62	.470
Philadelphia	53	64	.453
Washington	47	67	.412

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Chicago 5, Boston 3  
St. Louis 5, New York 2  
Cincinnati 1, Brooklyn 0 (1st)  
Cincinnati 7, Brooklyn 6 (2nd)  
Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 2

	W.	L.	PCT.
St. Louis	82	28	.745
Pittsburgh	63	46	.578
Cincinnati	63	46	.578
Chicago	50	56	.471
New York	50	63	.442
Philadelphia	43	64	.402
Boston	44	67	.396
Brooklyn	44	69	.387

### They Only Miss Meals

## Snafu Writers + Snafu Truck Feed a Few Unsung Heroes

By Morrow Davis  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

A semi-snafued front-line sortie by three Stars and Stripes reporters and a 100 per cent snafued mission of a QM truck driver resulted yesterday in a meal of sorts for about a dozen doughboys who had been battling the Germans in the Argentan-Falaise gap for two days without rations (all right, so they had D-rations; so what?).

The Stars and Stripes men got lost and passed Friday night sleeping on the gravel road beneath the clock in the steeple of the church at Bonnetable.

The clock struck 12 (twice), one, two, three, four, five—and then we got up; we couldn't take it any longer (it also struck the half-hours and a smaller clock one block away struck the hours, too—about ten minutes later than the big clock).

Anyway, off to the war hungry and who do we come up to but a truck driver complete with truck complete with C-rations. He'd lost his convoy the night before. He had started from "away the hell south." He had a dirty envelope on which were written names of villages he should pass en route to his destination. The writing wasn't legible, he was tired as well as lost, his motor was missing and he as "fed up and goddamn well gonna get back south to here I started from."

Could we have a box of C-rations? "Sure. Takke one off the top." We took one off the top.

American artillery was pounding hell out of the enemy when we got to "the gaps" but an infantry company attached to the 90th Division had had a rough time earlier in the morning with Germans who then were holding Chambois. To show for it they had a regular arsenal of captured German weapons. Lugers? They had 'em. They had potatoe-mashers, machine-pistols, rifles, P38s, burp-guns (they gave us a burp-gun).

They had a swell bunch of fighting men. They had a swell CO, 1/Lt. Joseph R. Durbin, of Connellsville, Pa. He and the 80 men under him

had taken 120 prisoners. They had been encircled on a hill in a dawn attack and the men credited Durbin's initiative and know-how with saving them.

When we caught up with them they were holding a road intersection. They had a well-placed road block and they knew just exactly what the hell they were doing. They were good—damn good.

But they hadn't been supplied with rations for two days.

Our one box of C-rations, minus the cans we had eaten, couldn't possibly feed the whole company. But part of the outfit, the boys we mingled with on the road, were mighty glad to get that chow.

We were pleased to get the burp-gun. And we sure hope that QM truck driver got back to his outfit okay.

## Pfc Drops His Fiddle, Greets Old Pal Dinah

He's a Pfc and he's a friend of Dinah Shore—so what's he got to worry about?

Pfc John Pappalardo of Hollywood, bass fiddler in the Beachcomber Band of a U.S. amphibious unit, was playing for a GI audience in a hedge-bordered field when Dinah Shore and her party made their appearance. It turned out to be a regular old-friends gathering, as everyone in the troupe knew Pappalardo, who used to play in Hollywood night clubs and whose father runs a music shop in the film capital.

### PACIFIC VETS HOME

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 20—The Pittsburgh area received its first big contingent of overseas veterans when 198 members of the First Marine Division who fought on Guadalcanal and other Pacific Islands, returned home for 30 days.

An impromptu celebration greeted the veterans at the station.

## Want Help? 'Help Wanted' Starts Operating in France

The Stars and Stripes Help Wanted department, which has already served thousands of U.S. soldiers, sailors and marines serving in the ETO, begins operation in France today.

Although the department's London office, which employs a number of British civilians to assist in answering the mail, will continue to function, Help Wanted's "brains" has arrived in France. He is T/4 Lou Rakin, who has been in charge of Help Wanted since its inception 21 months ago.

### Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, Stars and Stripes, The Stars and Stripes, Rennes, France.

### Found

WALLETS belonging to Pfc JAMES WHITAKER, 38475213 of Texas, and HOWARD JAMES JOHNSON, 110ga, Pa. Lt. L. W. Crozier, 38418550: We have your PAY CARD and other papers. NEGATIVE, 4 1-2x2 3-4 showing two children playing with some newly hatched chicks. The children are seated on a small bench.

### Lost

DOG, "Rev", reddish brown liver spaniel white spot on breast; epl stripes on hind legs. The mut's own Company mascot so send him to us quick as we need all the luck we can muster up. Lt: T. G. Almasy.

### Film Exchange

WE HAVE listings many sizes of film whose owners would like to exchange for other sizes. If you are in the same boat, let us know what you have and want; perhaps we can help you sing a deal.

L I L A B N E R



## D-Day Action Earn Citations For Engineers.

237th and 299th Battalions Cleared Beach Areas For Assault Troops.

Two engineer combat battalions—the 237th and the 299th—have been awarded unit citations for their role in the D-Day assaults on the Normandy beaches. First U.S. Army headquarters announced yesterday.

The 237th's citation was for "extraordinary heroism and outstanding performance of duty in action" while the 299th's was for "heroic action."

The 237th, attached to the Fourth Infantry Division for the invasion, is commanded by Lt. Col. Herschel E. Linn, 23, of Cushing, Okla. The 299th is commanded by Maj. Milton A. Jewitt, 29, of New York City.

Leading elements of the 237th reached the northern coast of Normandy five minutes after H-hour, and its remaining components were ashore within 12 minutes.

The 237th was activated at Camp Carson, Colo., Aug. 23, 1942. It participated in the Louisiana Maneuvers. The unit was in North Africa for a time and reached the United Kingdom last December.

Despite heavy enemy fire and rough seas, the battalion successfully completed its mission of clearing out underwater obstacles, then nullified beach obstacles and breached the seawall, and cleared roads leading inland.

The 299th also had the mission of clearing beach obstacles for the assault infantry. Broken into teams, a few of the engineers actually hit the beach a few minutes before H-hour. The others landed by H-plus-three.

Despite withering enemy opposition, the 299th men slashed eight gaps—each 50 yards wide—through the barbed wire, mines and other obstacles.

Casualties were heavy, but individual heroism as high. Three distinguished Service Crosses and three Silver Stars—one posthumous—have been awarded to members of the battalion.

Maj. Jewitt; Capt. Edwin R. Perry, of Weehawken, N.J., commander of Company A; and S/Sgt. George Schneider, of Watertown, N.Y., got the DSCs. Two of the Silver Stars went to Maj. Fred E. Kohler, of Leadville, Colo., battalion executive officer, and Sgt. George E. O'Dell, of Andover, N.Y.

The 299th was in the States less than two months before D-Day, engaged in experimental demolition work for the joint Army-Navy Board at the U.S. Naval Amphibious Training Base at Ft. Pierce, Fla. They arrived in England late in April and immediately started intensive assault training.

## 'Yanks Across Seine' -- Berlin

Continued from Page 1  
is in a state of chaos, although there is no wide scale surrender.

Allied planes are now unable to bomb enemy concentrations in the area, due to proximity of Allied troops.

Weather restricted air operations exclusively to Normandy-based aircraft. Two of targets attacked in 1,500-2,000 sorties were the retreating remnants of the Seventh Army moving to the northeast and river barges, including barges on the Seine from Mantes-Gassicourt to the sea. The U.S. Ninth Air Force found poor hunting on the escape roads and destroyed only 33 motor vehicles and one tank. Seine shipping was their main target.

**Escape Barges Battered WITH THE U.S. FORCES ON THE SEINE, Aug. 20**—The smashing of German barges on the seine and the pounding of German troops crossing the river were described today by Sagham Maynes in a Reuter dispatch written 56 kilometers from Paris.

Maynes said the American forces with which he was traveling reached a spot north of Mantes to cut the escape route of Germans fleeing eastwards toward the Seine from the Falaise gap. So far these Allied formations have cut five escape routes.

"The air force is bombing the roads as well as wrecking the pontoon bridges which the Germans are throwing across the Seine to aid their crossings."

"The air forces are also smashing road and rail communications on the opposite bank of the river."

**DIEPPE HERO TO WED**  
SWEA OLIK, Iowa, Aug. 20—Announcement was made here of the May wedding of June Anderson, 21, Elmore, Minn., and Lt. Franklin M. (Zip) Koons, 25, first American soldier to fire a shot on French soil in this war, at Dieppe.

## The War Ends for St. Malo Garrison



German soldiers emerge from hiding places and surrender to American infantrymen in the streets of St. Malo, whose liberation became complete with the surrender of troops holding the famous citadel.

## How Tell The Battle Lines? By Blood -and Even Greenery

By Ernie Pyle  
ON THE WESTERN FRONT, Aug. 20—When you're wanderinn around our very far-flung front lines that in the present rapid war are known as "fluid"—you can always tell how recently the battle has swept on ahead of you.

You can sense it by the little things even more than the big things. By the scattered green leaves and the very fresh branches of trees still lying the middle of the road. And by the wisps and coils of telephone wire hanging brokenly from high poles an entwining across the road.

By the grey burned-powder rim of shell-craters in the gravel, their edges still unsmoothed by the pounding of military traffic.

By the little pools of blood on the roadsides, blood that has only begun to congeal and turn black with its punctured steel helmet beside it.

By the square blocks of building stone still scattered in the village streets. By the sharp-edge rocks in the road, still uncrushed by the wheels of traffic.

By the burned out tanks and broken carts still unremoved by the engineers from the center of the road. By cows in the field, lying grotesquely with their feet to the sky, so newly dead they have not yet begun to bloat or smell.

By the scattered heaps of personal debris around a gun. I don't know why it is, but the Germans always seem to take off their coats before they flee or die.

From all these things you can tell that the battle has been recent—from these and from the men dead so recently that they seem to be merely asleep. And also from the inhuman quiet.

Usually battles are noisy for miles around. But in this recent fast warfare a battle sometimes leaves a complete vacuum behind it.

The Germans will stand and fight it out until they see there is no hope, then some give up and the rest pull and run for miles. Shooting stops. Our fighters move on after the enemy and those who do not fight and move in the wake of battles will not catch up for hours.

There is nothing left behind but the remains—the lifeless debris, the sunshine and the flowers, and utter silence.

An amateur who wanders in this vacuum at the rear of battle has a terrible sense of loneliness. Everything is dead—the men and the machines and the animals—and you alone are left alive.

One afternoon we drove in our jeep into country like that. The little rural villages of gray stone were demolished—heartbreaking heaps of still smoking rubble.

We drove into the tiny little town of La Detinais, a sweet old stone village at the "T" of two gravel roads, a rural village in rolling country, a village of not more than 50 buildings. There was not a whole building left.

Rubble and broken wires still littered the streets and blackish-geay

stone walls with no roofs still smoldered inside. Dead men still lay in the streets with helmets and broken rifles askew around them. There was not a soul or a sound in the town—the village was lifeless.

We stopped and pondered our way and with trepidation drove on out of town. We drove for a quarter of a mile or so. We stared and couldn't say anything about it to each other.

We asked the driver to go very slowly for there was uncertainty in all the silence. There was no live human, no sign of movement anywhere.

Seeing no one, hearing nothing I became fearful of going on into the unknown ahead. So we stopped. Just a few feet ahead of us was a dullish brick-red American tank still smoking and with its turret knocked off. Near it was a German horse-drawn ammunition cart upside down. In the road beside them was a shell crater.

To our left lay two smashed airplanes in adjoining fields, neither of them 30 yards from the road. The hedge was low and we could see over. They were both British fighter planes. One lay rightside up the other lay on its back.

We were just ready to turn around and go back when I spied a lone soldier at the far side of the field. He was standing there looking across the field at us like an Indian in a picture. I waved, he waved back and we walked toward each other.

He turned out to be a young second lieutenant Ed Sasson of 8137 Mulholland Terrace Los Angeles. He was graves registration officer for his armored division and was out scouring the fields locating bodies of dead Americans. He was glad to see somebody for it is a lonely job catering to the dead.

As we stood there talking in the lonely field a soldier in coveralls with a rifle slung over his shoulder ran up breathlessly almost shouting "Hey, there's a man alive in one of those planes across the road. He's been trapped there for days."

We stopped right in the middle of a sentence and began to run. We hopped a hedgerow, ducked under the wing of the up-sidedown plane. And there, in the next hour, came the climax to what certainly is one of the really great demonstrations of courage in this war.

## Reds Hail Pokryshkin 'Lord of the Air' Hero

MOSCOW, Aug. 20—Col. Alexander Pokryshkin, 31, the first Soviet aviator to win the Hero of the Soviet Union Award for the third time, has fought 137 air battles.

Pokryshkin has brought down 59 enemy planes claimed as a United Nations record. Once forced down inside the German lines, he escaped after three days. A bronze bust is to be erected in Moscow to Pokryshkin, the "lord of the air."

## Trap Closed On Nazi 7th

Continued from Page 1

In one prisoner of war enclosure an American officer said that the German Seventh Army was thrown into such complete confusion that 58 out of every 60 seemed to have come from different outfits.

Late in the afternoon infantrymen made their way into Chambois. The streets were littered with dead Germans who had been dropped where they walked by shell fire. In backyards, on the side roads and in the fields around the town were destroyed German vehicles. Any one man could have counted 1000 German wrecks and the official figure may prove that the Argentin trap is one of the greatest blows the Germans have ever suffered.

In Chambois, Capt. Clifford E. Vinson, of Tampa, Fla., a division doctor set up a first-aid post in a house on the main street. Litter bearers had to step over the body of a dead German soldier on the sidewalk to carry a wounded man into the house and inside Capt. Vinson was having a hectic time.

His patients included Germans, Poles, Frenchman and Americans. With the help of a six-foot five-inch German doctor and a four-foot ten-inch Polish doctor, the American officer was slowly making sense out of his medical melting pot.

There are still small units of Germans who have not surrendered and one prisoner who claimed to have lived in Chicago said that a German SS general was still somewhere in the artillery-wrecked valley.

## 2nd Division Artillery Chief Gets Silver Star

The Second Division artillery commander has been awarded the Silver Star by Maj. Gen. Walter M. Robertson, division commander.

Four other officers also received the Silver Star. They were: Col. James A. Van Fleet, Bartow, Fla., assistant division commander; Lt. Col. Robert B. Warren, Windom, Minn.; Lt. Col. Kenneth Belieu, Portland, O.; and Lt. Col. Cyrus A. Dolph, Oakland, Calif.

Gen. Robertson awarded Bronze Stars to the following members of the division:

Lt. Col. Morris Braveman, Dallas, Tex.; Lt. Col. Joseph M. Deeley of Sheboygan Falls, Wis.; Maj. Forrest J. Prutzman, Beaumont, Tex.; Maj. Daniel Webster, Little Rock, Ark.; Maj. J. A. Nee, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Capt. William Paden, Norman, Okla.; Capt. John W. Hicks, E. Lansing, Mich.; Capt. Norman L. Jones, Tulsa, Okla.; Capt. W. V. Gallery, Harrisburg, Pa.; Capt. Robert Poland, Huntington, Tex.; Capt. J. P. Panas, Nogales, Ariz.; Capt. E. M. Gates, Tyrone, Pa.; Capt. H. F. Levy, Birmingham, Ala.; 1/Lt. Claude L. Toll, Los Angeles, Calif.; 1/Lt. W. R. McIntyre, Evanston, Ill.; 1/Lt. E. W. Lowe, Lometa, Tex.; M/Sgt. Leo M. Finch, San Antonio, Tex.; T/3 J. L. De Paemelaere, Casper, Wyo.; and Sgt. Raymond F. Baschhart, Zanesville, Ohio.

## Drama In U.S. Gets Another Name- It's Sex

Mae West Gives Her 'Double-Meaning' Crack Again

By Jack Gaver

United Press Drama Editor  
NEW YORK, Aug. 20 (U.P.)—The first two plays since the 1944-45 theatrical season really got down to business this month are concerned with SEX and neither one of them lets you forget that for a second.

One of the main exponents of this sort of thing on the stage is involved in one of the productions, "Catherine Was Great," a play by and with Mae West.

Miss West has been absent from the Broadway scene for 13 years. Her last stage writing-acting effort was "The Constant Sinner," but she hasn't forgotten a thing. The sultry glance, the slurred speech and undulating walk all are out in their former glory to delineate the actress' idea of Catherine the Great of Russia.

Producer Mike Todd has spent at least \$100,000 in making this the most elaborate non-musical production seen around here in many years. The costuming of Miss West and the 50 some males in the cast and the settings of Howard Bay account for much of this expenditure. Todd is trying to get his money back by charging musical comedy prices for the play, the top price being \$4.80.

Considerable Research?

Miss West undoubtedly spent considerable time doing research on Catherine. She has taken a number of episodes from Catherine's life, but presents them without regard for historical time. The result is not smooth. The play is roughly episodic, there are threads started, dropped and never picked up again.

Almost every line has either a double meaning in itself or as spoken by Miss West, who has a faculty for making the most innocent speech sound as if it means something else.

Catherine is presented as a willful woman bent on doing something good for her people despite the fact that she spends much time in dalliance with the handsomest men of her realm. The most frequently used set is that of the royal suite in the St. Petersburg Winter Palace. The way the men go in and come out of the door to that set is a caution. The hinges won't last a week.

It is not a good play but Miss West, a law unto herself and her public in this sort of thing, may put it over. However, 13 years is a long time to stay away from the stage and \$100,000 is a lot of investment to recover before the profits start.

The chief difference between "Catherine" and "School for Brides" is that the latter cost about \$100,000 less. Listed as being the work of Frank Gill Jr., and George Carlton Brown, it is a tasteless thing that has a leer in almost every line.

## 27 Hours a Captive Becomes Captor of 27

Continued from Page 1  
when the prisoners were taken to Carranges, 12 miles southwest of Argentan.

After the prisoners had spent the night in a hayloft, Mustangs, Lightnings and Thunderbolts loosed another terrific bombing and strafing attack, sending all the Germans to cover. In the confusion, the six prisoners escaped and found shelter in a ditch, where they were joined by six Luftwaffe airmen.

Some of the Germans talked English and at the height of the attack they were told by Bertza that they were surrounded. The Jerries offered to give themselves up, one of them saying that he had a food-laden truck nearby.

**SS Troops Circumvented**  
The only trouble was that SS troops were in the way. Bertza told the Luftwaffe men to pretend they were the captors and thus allay SS suspicions.

The food truck wouldn't start, so the party unloaded all the portable food and proceeded with the Germans carrying their guns, their Allied captors unarmed.

While washing in a stream, the party was hailed by a German first lieutenant and SS men. Bertza told the lieutenant that there were no longer any German lines in the vicinity, and that the Nazis' best protection against French civilians would be to surrender.

The Germans agreed and surrendered. However, as food was running short, Bertza told the Germans that only part of them could be afforded "protection." Nonetheless, when he found an armored unit Bertza was able to turn over 27 Germans.