

British Invade Germany

First Army Men Pass Through Dragon's Teeth



An American First Army jeep with a trailer plunges through part of the Siegfried Line, near Aachen, following a path blasted by engineers through concrete and steel dragon's teeth.

Seize 1st Town; 3rd Army Beats Off Big Attacks

German soil, already entered by American soldiers, has been invaded by the British. A flash from the British Second Army last night revealed that elements of Gen. Dempsey's forces had crossed the frontier from southeast of Nijmegen, in Holland, and captured the German town of Beek, a mile inside the Reich.

The dispatch described the situation in the Nijmegen-Arnhem sector last night as "much brighter." The British were attacking everywhere along the front in an effort to reach airborne forces at Arnhem in strength. Enemy resistance continued to be of the "last-ditch" variety, however, and a number of bitter German counterattacks previously were repulsed.

A stubborn, five-hour German counter-attack in the Moselle Valley was smashed yesterday by the Third U.S. Army. American tanks, planes and artillery banded together on the Moselle front in the vicinity of Chateau-Salins and forced a Nazi withdrawal.

P47s Rake Enemy Tanks

While American and German tanks were locked in a bitter struggle near Nancy, Ninth Air Force Thunderbolts roared in at tree-top level to strike at approximately 100 enemy tanks and armored vehicles. Returning pilots said many enemy vehicles were knocked out before the remainder fled into a near-by woods.

Meanwhile, the First U.S. Army cleared Stolberg, east of Aachen, of isolated German pockets. Southeast of the captured town, Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges' troops were meeting stiff resistance. In this sector the Yanks were within three miles of Geilenkirchen, five miles inside the Reich and 12 miles north of Aachen.

In Holland, German Tiger tanks and self-propelled guns had counter-attacked in a vain effort to sever the Second Army's lifeline, the road from Eindhoven to Nijmegen.

It was announced yesterday that small units of the Second Army had crossed the Lek River near Arnhem and established contact with the main body of airborne troops, confined in a bare 1,000 yards and subject to unceasing enemy attacks. The previous link-up, announced by the American Broadcasting Station in Europe, evidently was merely a meeting on

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FDR Officially Opens Drive, Assails GOP 'Falsehoods'

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 (AP). — President Roosevelt, formally opening his campaign for re-election, last night assailed Republican opposition for what he termed "callous and brazen" falsehoods on domestic issues and asserted the nation must not let the Republicans "botch" the peace this time "as they did 25 years ago."

Gerow Witness On P. Harbor

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Maj. Gen. Leonard T. Gerow, commander of the V Corps of the First Army, now fighting in Germany, is in Washington testifying before the Army's Pearl Harbor investigating board, the War Department revealed.

Gerow, who at the time of the Japanese attack was acting chief of the general staff's war planning division, will return to his command as soon as his testimony is completed.

Meanwhile, Sen. Homer Ferguson (R-Mich.) said "it is reasonable to expect" a full report in the next two weeks from the Army and Navy boards investigating Pearl Harbor.

Ferguson pointed out that the Army board began its work July 20 and the Navy board July 17, while the Roberts commission, which first investigated the disaster, completed its report in approximately a month.

The President remained seated as he addressed 1,000 people at the International Teamsters Union banquet in the Statler, giving his speech the appearance of an informal chat.

Mr. Roosevelt described as a "callous and brazen" falsehood the assertion that the Administration plans "to keep men in the Army when the war is over because there might be no jobs for them in civil life." He continued:

"The very day that this fantastic charge was first made, a formal plan for a method of speedy discharge of the Army had already been announced by the War Department. The plan was based upon the wishes of the soldiers themselves."

Mr. Roosevelt accused the Republicans of making it "pretty hard for service personnel to vote in the forthcoming election" and went on to urge every citizen "to use your sacred privilege of voting, no matter which candidate you expect to support."

The President singled out and

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Ernie Pyle Comes Home From the Wars

By Charles F. Kiley
Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Sept. 24.—Like any man in uniform who has been in the war business for 2 1/2 years, Ernie Pyle came home very tired. And it was typical of the "GI's war correspondent" that he passed up a speedier, probably more comfortable Atlantic crossing by plane to make the trip with a boatload of wounded soldiers.

Pyle came home after keeping pace with youngsters half his age during the war, reporting the London blitz, Africa, Sicily, Italy and France, but "the skinny, dried-up little guy," as one soldier reader characterized him in a letter, decided in Paris a few weeks ago that he couldn't go any longer without a rest. So after a few days here, Ernie is going to Washington

for a week thence home to New Mexico, stopping in Indiana for a brief visit with his father.

Has Eye on Pacific

Pyle isn't finished with the war, though. He figures a couple of months of sunshine and home cooking will fix him up for a voluntary assignment to the Pacific.

When we visited him here, Pyle didn't look any different outwardly than he did in London last spring when he came up from Italy to get in on the invasion of France, or when he was working out of the First Army press camp in Normandy.

"It's sort of hard to explain to anyone here who hasn't been through it," Pyle said. "After the breakthrough at St. Lo in July, I think I knew it was coming. Except for a slight cold I was all right

physically. But inside I felt awful. In Paris it really got me. The Germans came over one day and pasted hell out of us. I'd been through thousands of bombings, but that one did it. I knew then I'd have to get some rest."

But Ernie wasn't through yet. On the boat coming back, the wounded who could get around asked him to go below and talk to the bedridden. Typically, Pyle went down and talked with hundreds of them. They had read his farewell column in The Stars and Stripes, he said, and they wanted to tell him they understood.

"There I was, standing over those kids with arms, legs and eyes gone, all battered to hell, and they told me they understood," he said. "But they knew what the score was, and

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Troops Vanish; Fraternizing in Reich Tabooed

WITH THE FIRST U.S. ARMY, Germany, Sept. 24.—Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges clamped down stricter discipline on his troops today, re-emphasizing orders forbidding fraternizing with German civilians, after several officers and MPs had been reported missing from outposts near the town of Roetgen.

A vigorous search has been launched among the German population in an effort to track down enemy agents and soldiers in civilian clothes filtering through the lines on errands of espionage and sabotage, according to Harold Denny, of the New York Times.

Three American MPs disappeared after going out on night patrol near Roetgen, Denny reported, and their riddled jeeps, helmets and the glasses of one were found by a road the next morning.

The order prohibiting fraternizing with civilians has been tightened even in Belgium because of the ease with which German spies can cross the border, posing as innocent Belgians.

The disappearance of the MPs culminated a series of attacks against U.S. personnel, especially at night, in rear areas where legitimate enemy fire would not be expected.

One of 3 Shells a Dud, Nazi Document Admits

SUPREME ALLIED HQ, Sept. 24 (Reuter) — A captured German document shows that the enemy high command now knows what every Allied battle-line soldier has known for a long time—that approximately one out of every three German shells is a dud.

The document, a report on an official munitions investigation, contained a statement by a German battery commander that out of 4,372 rounds inspected, 1,312 were found defective.

Sabotage by Germany's slave labor was credited here with contributing materially to this situation.

JAG STUDIES WAR GUILT
WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 (AP). —Maj. Gen. Myron C. Cramer disclosed that the Judge Advocate General's department of the Army was preparing for the trial of war criminals, the Army and Navy Journal reported today.

Ma'mselles Crease U.S. Gals' Brows

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau.

NEW YORK, Sept. 24. — When Johnny comes marching home, he's going to have a lot of explaining to do about those pictures showing him kissing French girls in jeeps and atop tanks when he rolled into liberated Paris.

The girls back home were almost as happy as the French girls were to hear that gay Patee was free again—but at precisely that point the parallel stopped, according to a survey of Iowa girls made by the Des Moines Register and Tribune and reprinted in the Sept. 25 issue of Life, a special edition titled "A Letter to GIs."

How Come, Bud?

Soldiers' sweethearts and wives in Iowa heard that the mademoiselles in Paris were so happy to be free that they kissed every GI they could reach, and that usually a large number of soldiers found themselves within reach. Most of the home girls are going to demand explanations, the paper said.

Some girls are afraid the kissing episodes won't stop there. They don't want all the American boys getting married in France. But one girl was very happy about the whole thing. "It could be that if two out of every three fellows over there were to marry French girls, my post-war problem would be solved," she said.

Mrs. John Wallner, of Des Moines, vehemently disapproved the French girls' enthusiasm. Her husband is in the merchant marine, and may be in France, but she warned: "He'd better not be in Paris."

Nineteen-year-old Wilma Hawking, of Kingsley, whose boy friend is in France, declared she "didn't like what goes on top of tanks," while 18-year-old Janice Soller, who only knows that her soldier boy is

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New 8-Ton Tank Flown To Holland in Invasion

NEW YORK, Sept. 24.—A new Army ordnance eight-ton airborne tank—EM22—was used in the invasion of Holland, ordnance district chief Col. Frank J. Atwood revealed. He said the tank—nicknamed the "locust"—carried a 37mm. gun, machine gun, three sub-machine guns, a dozen grenades, and 3,000 rounds of cannon and small-arms ammunition.

It is transported by gliders or, with the turret removed, under the wings of giant cargo planes.

U.S. Injured Being Flown Back to States

U. S. AIR TRANSPORT COMMAND BASE, Britain, Sept. 24 (AP).—Home is only 24 hours away for hundreds of American soldiers wounded in Europe. They are evacuated from the battlefields in big transport planes and flown back to England, where they are transferred to even larger transports that speed them across the Atlantic in 24 hours or less.

Once back in the States, soldiers are flown to Army hospitals—those nearest their home towns whenever possible.

"Evacuation by air is the greatest moral stimulant that it is possible to give these men," said Lt. Col. Raymond Libin, of Baltimore, Army Medical officer in charge of air evacuation.

Most men certainly are in high spirits when leaving here. "I just wired my family that I'm leaving," grinned a sergeant injured in the Siegfried Line fighting. For him, home is a farm in Wisconsin.

The majority of the casualties rushed home by air are those in need of special medical treatment.

The records of these flights are outstanding. In six months since experimental air evacuation has begun in this theater, there has been only one major accident. Each transatlantic airliner carries an average of 20 patients, but never more than six completely bedridden litter cases. This is to facilitate the abandonment of the plane in case of emergency. A flight nurse goes along to look after patients, often accompanied by a GI technician.

If Bossy Is Killed In Battle, Owner May Not Collect

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Whether a French farmer collects immediate cash for his blasted bovines depends upon whether bossy died in or after a battle.

If a shell blows a cow to greener pastures in combat between German and American forces, international understandings and American law render the chances of the farmer's collecting rather thin. Collection for combat damage rests primarily on the possibility that a little reparation money extracted from a defeated belligerent eventually might sift down to the farmer.

However, should the cow be run over by an American truck after the battle has moved on, the chance of collection is much brighter. U.S. law provides for payment of individual claims up to \$5,000 for losses or injuries resulting from non-combat accidents.

New Flaps Give the P38 Nearly Speed of Sound

BURBANK, Cal., Sept. 24.—Specially-designed wing flaps now in use enable the Lightning to dive at speeds approaching the velocity of sound, the Lockheed Aircraft Corp. announced today.

The flaps counteract compressibility—air term for the piling up of atmosphere in front of a plane's wing.

Before introduction of the new flaps, Lockheed said, atmospheric action as aircraft approached the speed of sound often jerked the ships out of control. With the flaps, the P38 can power-dive 35,000 feet and then level off between 3,000 to 5,000 feet.

URGES PLANT CONVERSION

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Small plants should be allowed to convert promptly to civilian production without waiting for large plants to complete their war orders, as the small plants cannot stand a period of enforced idleness, Maury Maverick, chairman of the Smaller War Plants Corp., said in his bi-monthly report to Congress.

MAHURIN MARRIED

FORT WAYNE, Sept. 24.—Maj. Walker Mahurin, whose bag of 21 German planes in the European theater as a Thunderbolt pilot gained him a ranking as Indiana's foremost pilot of the war, and Miss Patricia Sweet were married here.

Yanks Chow Up in the Aachen State Forest



American infantrymen in the Aachen Stadt forest take time out for their first meal on German soil.

Plan New P47 To Battle Japs

NEW YORK, Sept. 24.—P47 Thunderbolts, Army fighter planes built by Republic Aviation Corp., are about to enter their third phase of battle usefulness with the production of a new long-range model for use in the Pacific against the Japanese, the company announced today.

Officials said they could not discuss modifications designed to fit the Thunderbolt to the longer distances involved in the war with Japan. The new model, known as the XP47, will go into production this month.

Believed to be the biggest single-engine fighter, the P47 originally was designed as a high-altitude interceptor, but was developed as a dive bomber and later modified into a ground strafers.

2 Global Airline Routes Asked by Pan-American

NEW YORK, Sept. 24.—Pan-American World Airways announced today that it had applied to the Civil Aeronautics Board for two trans-ocean routes which would "take the American flag around the world."

One route would link New York and Moscow via Newfoundland or Labrador, thence via Iceland, Oslo, Stockholm and Leningrad. The other, from Seattle to Canton, China, would go via Alaska, the Kurile Islands, Tokyo and Shanghai.

Cupid's Little Helpers in the Pentagon

Army Now Tells You How To Handle the Little Woman

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau
NEW YORK, Sept. 24.—The War Department, in the rôle of fatherly adviser, has taken steps to brief soldiers overseas who may return from the war to face a "woman" problem. It has published a special booklet on "Do You Want Your Wife to Work After the War?"

The booklet is evidently the result of an extensive survey, but it is revealing no secret when it says: "All women are not alike."

It is mainly concerned with the question of whether a woman's place is in the home, office, or both, and while shying away from taking sides, it tells the soldiers a few straight facts about women.

For instance, if you didn't know it before you have it on solid War Department authority that "women are not created only for having babies," and that "a woman may

A Brooklyn Ex-Choir Boy Sings at Old French Ritual

By Richard E. Jones
Stars and Stripes Special Writer.

PLOERMEL, Brittany, Sept. 24.—A lone Yank, who had fought on the African beaches until a Nazi bullet stopped him, played an unscheduled role when the people of this quiet town celebrated an ancient ritual for the first time since Nazi domination was lifted.

Cpl. John J. Walsh, of New York, an Irish boy from the Bronx who once was in the choir at St. Anselm's, sang the ancient Latin words of the mass again when the Pilgrimage of Notre-Dame de Boulogne came back to Ploermel. Walsh's OD uniform stood out among the black cassocks of the rest of the choir, and his singing was a symbolic note in the ceremony—an accent to the new bond between France and America.

The ritual, which dates back to 1386, is a simple one. In that year, according to legend, the figure of the Madonna appeared on the prow of a ship gliding into the harbor of Boulogne. Since then, the figure has been on a pilgrimage from Boulogne to Lourdes, going constantly back and forth until two years ago, when the rite was forbidden by the Nazis.

The figure always travels in a boat-shaped carriage drawn by barefooted parishioners. It always remains for 24 hours in one parish, then passes on to the next village where the masses and rituals are repeated.

Walsh was stationed near Ploermel with a bomb disposal squad, to which he had been assigned after

a wound forced him out of the First Division in action. He and 13 others were the only Americans in the area. They went to the garland-bedecked town to watch in honest American wonderment, and they stayed to join the Bretons in worship.

And Jack Walsh, of Gleason Ave. and St. Anselm's choir, was persuaded to sing with the tousle-headed, blond Breton boys, while the young curate in the pulpit preached of friendship and peace, and of the gratitude for the coming of the Americans to France.

FRENCH WANT JAP FIGHT
WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 (AP).—France has told the U.S. it would like to contribute forces for the Pacific war, it was learned today. Two important questions involved are the status of French colonies in the Orient and Lend-Lease aid to France after the defeat of Germany.

WOULD AID REFUGEES
WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—An internationally-recognized identity and travel document for stateless refugees is one of the aims of the Inter-Governmental Committee on refugees, Vice-Director Patrick Murphy Malin said yesterday.

Cute 'Chute



Acme photo.
France Vorne, 19, of New York, fastens a bathing suit made from remains of a captured German parachute. Known as "The Shape," Frances got a contract with 20th-Century-Fox.

19th TAC Gets Thanks for Aid From 3rd Army

NINTH AIR FORCE HQ, France, Sept. 24.—For their "tireless efforts" in harassing and obliterating large numbers of enemy vehicles and troop concentrations ahead of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's troops, pilots of the 19th Tactical Air Command, one of the fighter-bomber components of the Ninth Air Force, have received the formal thanks of the Third Army.

A Third Army spokesman, in a commendation sent to Brig. Gen. O. P. Weyland, 19th commander, declared that "the superior efficiency and co-operation afforded this army by the forces under your command are the best example of the combined use of air and ground troops I have ever witnessed."

At the same time, an announcement was made of the award to Weyland of the Bronze Star, given for meritorious performance against the enemy.

Asserting that information passed directly to the head of ground columns from the air had saved time and lives, the Third Army spokesman said: "I am voicing the opinion of all the officers and men in this army when I express to you our admiration and appreciation for your magnificent efforts."

Existence of the 19th TAC was made known when the presence of the Third Army in France under Patton was announced. The two forces, however, had been operating together since Aug. 1, when Patton's blitz started at Avranches. Today the ground-air support extends over a front of more than 500 miles, including a southern tip of more than 400 miles.

The command includes Thunderbolt and Mustang groups which have wrought incalculable damage in thousands of sorties. One group, that of Col. William L. Curry, of Raleigh, N.C., alone is credited with the destruction of 543 motor transports in a single day, and another group commanded by Col. George R. Bickell, of Nutley, N.J., has destroyed 550 enemy planes in the air.

Gen. Roosevelt's Widow Given His Medal of Honor

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., eldest son of the late President, was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor posthumously yesterday for gallantry in risking his life above and beyond the call of duty.

Roosevelt died of a heart attack July 12 after participating in the invasion of Normandy.

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson presented the medal to the general's widow. The citation read in part:

"He landed with the first wave of forces assaulting the enemy-held beaches, repeatedly led groups from the beach over the sea wall, and established them inland. His valor, courage and presence in the very front of the attack, and his complete unconcern at being under heavy fire, inspired his troops to heights of enthusiasm and self-sacrifice."

Roosevelt had been decorated 11 times in World War I.

Postal Service Resumed Between U.S. and Paris

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—Limited civilian mail service between the U. S. and Paris will be resumed today, the Postoffice Department announced. Correspondence is limited to non-illustrated postcards of a personal character, written in English or French.

Similar service has been extended to the following French departments: Côtes-du-Nord, Eure, Eure-et-Loir, Ile-et-Vilaine, Mayenne, Orne, Sarthe, Seine, Seine-Inférieure, Seine et Marne and Seine et Oise.

PRIVATE ARSENAL
Pistol packin' has nothing on Pvt. Marion Moffitt, of Vincennes, Ind., who went into action recently totting a .38, a .45 and a BAR.

Unions Ready For Pay Battle At War's End

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24 (AP).—Labor unions, restive under wartime controls, already are getting set to intensify their drive for increased base pay rates when war production is cut back and the mandatory 48-hour work-week is lifted, as the administration contemplates doing once Germany is defeated.

Other developments to look for are demands for cuts in withholding taxes, cancellation of war bond deductions by many workers and, perhaps, a period of increased strikes.

Both the CIO and the AFL already have taken the line that workers should receive the same pay for a 40-hour week that they have been getting for 48.

Advanced by Both

The CIO "Economic Outlook," makes this argument and it also has been advanced by AFL leaders.

Opinions vary as to what the employment situation will be in the reconversion period, but one certainty is that a lot of working individuals stand now to see a sizeable cut in their weekly pay envelopes if returned to a 40-hour week.

To be exact, if you have been working 48 hours, with time and a half after 40 hours, and you are cut back to 40 hours, your reduction in total earnings will be 23 per cent plus.

Non-munitions production accounts for one-third of the workers in manufacturing, but obviously far more than that number will be affected by a cutback in the work-week.

May Continue 48-Hour Week

Employers may continue the 48-hour week as long as they wish, of course, provided they pay the premium wage for the extra eight hours if they are in interstate commerce. The expectation is, however, that those employers subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act, by and large, will return to the 40-hour level almost as quickly as additional man-power becomes available.

In others words, under the spread-the-work plan, a factory can produce the same volume of goods and work the same number of hours, but those hours would be divided among a larger number of workers. Thus the individual's work-week and pay envelope would be reduced.

In areas where additional competent workers are not available, some employers may prefer to keep their workers on a 48-hour week, even after the requirement is lifted, in order to maintain profitable production. And where vital war items are involved, of course, the government will have the last word.

May Be Other Exceptions

There may be other exceptions. An employer making civilian goods risks losing proficient employees to a 48-hour plant if he cuts everybody's work-week in his plant to 40 hours. He may find it expedient business to pay premium wages to proved producers rather than straight time to anybody who may happen along.

The changeover to partial civilian economy may reduce the volume of certain civilian goods, in the opinion of some government experts. They cited textiles, for instance, where the situation already is acute. If this low-wage industry dropped back to 40 hours in civilian lines, its present serious manpower problem might be further aggravated. However, the government may insist that industry continue on a 48-hour week.

URGES CARTEL CONTROL

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 24.—"All the influence which this country holds in international affairs should be thrown into the balance to put an end to the control of cartels over world business," Wendell Berge, assistant U.S. attorney-general, said here.

PRINCE WEDS HEIRESS

LAS VEGAS, Nev., Sept. 24.—Prince David Mdivani, member of a Czarist Russian family and former husband of Actress May Murray, was married today to Virginia Sinclair, of Long Island, N.Y., daughter of Harry Sinclair, oil magnate.

The Story of Brest — of Guns, of Ruins, of Death

Beaten Nazi Chief Still Arrogant in Midst of Debris

By Morrow Davis

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer.

IT took no expert knowledge to estimate the destruction of Brest; the city was virtually 100 percent destroyed when the Germans formally surrendered it at 1,500 hours last Tuesday, hardly a building but was gutted.

The Brest campaign was almost lost sight of in the broad perspective. Brest just wasn't "good copy" compared with the airborne invasion of Holland and the denting of the Siegfried Line. But it was a hell of a tough operation for all that.

Maj. Gen. Troy H. Middleton, VIII Corps commander whose troops reduced the city, said of the defenses guarding France's second-largest port that in his military experience he had never seen anything quite as good.

37,000 Prisoners Taken

The entire operation lasted three weeks and four days, during which approximately 37,000 prisoners were captured—a figure which supported early estimates that some 50,000 enemy troops had taken refuge in the old city on the tip of the Brittany Peninsula.

The defense of Fortress Brest was almost a last-bullet, last-man job under the direction of 56-year-old Lt. Gen. Hermann Bernhard Ramcke, certainly a terrific soldier, like it or not. Taken with Ramcke were three other general officers—Kroh, Mosel (chief of staff) and Rausch—and Adm. Kahler, second in command, who was reading "Crime and Punishment" when captured.

Three divisions were entirely erased from the German Army troop list—the 266th, 343rd and Second Paratroop, the last-named an outfit that had few equals and was commanded by Ramcke himself before circumstances threw him into the post of Brest commandant. Kroh took over as head of the paratroopers and was elevated from colonel to general.

Three battle-hardened American divisions accomplished this mission—the Second Infantry, the Eighth Infantry and the 29th Infantry, plus Task Force B, which early mopped up Plougastel (or Daoulas) Peninsula.

Seized on Crozon

The other peninsula ringing the bay—Crozon—was the scene of the last German resistance and there it was that Ramcke was captured by the same doughboys of an Eighth Division regiment who did such a hell of a job at the jump-off in taking the incredibly-formidable stronghold which history will call "Hill 88."

At the jump-off, the Eighth Division attacked from the north, the Second from the east and the 29th from the west. When the Eighth reached the city proper, it was pinched off by divisions on either flank and subsequently diverted to the Crozon Peninsula, where the defenders, almost to the finale, had five big-gun batteries throwing periodic harassing fire on the Second Division, in the eastern outskirts of Brest, and the 29th, attacking through Recouvrance across the Penfeld River from the Old City.

Ramcke probably went over to Crozon on Monday, the day before the capitulation. When apprehended, he asked the U.S. general for the latter's credentials. The general pointed to the MIs carried by his GIs and said those were his credentials.

This Ramcke was some guy. Middleton characterized him by saying that no matter how ruthless, he was nevertheless a soldier.

Ramcke had refused surrender terms after the Sixth Armored poured up through Brittany past Rennes and contained the German garrison in Brest—a garrison composed of the three Nazi divisions already mentioned, plus navy and marine personnel and Todt Organization labor troops.

Ramcke again refused surrender terms offered by Middleton the week before the finale. These terms pointed out the futility of expend-



American troops captured Brest last week after the Nazi garrison had held out for four weeks. Here, infantrymen march captured Germans through the battered streets at the outskirts of the Brittany port.

ing lives for a port that had "lost its significance, since so many ports are now in Allied hands." Ramcke replied tersely: "I must refuse your proposal." (Hitler had ordered him to hold out for four months.)

Breakfast Came First

Reporters encountered this fantastic German general 1st Wednesday morning at Middleton's HQ (we waited while Ramcke had breakfast). When he appeared with his adjutant he was carrying a cane and leading a beautiful Irish setter. He wore a camouflaged cap, a camouflaged jacket, field-green paratroop trousers and black paratroop boots. Around his neck hung the Knight Cross over a shirt collar of pale blue cambric. It was the only decoration he wore; his only insignia were his lieutenant general's epaulettes, to which he pointed in explaining his promotion, during the siege, from major general.

Ramcke posed for the photographers willingly enough. The kindly Middleton urged him to where the exacting photogs wanted the group—Middleton, Ramcke and Ramcke's adjutant, Col. Moller, attired in dress uniform of field blue with pink trouser seams.

Ramcke was clean-shaven; frequently he smiled during the process of posing. Apparently he understood some English.

"I feel like a film star," he announced once.

Middleton retorted that posing was little enough for Ramcke to do, seeing that his military job was finished. The American general added that his own work was not finished.

"What have you done?" Ramcke asked (leaving himself open for the obvious answer). Besides, continued Middleton, he had served in the U.S. Army 34 years.

"I've got you beat," said Ramcke. "I've served 39 1/2 years."

The Last War?

Middleton smiled wryly and stated patiently that this was his (Middleton's) last war.

"I don't believe it," retorted Ramcke emphatically.

And when Middleton, saying of Brest that it was a total wreck and would have to rise again, explained to Ramcke that the Americans were turning the city over to the French the following day, the arrogant Nazi stated: "They are getting nothing."

Yes, Brest was a tough nut to crack. The Second Division, for example, moved from its point of

departure approximately 3,000 yards to within 150 yards of the Old City wall, built in 1680. Bloodiest strong-point encountered by this outfit was Hill 105, taken in a sneak maneuver under cover of early-morning fog and supported by strong artillery and mortar fire.

As a matter of fact, artillery was our trump card. It was fearful. And the dogfaces were grateful, for throughout their progress, hedgerow tactics up to the street fighting, they themselves faced terrific fire from Kraut arty that always had the advantage of observation.

Looking back on some of the defense approaches to the city, it seems incredible that the Yanks were able to occupy them at all. The Germans used every type of gun available. They used flak guns against personnel to a great extent. It was learned that they considered the efficiency of their anti-aircraft against plane attack so low as to be unwarranted.

P47s Terrified Nazis

This probably cost them a number of PW losses. Middleton stated that there never was a wholesale surrender of prisoners; the Yanks had to go get 'em. Which was true. But during the hedgerow fighting a great many Germans gave up because they couldn't take the P47 dive-bombing and strafing. These were, in the main, Navy and Marine personnel who had been shuffled into the front lines among just enough paratroopers to hold them together. And the Thunderbolt, which they called "Jabos" (a contraction of the German for fighter-bomber), had them terrified.

Contrary to popular belief, most German artillery in this operation was not mobile. They had some SP guns, some horse-drawn. But in the main the positions were fixed. There was evidence that many had been planned for defense against invasion by sea, then converted. Nearly all German guns had a 360-degree traverse; even mortars were emplaced on fixed turntables.

The Americans, who as a rule don't bother to employ abandoned enemy ordnance, in this case did some satisfying work with captured German guns. From a magnificent OP in the tower of a chateau overlooking the southeast bastion, Capt. Arthur P. Tate, of Brooklyn, supplemented the fire from his .81 mortars with two French mortars captured from the Germans.

From a bluff below the chateau, where 1/Lt. Jack S. Courson's .50-cal. machine guns swept streets

below and beyond, Capt. John Stephens, of Tyler, Tex., set up a German 20mm. flak gun and pumped shells into machine-gun nests and pillboxes in the docks area.

The chateau (owned, incidentally, by an American woman who evacuated to Brest and was killed by a bomb) overlooked the rail yards and docks area. The rail yards were a rusty mess, the rolling stock junk. Vessels were sunk near the breakwater. A big viaduct was blown to hell as U.S. troops entered the outskirts.

On a spur of land jutting out in the bay on the Recouvrance side, with a lighthouse at its tip, was a huge reinforced concrete building housing 15 submarine pens, 30 yards wide and a quarter of a mile long. The roof was 15 feet thick. The pens were full of debris.

One U-boat was partially submerged in the bay.

This little peninsula was a labyrinth of tunnels. Here was a huge hospital with five entrances housing 14,000 wounded. It had an operating theater. German nurses were in attendance.

The sub pens had an amazing amount of supplies: Food for six to 12 months, stacked from floor to ceiling over many acres; thousands of boxes of cigars; tons of chocolate; blankets with sachets between the layers to make them smell sweet (most Germans do not smell sweet; in the field they live in their filth without seeming to care; they don't bother to use a shovel; THEY STINK!).

Old Wall Blasted

The Old Wall surrounding Brest was 20 meters thick, 25 meters high. You should have seen our 155s tearing into it. On the south end facing the docks it was honey-combed with tunnels blasted out of the solid rock a long time ago by the French.

One tunnel with two entrances was a hospital in which were 806 enemy wounded plus eight Americans, two of whom were Air Corps officers. Here was food for 21 days, including fresh lemons (from Spain) and canned strawberries.

Over on the Crozon Peninsula was another German hospital. The little town of Le Fret was cleared of civilians and turned into a hospital town, with every inch of housing space made use of. Here were 1,300 wounded, in charge of a few German nurses. Here also were some prostitutes.

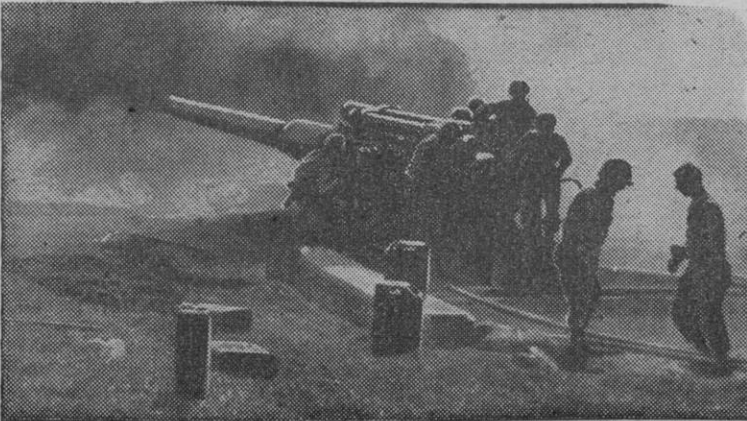
Brest was formally surrendered by Col. Erich Pietzonka, commander of the Seventh Paratroop Regiment, in a ceremony at Woodrow Wilson Place. Under this square was a great dugout, 70 feet down, in which were the remnants of the soldiers who fought for Ramcke, Hitler and Brest. There were a couple of hundred of them and they were sullen.

The whole damn thing was pretty grim.

LUCILLE BALL SEEKS DIVORCE

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 24.—Red-haired Lucille Ball has filed a suit for divorce against Desi Arnaz charging he treated her cruelly and caused their separation recently. Actress Ball, 33, and Arnaz, 27, a native of Cuba and now a staff sergeant at the Army's Birmingham general hospital in Van Nuys, Cal., were married in Greenwich, Conn., four years ago.

Beating Down Nazis at Brest



An American eight-inch field gun hurls shells at battered Brest, Brittany Peninsula port which the Germans surrendered last week.

Cross-Country Dewey Tour Is Near a Finale

ABOARD DEWEY'S CAMPAIGN TRAIN, Sept. 24 (INS). — Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's campaign caravan sped homeward through the Southwest today with one more major speech scheduled for the Republican candidate before he returns to Albany Thursday.

Dewey will speak in Oklahoma City tomorrow night, his seventh and last address on this cross-country tour.

When the special train pulled into Needles, last stop in California Dewey told a crowd at the station. "For 12 years we have stood exactly still. We had to have under this administration a war to get jobs. Do we go back after this war to unemployment?"

"If we can get an administration which believes in opportunity, we can go ahead and revise the tax structure and get a government which knows the problems of the people.

"I should like to start on Jan. 20 the largest house-cleaning of all time in Washington. I should like to remove from the backs of the taxpayers a large number of persons who do nothing and whose wages come out of your pockets."

Russian Fleet Is Shelling Foe

While Russian ground forces began mopping up last German pockets of resistance along the Estonian coast, units of the Soviet Baltic fleet steamed into Tallinn Harbor yesterday behind minesweepers and began ranging up and down the Gulf of Finland bombarding German positions.

To the south, both Rumanian and Turkish reports said Russian and Rumanian forces had crossed the Hungarian border from western Rumania in the vicinity of Arad.

A Moscow communiqué announced that Baltivsky, Estonian port on the Gulf of Finland and terminal point of the Tallinn railroad, had been captured.

British Force Invades Reich

(Continued from Page 1)

the south bank of the Lek effected by a patrol of airborne troops.

Poised on the south bank of the Lek were Gen. Dempsey's main forces. A crossing of the barrier in strength would outflank the Siegfried Line and open the way to the heart of industrial Germany.

The airborne army operating in the Nijmegen-Arnhem region was reinforced Saturday by an armada of 1,500 transport planes, gliders and escorting fighters which flew in men and supplies. The Germans claimed that a major landing had been made north of Eindhoven.

Troops of the First Canadian Army, driving five miles northeast of Antwerp, have established a limited bridgehead over the Antwerp Turnhout Canal.

NEW AIRCRAFT BULLET

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—A new armor-piercing incendiary bullet, devised by Army ordnance, is being used by American airmen on all battlefronts, the War Department has announced.

Ma'mselles....

(Continued from Page 1)

somewhere in Europe, wanted to know: "When they kiss old guys like Ernie Pyle, what are they going to do to young ones?"

Virginia Chase has a boy friend in France and was willing to look at things from the French gal's point of view, but she couldn't believe "that they kiss over there just like we shake hands—those are awfully big handshakes."

"We girls are pretty broadminded about the whole thing," Mrs. Carroll Spillers said. She added that whatever her husband did in France was "his own business, but what he does when he gets back is mine."

Bing Croons a Swathe Through France

Crosby and His Show Go Over With a Tuneful Bang

By S/Sgt. Ed Stone

Stars and Stripes Unit Correspondent. Singing in mess halls, fields, from the backs of trucks and in the squares of captured towns, Bing Crosby, together with his USO-Campshow troupe, has traveled more than 1,500 miles and put on as many as five shows a day for American soldiers since his arrival in France Sept. 3.

Dressed in OD's and a fatigue hat, with his inevitable pipe in his mouth, Crosby has sung his way across France, putting on shows for troops spread from the beach heads to the front lines. On several occasions, the group has appeared within gun-shot range of German positions. While in the Valognes area, Crosby joined forces with Fred Astaire, the star of another USO group, and during his visit to the troops of the Third Army, he sang with Dinah Shore and her entertainment unit. His regular supporting caste is made up of Joe De Rita, comedian; Darleone Garner, dancer; Jeanne Darrell, blues singer; Buck Harris, guitarist, and Earl Baxter, accordionist.

Although Crosby dominates the show, singing such old favorites as "If I Had My Way," and "White Christmas," and songs from his latest pictures, Jeanne Darrell's "Embraceable You" and her duet with Crosby on "Easter Parade" have proved extremely popular with troops. Crosby usually closes his programs by singing "White Christmas" and expressing the hope that Christmas, 1944, will find the men home.



Bing Crosby and Joe DeRita point out news highlights in The Stars and Stripes to a Frenchman at Commercy, between USO shows. Bing's troupe gave shows within three miles of the front the next day.

Bing also doubles as master of ceremonies for the show, joking about Army food, his four sons and life on the home front. A favorite with soldiers has been his remark when a plane passes. "For a moment, I thought it was the stork again," Bing says. Soldiers who proffer pictures of their wives, sweethearts and families are countered with photos of Crosby's wife, the former Dixie Lee, and his four boys. While appearing at a 35th Infantry Division unit, Crosby autographed a picture of the son of Sgt. Cortez Stanley. Stanley's son had caddied for Crosby on Santa Anita golf course, near Los Angeles.

Big Maine Potato Crop Being Transported Out

BANGOR, Me., Sept. 24.—Maine farmers have begun to move a potato crop estimated at 60,000,000 bushels, 13,000,000 under last year's total, but still considered excellent. State railroads have started the immense job of moving the crop to all parts of the country.

More than 30,000 pickers are engaged, including 1,500 German prisoners of war

OVERTON RENOMINATED

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 24.—Sen. John H. Overton won renomination for his third consecutive term in last week's Democratic primary in Louisiana. The nomination is tantamount to election. Incomplete returns indicated that all incumbent Louisiana congressmen, except James Morrison, of the Sixth District, would regain their seats.

Still No Terry, But Here's His Double

We're still sweating out the mats on Terry and the Pirates, so you won't find the strip in today's Stars and Stripes. Instead, you'll have to look at Pfc Bill Agnew, model for Milton Caniff's comic strip character. Agnew now is in France.



FDR Officially Opens Drive, Assails GOP 'Falsehoods'

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assailed speeches by the Republican candidate without mentioning Gov. Thomas E. Dewey by name. He said:

1—The Republicans have practiced the most "obvious, common or garden variety of fraud" by trying to persuade the people that the Democrats brought on the depression and that the GOP was responsible "for all social progress under the New Deal."

2—The war must be finished speedily and the peace must be completed with "the same will and intelligence and devotion which have already led us so far on the road to victory."

3—After the last war, peace-building tasks were "botched by the Republican administration" and this must not happen again.

4—The opposition had tried to make him out as an old man, to which he replied he was too old for one thing: "I cannot talk out of both sides of my mouth at the same time."

Among the "malicious falsehoods" which the President accused the Republicans of spreading was "that old, worm-eaten chestnut that I have represented myself as indispensable."

On Post-war Planning

Referring to Republican criticism of the conduct of the war and post-war planning, Mr. Roosevelt said:

"The government welcomes all sincere supporters of the cause of world collaboration. Millions of Republicans are with us and they, too, will resent this campaign talk by those who first woke up to the facts of international life a few short months ago, when they began to study the polls of public opinion."

Replying to Gov. Dewey's repeated charge that the administration had been unable to solve unemployment, Mr. Roosevelt said the keynote of his entire reconversion program could be found in one word: "Jobs." He said the government would lease or dispose of plants and facilities on the basis of how they could best be used to give jobs to the greatest number, adding:

"We shall follow a wage policy that will sustain the purchasing power of labor, for that means more production and more jobs. This is not a time in which men can be forgotten as they were in the Republican catastrophe, which we inherited."

Apparently referring to Republican critics of the CIO Political Action Committee, headed by Sidney Hillman, the President said the opposition "hate to see any working man or woman contribute a dollar bill to any wicked political party." He added, "Of course, it is all right for large financiers and industrialists and monopolists to contribute tens of thousands of dollars."

650 Fortresses Batter Kassel; Coast Bombed

Flying through thick clouds which obscured the targets, 650 escorted Fortresses yesterday blasted motor factories, plane plants, locomotive works and large marshalling yards at Kassel, about 130 miles east of Aachen, Germany.

Escorting P51 Mustangs strafed airports and enemy transport in the Kassel and Cologne areas.

In a continued four-day offensive supporting Allied airborne operations in Holland as well as the Third U.S. Army's advance in the Metz-Nancy area, Ninth Air Force fighter-bombers flew 1,035 sorties from Sept. 19 to 21, despite bad weather on 10 days.

Twelve enemy planes were destroyed in aerial combat while at least 43 armored vehicles, including 14 tanks, were knocked out. Seventeen locomotives and 115 motor vehicles were disabled by the U.S. planes.

Along the Channel coast and in Holland, fighter-bombers poured both bombs and surrender leaflets on Germans holding out in small pockets. Paris radio reported that Calais was bombed about dusk by British-based planes. Some 2,000,000 leaflets were dropped over various areas in Holland.

No enemy aircraft were seen and all planes returned.

Drive Takes 5th Army 15 Miles from Bologna

American troops of the Fifth Army yesterday were within 15 miles of Bologna, keypoint on the German supply line from the Brenner Pass, after a ten-day offensive which left the Gothic Line a mass of wreckage.

In an attack which netted 14 Gen. Mark W. Clark's men 2,600 prisoners, the Yanks captured Futa Pass, on the direct Florence-Bologna highway.

Japs Report U.S. Raid In Central Philippines

Two hundred Allied planes yesterday raided several cities in the central Philippines, including Legaspi and Cebu, the Japanese News Agency reported. Gen. MacArthur's communiqué told of a further advance by Marines in the Palau islands which cost the Japs 7,000 killed and reported that a Navy bomber sank two freighters off Mindanao, in the southern Philippines. Other planes destroyed a 1,000-ton vessel off Borneo.

Allied ground and naval forces killed 835 Japs in the back areas of New Guinea, and captured 201.

Pyle....

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that helped. They were amazing. Always cheerful and kidding. One kid with his eyes gone would push a boy without legs in a wheel chair, the legless one guiding him.

"They were all together and they were going home. But a year from now they'll be separated and a lot of them will be forgotten. There's the great tragedy. You live with those kids a while and you get to know what this war is about."

Soldiers often talk about the first things they're going to do when they get home. Well, here's the first thing Pyle did.

There was a kid from Nebraska aboard who had lost a leg. His folks only had notification he was "slightly wounded," following the War Department classification of wounded as "slightly" and "seriously." He didn't know how to tell them and thought Ernie could do it for him.

When the boat docked, that was the first thing Pyle did. "Your son is healthy, happy... don't feel too badly about him." That was typical of Pyle.

We delivered a letter to Pyle from S/Sgt. N. A. Friedman, as printed in The Stars and Stripes of Aug. 13. When he finished reading it he didn't say anything for about a minute.

"I... I would like to have this, if I may," he stammered. "I'd like to put it in my scrapbook."