

Turkey Declares War on Germany and Japan

PARIS EDITION

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces in the European Theater of Operations

Ici On Parle Français
C'est aujourd'hui samedi.
Sayt O-joord-we Sam-dee.
Today is Saturday.

Man Spricht Deutsch
Nehme Sie den Helm ab.
Naymen Zee den Helm ab.
Take off your helmet.

Vol. 1—No. 212

1 Fr.

1 Fr.

Saturday, Feb. 24, 1945

1st, 9th Open Big Push, Cross Roer, Take 5 Towns

Turk Entry Gives Allies Air Bases

ANKARA, Feb. 23.—Turkey declared war on Germany and Japan today, adding several hundred thousand soldiers to the Allied side as well as a small air force. Air bases will also be available for Britain and the U.S. air forces.

Turkey's Foreign Minister, in a speech before the Turkish National Assembly, prior to the vote on the decision, said that the Big Three had informed Turkey that only nations who declared war on the Axis before March 1 would be able to take part in the San Francisco conference of the United Nations on April 25. Turkey's declaration takes effect on March 1.

Received Statement Feb. 20

The British Ambassador to Turkey handed the Big Three statement to the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Feb. 20, the foreign minister continued. The ambassador said he had been instructed by his government to inform Turkey of the conditions under which she would be invited to the San Francisco conference.

Defending Turkish foreign policy, the minister said Turkey had "taken up its place at the side of peace-loving nations before the outbreak of this world war." Turkey, he said, "in the face of all sorts of dangers and crises, continued persistently and with perseverance to abide by the requirements of its alliances."

He pointed out that Turkey, on Aug. 2, 1944, and Jan. 3, 1945, severed relations with Germany and Japan, respectively "in the interest of the supreme cause which we had embraced in conjunction with the Allies."

Ardennes Costliest Of All U.S. Battles

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (AP).—Robert P. Patterson, Under Secretary of War, said today the battle of the Ardennes was the costliest engagement in U.S. history. Between Dec. 16 and Jan. 11, he said, "we sustained 55,400 casualties, namely, 37,000 killed and wounded, and 18,400 prisoners of war. Losses of equipment also were heavy."

Marines Take Iwo High Point; Japs Hit Flanks

U.S. PACIFIC FLEET HQ., Guam, Feb. 23.—Troops of the 28th Regt. of U.S. Marines today raised the American flag over Mt. Suribachi, at the southern tip of Iwo Jima, but elsewhere the bloody battle for the strategic island was at a virtual stalemate.

Adm. Nimitz announced that in the first 58 hours of the Iwo Jima fighting, the American invasion force suffered 5,372 casualties. Of these, 644 were killed, 560 were listed as missing and 4,168 were wounded. In the same period, 1,222 Japanese dead were counted. No other invasion of the Pacific war has been as costly to the U.S. as the Iwo operation, carried out only 750 miles from Tokyo.

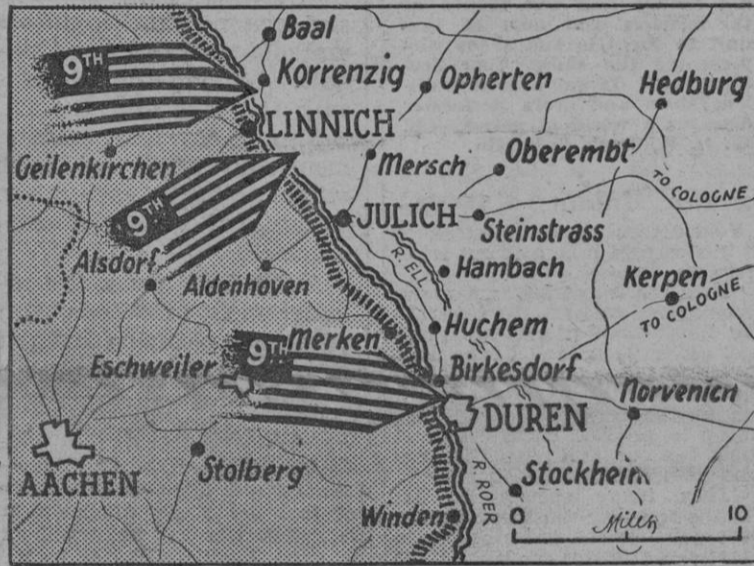
Threat Eliminated

It took the Marines 96 hours to win command of 566-foot-high Mt. Suribachi, from which the Japanese had cast down deadly mortar and artillery fire on American troops spread out over the southern third of Iwo Jima.

Capture of the volcanic mountain eliminated the enemy threat to the rear of the three Marine divisions attempting to drive northward toward the airfield on central Iwo, where the main strength of the enemy is dug in. The Japanese counter-attacked

(Continued on Page 5)

Artillery, Planes Rip Path For Drive on Cologne Plain



U.S. Ninth Army units, joining with First Army elements, resumed the offensive yesterday to cross the Roer River.

Air Assaults Again Scourge Nazi Rail Net

The air attack designed to destroy communications throughout the Reich continued yesterday as more than 7,000 Allied bombers and fighters hit German rail centers from border to border. The new blows brought to 14,000 the total of Allied planes which have struck at enemy marshalling yards, rail lines and bridges in the last 48 hours.

Heaviest of the air strikes was made by the Eighth AF, which sent 1,250 heavies and 650 escorting fighters against 20 German communication centers through which supplies are fed to the Russian front.

Targets of the Eighth were in a triangular area stretching from Leipzig to south of Nurnberg and from the Czechoslovak border to Schweinfurt.

The attack of the Britain-based (Continued on Page 8)

Yanks and Brazilians Storm Italian Peaks

ROME, Feb. 23 (AP).—American troops, taking advantage of momentum gained in the capture of Mt. Belvedere, west of the Pistoia-Bologna highway, stormed 3,500-ft Mt. Bella Torracchia through an elaborate German trench system today. Brazilian troops on their right captured Mt. Castello.

Ninth Seizes Series of Roer Bridgeheads

By Robert L. Moora
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
WITH THE NINTH ARMY, Feb. 23.—The U.S. Ninth Army under Gen. Simpson took the offensive before dawn today with infantry crossing the Roer River and establishing bridgeheads at several points.

The crossings, which began 0330 hours, followed a thunderous 45-minute artillery barrage. Using many types of amphibious assault craft, the troops successfully spanned the river, whose flood waters had subsided nearly to normal.

The crossings placed American troops in the last German defense area before the Rhine, and approximately 25 miles from the Ruhr Valley beyond—an area doubly important now that the Russians control a large part of Silesia, Germany's other major industrial area.

The Roer River, only 40 to 60 feet wide in most places, had spread to a breadth of more than 400 feet as result of heavy snowfalls and the blasting by the Germans of the valvehouse in the Schwammenauel dam, freeing the waters of the huge lake behind it.

Today the water averaged about 250 feet across, and in some places the river was within 100 feet of its banks. Its current, which had reached the speed of seven to eight knots four (Continued on Page 8)

General Eisenhower's big offensive in the west opened at 0330 yesterday when the U.S. First and Ninth Armies smashed across the Roer River to the Cologne Plain.

The assault crossings of the Roer were made after violent artillery barrages in both sectors in moonlight so brilliant that in one place the advance had to be covered by a smoke-screen. First Army crossed east of Aachen and Ninth Army crossed north of First Army.

Driving across the Roer on a broad front, Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's Ninth Army advanced up to two miles in the first 24 hours and cleared all of Julich except its walled citadel.

The weight of the Ninth's attack overran five towns, which extend along a nine-mile arc north and south of Julich on the Cologne Plain.

Simpson's men drove across the Linnich-Julich road north of Julich and fought their way up the ridge which dominates the Roer from the east.

Towns which fell before the sweep of the Ninth on to the great plain which stretches to the Rhine were Rurich, Glinbach, Gevenich and Boslar, north of Julich, and Seigersdorf, two miles south of it.

American doughs battered at the medieval citadel in Julich's north side. This great fortress is two kilometers in diameter and contains numerous buildings. It is surrounded by a moat 20 feet wide and from 70 to 100 feet deep. Behind the moat are walls 15 meters high and 13 to 14 feet thick.

In this fortress, Nazi ceremonies were held. The citadel was heavily bombed before the attack.

Once across the Roer, the only (Continued on Page 8)

France Approves Lend-Lease Accord

The French Cabinet yesterday approved the proposed lend-lease agreement negotiated in Washington by a French economic mission headed by Jean Monnet, the Associated Press reported.

Meanwhile, trucks from Britain and tires from America have begun to arrive to ease France's critical transport problem and improve the food supply situation in large cities, particularly Paris. Forty trucks of an expected 4,000 already have been unloaded at a French port, according to the newspaper Aurore. And the first shipment of synthetic rubber tires from the U.S. for use on trucks hauling food has been turned over to French authorities.

Allied Chiefs Weigh Reich's Future



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill talk things over during an after-dinner interlude at the Big Three conference at Yalta in the Crimea. (Other Yalta conference pictures on Page 5)

THE B BAG
BLOW IT OUT HERE

GI Joe Says Yes and No

So T/Sgt. D.W. wants us all to "tell our folks back home that we want Wallace in the job of Secretary of Commerce..." Why?

The sergeant bases his plea on the assumption that Mr. Wallace is better suited to "make private enterprise work as it is supposed to work," and vicariously rings in the "little man" as standing a better chance under him than under Jesse Jones, the most recent Commerce Secretary.

As a matter of fact, there are a number of agencies, as usual, created to champion the cause of the postwar little man, none of which, to my knowledge, functions under the aegis of the Commerce Department. The vast sums Mr. Jones has administered as head of the Reconstruction Finance Corp. were, I think, appropriated by law for what is commonly known as "big business" not for the "little man"—and that without hint of scandal or Congressional investigation.

If Sgt. D. W. wanted to build a substantial case for the dream-eyed ex-Vice President, he should have enumerated some concrete qualifications held by Mr. Wallace for the dual job. Had he done so, his letter would have been enlightening to many a student of contemporary American politics at home and abroad.—Sgt. Roger Thames, AAF Fighter, Sqn.

Henry A. Wallace is widely known as one of the ablest men in Washington today. In his fight for small business and against cartels, monopolies and the hoarding and selfish control of patents, he is championing the cause of the average GI in the post-war world. Wallace understands that the things we are fighting and dying for can be lost not only in Jones' oil-producing Texas; not only in Rep. Rankins' cotton-growing Mississippi; not only in our own U.S., but also in China, in India and in South America.—Lt. Inf.

Neatness?

We were ordered to remove personal photos, which were hanging neatly on the front of our lockers, by our lieutenant, who said they were not adding to the neatness of our squad room.

We are proud of our clean and well-kept squad room, but I'd like to know why we can't display photographs of our loved ones. Whenever I came in from work, the first thing that used to greet my eye was my fiancée's picture. When that was taken down, my morale was taken down also.—Pfc Dan Pagley, Jr.

Thumbs Down

Below are a few of the many comments received on Rep. James Fulton's (R-Pa.) proposal to send wives, even families, on morale-boosting visits to their overseas soldiers, sailors and marines. Ed.

...We thought we were fighting to keep the war away from them instead of bringing them to it.—T/4 James Harmon, H and S. Co. 326 Engr. Bn. (and 9 others-Ed.)

...If there's room for our women and children on these ships, why don't they send troops on them... That would speed up this rotation plan.—Cpl. R. Sinnokaak, Hq. Co., 4th Inf.

...Do we just pick a spot and pitch a pup tent, and have our wives eat in our chow line?—Sgt.

John W. McGuire, 76th Cav. Recn. Tr.

Pray tell me, Mr. Fulton... How about us single guys?—T/Sgt. Frank A. Curcio, FA Bn.

150 votes from this organization for Rep. Fulton and his plan to send wives overseas—to us.—Btry A, AAA.

If you can bring them here, it would be a hell of a lot easier to send us to them instead.—Pvt. M. W. Harding, Btry A, 466th Procht. FA Bn.

First give the wives 13 weeks of basic training and full field outfit, then send them to their husbands, let them dig a double foxhole and be happy.—Cpl. Chas. Kulas, Hq. Btry, 736 FA Bn.

I wouldn't want the girl I love and married to undergo the privations over here even if I have to adopt children for my family upon my return home.—Sgt. E. D. Criscuolo, 3rd Gp. Reg. Sta., TC.

Good Show

Just a line or two to express my thanks and the thanks of the officers and men of this unit to the GIs and Waacs who presented the show "Com Zee-Com Zaa." It was a most excellent show and every performer deserves a world of praise.—Ch. W. D. Williams, Engr. Bn.

In the Middle

Your readers might be interested in this excerpt from a recent letter from my dad.

"This war is coming to a grand climax now, at least it's closer to the finish than it was two years ago. Everybody is hollering that there is a shortage of everything in Europe, and the man who has a son in the service is going nuts trying to produce enough. I don't think it's our fault, it's the guys who plan this production.

"They figure enough for six months and they run short and the little guy like me and others with sons in the service catch it in the neck. All we can do is do what we are told..."—Pvt. W. F. Kowalewski, Mil. Pipe Line Serv.

Up Front With Mauldin



Total war.

An Editorial

Thoughts in the Night

IT'S lonely out in the farthest foxhole. Just you and another guy and your MIs. The world looks hostile and empty. Empty except for you—and across the valley—the German Army.

Then suddenly, from somewhere, there's the crack of a rifle. From some trigger-happy sentry in some other muddy foxhole a few hundred feet down the line. And it tells you you're not alone.

That lots of people are awake and watching and working. Squads, companies, regiments and armies to the North and South. Americans, Canadians, Englishmen, Frenchmen. And beyond the blackness straight ahead, Russians, too.

And behind are cooks readying the morning chow. And artillery and airfields and armorers and engineers and quartermasters and signals. Linking the foxholes with the CPs and the Big Brains in the rear. Giving men who can't see each other the feel of each other. A sense of power, of confidence.

And behind them the reinforcement battalions, with other men readying for their role. And great dumps fil-



ling and emptying like so many hearts. And Red Ball highways and pipelines and ordnance factories in the field. And palefaced men in offices, picking up and putting down the papers that wrap the package of war.

Back and back and back. An endless track of men and machines. Ports and depots linked by roads and rails. Restless with trains and

trucks and men and men and men. Back to ships and sailors. And docks in Hoboken. And throbbing factories beside the Pennsy. And farms and training camps and homes and people. And the same thing in the Pacific. And Italy. And the UK. And the USSR.

And somehow, out there in the farthest foxhole, it doesn't seem so lonely after all.

Reaction in China

CHUNGKING, Feb. 23 (UP).—Well-informed quarters here now feel that the major campaign in the Pacific war will be waged on the main Japanese islands rather than in China. The current landings on Iwo Jima are having a profound effect on the Chinese.

Jap Guns Make Iwo an Inferno; Dead, Debris Litter Beachhead

By S/Sgt. David Dempsey Marine Corps Combat Correspondent IWO JIMA, Feb. 23.—The invasion beach of this island, stormed five days ago by marines in the face of blistering Japanese mortar and artillery fire, is a scene of indescribable wreckage—all of it ours. For two miles, extending north from Mt. Suribachi at the southern tip of the island, a thick layer of debris and the wrecked hulls of scores of boats testify to the price we paid to get troops ashore.

For two days and nights Japanese artillery, rockets and heavy mortars laid a curtain of fire along the shore. Their weapons had been aimed at the beach long before we landed. They couldn't miss and they didn't.

Vehicles Get Stuck The volcanic sand on the beach was so soft that many of our vehicles mired down before they had gone ten feet. In addition, a terrace a few yards from the water hampered the movements of the men so that they became easy prey for Jap gunners.

Only a few trucks got ashore and for two days practically all the supplies were moved by hand to the front—even the unconquerable jeep got stuck. One can see amphibian tractors turned upside down like pancakes on a griddle. Derricks brought ashore to unload cargo lie tilted at insane angles where shells blasted them.

Anti-tank guns were smashed before they had a chance to fire a shot, and artillery could not be landed for 24 hours. Packs, clothing, gas masks and toilet articles—many ripped by shrapnel—are scattered across the sand for five miles. Rifles are blown in half and letters are strewn among the debris.

Scattered amid the wreckage is death. Perhaps the real heroes of this battle are the coxswains who

steered the landing boats through the gantlet of fire and didn't get back. There are unloading parties who for one entire day unloaded hardly a boat because so few boats made it. Instead, they hugged the beach while shells bit into the sand all around them.

On D-Day, beach parties suffered heavy casualties. Aid and evacuation stations couldn't move up to the comparative safety of the forward area. Our battalion aid station lost 11 of its 26 corpsmen in the first two days.

The officer in charge of a tank-landing boat received a direct shell hit while trying to free the boat from the sand. He was blown in half and a life preserver supports the trunk of the body in the water. Marines killed on the beach were buried under the sand as the tide came in.

On the third day we began to get vehicles and supplies ashore in quantity. Wire matting made the beach passable and naval gunfire knocked out most of the Jap artillery. It is a miracle that we were able to supply the troops at all at first. The boys who did it deserve a medal, but a lot of them won't be around when the medals are passed out.

More Aid for Veterans Advocated by Maverick

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (ANS).—Maury Maverick, director of the Smaller War Plants Corp., today recommended SWPC extension to provide industrial homesteads for war veterans.

He advocated legislation to provide direct government loans to veterans to start independent small businesses and blanket insurance to replace partial guarantees on loans provided by the Veterans Administration under the GI Bill of Rights.

THE STARS AND STRIPES Paris Edition

Printed at the New York Herald Tribune Plant, 21 Rue de Berri, Paris, for the U.S. armed forces under auspices of the Information and Education Division, Special and Information services, ETOUSA Tel.: ELYsées 40-58, 41-49.

Other editions: London, Liège, Nancy, Marseilles. New York Office: 205 E. 42nd St.

Contents passed by the U.S. Army and Navy censors. Entered as second class matter, Mar. 15, 1943, at the Post Office, New York, N.Y., under the act of Mar. 3, 1879.

This Was America Yesterday:

Curfew Experts Stay Up Late Wrestling Night Spots' Queries

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—The War Manpower Commission, having fixed the nightspot curfew for 12 PM Monday, is having trouble catching up with inquiries about it. A statement of policy is expected before the ban goes into effect.

Questions, as could be guessed, center on exemptions. Are bingo parties, lodge meetings where beer is available, semi-social functions affected? How about restaurants which don't serve drinks? It begins to look as if they'll just have to ask everybody to hit the hay early for a few days—and that is about what one spokesman told the Associated Press.

"We may have to ask for patriotic compliance across the board until we get details worked out," he said.

600-Mile Waterway for Alabama

Alabama came up today with the biggest single plum in the half-billion-dollar postwar rivers and harbors authorization program. It's a \$60,000,000 waterway, cutting through the heart of the state down the Coosa and Alabama Rivers.

Objects—power, flood control, postwar jobs. Only the Columbia River and Tennessee Valley projects outrank this one in scope. It calls for dredging a 600-mile nine-foot channel from Rome, Ga., to Mobile, Ala., opening up to river transportation the rich mineral and agricultural district of the State. Alabamians have only one thing to wait for—Congress must appropriate the money.

Senator Would Ban Liquor Ads

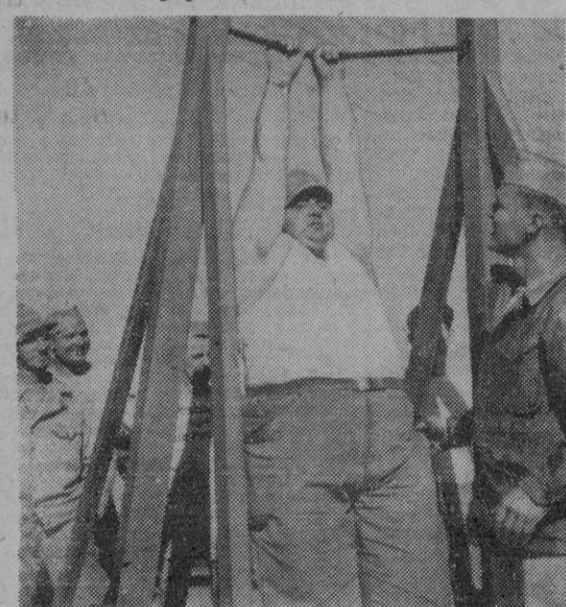
A BILL which would in effect exclude liquor advertisements from press and radio has been introduced by Sen. Arthur Capper (R-Kan.). It would prohibit the transportation in interstate commerce of alcoholic beverage advertisements.

Why? According to the senator, to protect children from advertising which tells them that "alcohol is a healthy, harmless and a socially compulsory beverage."

Boys will be boys. In Newark, N.J., to promote the Navy film "Fighting Lady," an Avenger torpedo bomber, with a combat record in the Pacific, was set up after hours of work in a military park. Fifteen minutes after the assemblers left there was little of the plane to view. Hundreds of Newark boys accomplished more than the Japs could. Using screwdrivers and pocket knives they stripped the exhibit.

Super Soldier Jams Gym

IN Santa Ana, Calif., they're waiting for somebody to fix the gymnasium equipment at RAF Redistribution Station No. 4 of the Army Air Base.



Pvt. Edgar Ryan, sort of a superman, tried out the oull-ups. Trouble is, he weighs 325 pounds, which isn't good for gymnasium equipment.

Pvt. Edgar Ryan tries pull-ups, but 325 pounds seem a bit heavy to lift.

ALTHOUGH it would seem that the remedy for a shortage is more production, tobacco growers from 11 states who gathered at Lexington, Ky., apparently don't think so. Crop control has not contributed to the cigarette shortage, and production and sale of cigarette type tobaccos must continue under the quota system, they resolved. In reporting their conclusions to the public, Carl T. Hicks, chairman of the Tobacco Committee of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, said: "Farmers realize that the tobacco program must operate successfully to insure their economic situation in the postwar world... and the system must continue even in time of war."

Meantime, Sen. William Langer (R-N.D.) introduced a resolution in Congress calling for a "full and complete investigation" of the cigarette shortage.

Maybe by the time the war's over they'll get it figured out.

America was intrigued today with the story of U.S. citizens returned yesterday on the Gripsholm who felt no thrill at the sight of the Statue of Liberty, no joy at entering the United States. The F. B. I. is intrigued, too. There were 548 of these "American" repatriates, but most of them were Americans by technicality, and with more than doubtful allegiance. It is widely suspected that they were shanghai'd over here by the Nazis, and all are being thoroughly processed before being allowed to go ashore.

Most of the 463 servicemen on the Gripsholm were emphatic about their dislike for these civilian fellow passengers, and said that their attitude on the trip showed no appreciation for America or the American way of life.

Love and Peace still cast their gentle aura over the home front. Except, perhaps, Los Angeles, where Mrs. Arthur DeGolyers testified that her husband threw a plate of marmalade and three duck eggs at her and that they "covered me from my hair to my shoes." Asked by the judge whether she had contributed any to this domestic give-and-take she coyly admitted, "Well—I did throw some fruit salad at him."

FOXHOLE sleuths can figure out this detective mystery during leisure moments, but it will take a lot of moments. Who is it that goes around leaving deceased women in hotel bathtubs? Not so long ago the first case happened in New Orleans. No clues. She was just there, nude and dead and the man had left. Now it has happened again in Chicago. No clues—except that the signature used by the man companion of each woman was in the same handwriting. Neither Chicago nor New Orleans police have made any progress in discovering the identity of the man.

Din of Battle Fades

Peace, Quiet Return to Halls of Congress

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (AP).—The House of Representatives today smoothed its ruffled dignity and sought to forget the Hook-Rankin Battle of Washington's Birthday.

Commenting on the rough-and-tumble which took place yesterday between Rep. John E. Rankin (D-Miss.) and Rep. Frank E. Hook (D-Mich.), Rep. Robert Ramspeck (D-Ga.), acting speaker, said the incident was "very unfortunate and the sooner it is forgotten the better." He added that "it doesn't help the country to have such incidents occur, and it is particularly regrettable during time of war."

Another comment came from Rep. Joseph W. Martin Jr. (R-Mass.), Republican floor leader, who said, "That is a Democratic fight. Let them referee their own bouts."

The House press gallery's blow-by-blow description of the tussle:

ROUND ONE.—Rep. Clare E. Hoffman (R-Mich.) denounced the CIO. Rankin (weight, 140 pounds; age, 63) rose to do some CIO-smiting of his own. Hook (weight, 195; age, 52) bounced

up to defend the CIO, and the two men sparred verbally.

ROUND TWO.—Rankin, looking at Hook, made a reference to the "dirty Communists the gentleman from Michigan is associated with," and Hook, waving his right arm, countered with, "You're a dirty liar." Rankin closed in.

ROUND THREE.—The boys exchanged feeble blows and fell into a clinch. Rankin tugged fiercely at Hook's hair. Suddenly, the other Congressmen realized what was happening, and broke up the brawl.

Such incidents are rare but they are covered by the Constitution which provides that members behaving in a disorderly fashion may be punished by expulsion or censure. A two-thirds vote is necessary for expulsion, and a simple majority for censure.

The censure consists of escorting the offender to the House well. While he stands before the House, the speaker explains to him that he has violated the House rules.

Substitute Bill On Manpower Goes to Senate

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (UP).—The Kilgore substitute manpower bill, which authorizes the War Manpower Commission to fix labor ceilings in designated plants and areas and to regulate or prohibit the hiring of new workers over the ceilings was sent to the Senate yesterday by the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

The bill was amended at the last minute by a penalty provision for employers, introduced by Sen. Warren R. Austin (R-Vt.). Sen. Harley M. Kilgore (D-W. Va.) and Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.) voted against it, asserting the Austin amendment changed the voluntary principle of their bill.

The measure will be debated on the Senate floor Monday. If it is passed—and indications are that debate will be stormy—it will probably go to conference with a hostile House committee which is determined not to budge from the House-approved provisions of the May bill.

The Kilgore bill includes penalties ranging up to a year in prison and \$10,000 fine for employers who ignore the ceilings or who hire workers in violation of WMC directives. Farm workers deferred for agricultural duties and unfit for military service may also be punished with five years' imprisonment and \$10,000 fine if they leave the farms without consent of their draft boards.

All Quiet, or Almost, In Baby Kidnap Case

FORT WORTH, Tex., Feb. 23 (ANS).—The McGill baby kidnaping case ended yesterday with the acquittal of Mrs. Melba Branson, 19, on charges of abducting two-month-old Milly McGill, and the last-minute reconciliation of Milly's parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. McGill.

"We're going to take Milly and try it again," Mrs. McGill said. She added that the divorce petition she filed last Saturday would be dismissed.

District Attorney Al Clyde, however, declared he intended to prosecute a dependency petition filed by the state, which, if successful, would deprive the McGills of the custody of Milly and her 18-month-old half-brother.

Flying Boat Saves Six With Jet-Aided Take-Off

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (ANS).—A jet-assisted take-off by a Navy flying boat resulted in the rescue of six fliers downed in the Pacific near a Japanese base, the Navy reported.

A PBM Mariner landed in rough seas, picked up the men from life rafts, and then rose easily within a few seconds. Jet engine units which cut the plane's takeoff run from 33 to 60 percent were attached to the Mariner's wings.

Left Homeless After Alabama Tornado



In Montgomery, Ala., Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Levinshold and their three-month-old daughter sit atop their demolished home after a twister had struck the area. All three crawled out of the ruins without a scratch. The storm occurred Feb. 13.

Weather: U.S. Has Lots of It

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 23 (AP).—A forecast of fair weather brightened the outlook today in six southern states, where rivers, swollen by early thaws and heavy rains, inundated lowlands.

Meanwhile, minor flash floods that affected some cities were subsiding in Tennessee, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Texas. Creeks and rivers pounded at banks and crawled up to protecting levees. A lashing wind-storm swept east central Alabama yesterday, destroying or damaging nearly a dozen houses at Kellyton and causing lesser damage at Alexander City.

The season's heaviest snowfall covered sections of Iowa and reached 26.17 inches in the Red Oak area. Southeastern Nebraska had as much as 17 inches. Heavy snows also covered Missouri, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan. Elsewhere in the nation normal February weather prevailed and was expected to continue for the next few days.

Convict Killed In Escape Bid

SAN QUENTIN, Calif., Feb. 23 (ANS).—Alfred Cavazos' attempted prison break ended last night in his death in the prison hospital while a surgeon was removing a bullet in his intestines.

Cavazos, 39, was to have been executed today in the gas chamber for killing a San Francisco cab driver. Cavazos and two other men under death sentence—Djory Nagle, 33, and S. J. Kelso, 25—beat and stabbed Prison Guard W. A. Patterson while men in the death row were exercising in a jail corridor.

Other guards shot Cavazos and subdued Nagle and Kelso. Patterson's wounds were not serious.

Free Lots for Vets

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Feb. 23 (ANS).—A plan to give free building lots to veterans of the present war provided they were residents of the city before entering the service, received formal approval of the city council today. Veterans who apply must be able to qualify for building loans under the GI Bill of Rights.

Fifteen Cartons ARE a Lot

FORT MYERS, Fla., Feb. 23 (ANS).—A classified ad by a local real estate dealer offering to swap a lot in a swanky residential section for 15 cartons of cigarettes brought quick results.

Tom Phillips, broker, reported a line of customers waiting with the goods when he arrived at the office. Mrs. Rebecca Edwards, daughter of a cafe owner, was first in line and walked off with a deed to a 50 by 100-foot lot.

As to the time when the present supply of smokes will be exhausted, Phillips remarked, "I've got more lots than will-power."

'Toot Sweet' Express Carries the Mail

**Train Rates Top Priority
In Run from Port
To Forward Areas**

WITH ADVANCE SUPPLY HQ, Belgium.—Seven carloads of mail for front-line troops formed the greater part of the cargo of the "Toot Sweet" express, top-priority train which recently made a record run of 32 hours from Cherbourg to this point.

Most of the shipment received at the 25th Postal Regulating Station was made up of packages which usually reach ADSEC several days later than letter mail.

The express was formed to carry supplies urgently needed by units in forward areas. Ten-man labor teams unload each car within an hour and a half after arrival.

417th Inf. Div.

'Green' Outfit Proves Itself

WITH 417th INF. REGT.—A few weeks after leaving the States the 417th Inf. Regt., of the 76th Inf. Div., crossed the Sauer River and a few hours later was 1,600 feet deep in the Siegfried defenses.

These green troops crossed, in the dark, a river swollen 20 inches by melting snows. Despite the rushing water, the hail of Nazi machine-gun, mortar and periodic artillery fire, substantial numbers of troops soon reached German soil and began digging in.

They were cut off from contact with the rear except for a weakened radio which was used only for urgent messages and calls for artillery support. With no weapons heavier than light machine-guns and bazookas, the 417th withstood counter-attacks by two Nazi tanks in the morning and, with the aid of FA, was able to drive off 15 more later.

Engineers waged a heartbreaking struggle to build a bridge and had all but one section completed when a wild boat careened downstream and reduced it to debris.

16th Major Port

'Col. Hutchinson' Poses a Problem In Twin Identities

16th MAJOR PORT.—When you call the AG's office of the 16th Major Port, which operates a French supply point, and ask for "Col. Hutchinson," the stock answer is, "Which one?"

When P.C. Hutchinson, port assistant AG, was promoted from major, he attained rank equal to that of his twin, D.R., port AG.

The brothers grew up in Sturgis, Miss., attended Mississippi State College together and graduated in 1924 with reserve commissions and serial numbers 0-192715 and 0-192716.

D. R. makes his home at Hattiesburg, Miss., and P. C. at Memphis, Tenn.

U.S. Supply Forces

Garzia Boys Keep Mail Units in Whirl

WITH U.S. SUPPLY FORCES.—Life for Army postal clerks in France is just one Pfc Basil Garzia after another.

Three Pfc Basil Garzias are serving with units in France. As if that weren't enough to drive postal clerks crazy, the three are cousins and two of them have the same home town address.

Pfcs One and Two are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Garzia and Mr. and Mrs. John Garzia, of 92 Courland St., N. Tarrytown, N. Y. Number Three, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Garzia, lives at White Plains, N. Y.



Crewmen of the "Toot Sweet Express" receive final instructions from the railway battalion CO. Left to right, Cpl. Albert Judd, Portland, Me., flagman; T/5 Ruel L. Crutchfield, Mt. Sidney, Va., engineer; Lt. Col. Carl D. Love, Louisville, Ky., CO., and 2/Lt. C. P. Burks, Indianapolis, Ind., transportation inspector.

322nd Bomb GP.

Pilots, Gunners, MPs, Clerks Pitch In to Repair Airfield

By Bud Hutton and Andy Rooney
Stars and Stripes Staff Writers

WITH 322nd BOMB GP, Feb. 23.—The engineers said the field was deadlined, that no bombers would fly from it for 60 days, until the bomb-pocked runways had been rebuilt.

Five days later, when the pilots still in their pinks, gunners still wearing wings, and even the Old Man himself had blistered and caloused palms unfamiliar with a shovel's handle or the heft of a pick, the bombers took off from runways which wouldn't have been fit for another 55 days.

In the afternoon, after a raid on a rail center just east of the Rhine, the field engineer, Capt. Robert A. Coxe, of Chicago, told Col. John S. Samuel, of Hinsdale, Ill., the group commander, that the mission was the last this B26 outfit could fly from the field for two months.

When Ninth bombers were pounding German-held airfields last year they had hit this field, carving 30-foot craters in the landing strips. When the Germans were forced to leave the field, they planted explosives in the runways and gouged more holes in the concrete landing strips.

There were 105 bomb craters in the main runway, and because of the shortage of engineers and materials, Capt. Coxe estimated that it would take two full months to repair.

When the base engineer left his office Col. Samuel sent out a call to all squadron commanders. Every able body on the field or near it was to report to the perimeter track the next day for work.

Gunners, navigators, bombardiers and pilots who had been over Germany the day before turned out with shovels and picks. With them were the station military police, and the headquarters clerks and off-duty cooks.

Privates in the base aviation engineer battalion, dressed in well-worn fatigues, realized war-long dreams by directing "details" of officers and combat sergeants who had never shoveled anything but snow back home. Engineer corporals and privates had mud-spattered details of willing workers; men like Maj. Leslie A. Tenold, Seattle, a pilot and squadron ops officer; 1/Lt. James E. Cook, Detroit; T/Sgt. E. C. Smith, Los Angeles; Pfc Wilbur R. Brownell,

Barnes Corners, N.Y., an MP, and S/Sgt. Fred M. Marland, Minneapolis, a cook.

Before noon on the fifth day after Capt. Coxe had condemned the field for 60 days, Col. Samuel's group took off. Fifty B26s trundled down the runway, and lifted off the repaired strip and headed for Hottentots, Germany—55 days ahead of schedule.

The Four Horsemen Passed This Way



A Yank passes a flaming building in a newly taken German town. Artillery softened up the advance for the infantry.

35th Inf. Div.

Nazis Caution Yanks—'Americans Are Near'

WITH 35th INF. DIV.—Patrols from both sides were infiltrating behind the lines after nightfall and when 1/Lt. John A. Strader, of Los Altos, Calif., and S/Sgt. Arthur D. Knowles Jr., of Philadelphia, came upon a couple of shadowy forms digging in, they weren't sure of what to do next.

The diggers solved the problem. In German, they said: "Don't make so much noise. There are Americans around here."

Knowles, who speaks German, thanked them for the warning. Then he and the lieutenant captured the Nazi pair.

87th Inf. Div.

He Starts Battle Platoon Chief, Ends It as CO

WITH 87th INF. DIV., Feb. 23.—When the fight for the town started T/Sgt. Joseph Schaeztl, of Astoria, L.I., was an Acorn Div. platoon leader, but by the time the Germans were routed he was commanding the company.

German fire was heavy going into the town and when the men reached its edge they discovered that their CO was missing in action. Schaeztl took over, reorganized, and ordered an attack.

Sgt. Schaeztl doesn't recall too much about the fight, but he says he will always remember that wise-crack one of his squad leaders, Sgt. Raymond Cocannouer, of Portland, Ore., made when he stopped to remove a piece of shrapnel that had lodged inside his combat boot.

"The guy told me," Sgt. Schaeztl said, "that he never could walk with something in his shoe. And then he took off with me after the Jerries."

QM Unit Awarded Star To Meritorious Plaque

WITH FOURTH INF. DIV.—Award of the Star to the Meritorious Service Unit Plaque marks the second time within a year that the Fourth QM Co. has been decorated.

The company received the plaque "for superior performance of exceptionally difficult tasks."

30th Inf. Div.

Hobbs Honors Eight Units of 30th Division

WITH 30th INF. DIV.—Eight units, including three battalions, of this division have been cited for honors in the Battle of France by Maj. Gen. L. S. Hobbs, division commander.

Units honored are: First Bn., 117th Inf.; Second Bn., 120th Inf.; Co. K, 120th Inf.; First Platoon, Anti-Tank Co., 120th Inf.; Second Platoon, Anti-Tank Co., 120th Inf.; Co. A, 823rd TD Bn.; Co. B, 823rd TD Bn.; and 743rd Tank Bn.

For all the units except the 743rd Tank Bn. the honors were won in the battle of Mortain-St. Barthelmy where the 30th halted the Germans' attempt, during the week of Aug. 7-13, to drive to the sea at Avranches and split the Allied forces in France.

The 743rd was cited for its D-Day work on the Normandy beaches. The Second Bn. of the 120th Inf., with Co. K attached, was isolated for five and a half days on Hill 314 but refused to surrender.

Field Commissions

FOX, M/SGT. JOHN L., of Springfield, Ill.; ROHERIG, T/SGT. JOSEPH, Little Village, N.Y.; VAN SLYCKE, W/O EUGENE, Arlington, Va., and WHITE, M/SGT. LESTER A., Mattapoisett, Mass. (Transportation Corps). THOMAS, I/SGT. ARTHUR L., Landsdale, Pa. (33rd Sig. Construction Bn.).

Service Crosses

BATES, PVT. CARLTON C., Flint, Mich.; FLYNN, SGT. MILO J., Breed, Wis.; GARMAN, PVT. HAROLD, Albion, Ill.; GERRIE, CAPT. JACK S., Ripon, Wis.; GUGALA, S/SGT. KONSTANTY, Detroit; HEINZELMAN, S/SGT. RICHARD F., Waukesha, Wis.; HUGHES, CPL. VINCENT J., Chicago; LEMMON, LT. COL. KELLEY B., Kalamazoo, Mich.; PETERSON, T/SGT. LLOYD N., Eau Claire, Wis.; PRYANSKI, PFC JOSEPH, Bristol, Conn., and REX, SGT. DALE, Randolph, Utah (Fifth Inf. Div.).

Silver Star

CAMPBELL, S/SGT. WILLIAM, Pittsburgh; ELLIS, T/5 ZENO H., St. Louis, and PAINTER, CAPT. WILLIAM C., Cabot, Pa. (452nd AAA Auto Wpns Bn., Mbl.). BAILEY, PFC MUIRL E., Tipton, W. Va.; DISLEY, PVT. SAUL J., Winthrop, Mass.; DIXON, I/LT. JOHN, Homestead, Pa.; GOOLSBY, CAPT. LONNIE L., Canton, Miss.; GOTTI, PFC RICHARD J., Redondo Beach, Calif.; HIGGINS, S/SGT. EVERETT F., Everett, Wash.; KESNER, T/SGT. JAMES F., Manhattan, Kan.; MARZANO, I/LT. GALLO J., Los Angeles; NOEL, S/SGT. JACKS S.; RYSNIK, 2/LT. LESTER S., Hillsboro, N.C.; STEM, PVT. WILLIAM E., El Monte, Calif. (11th Armd. Div.). WHITE, PFC WILLARD W., West Point, Tenn. (Co. B, A TD Bn.).

103rd PMM Co.

9 Yanks Call Drydock Home

WITH 103rd PORT MARINE MAINTENANCE CO.—When they sing "There's No Place Like Home," nine men of the this port maintenance company refer to a dwelling 20 feet under the surface of a French port.

Their home is a ten-room chateau in the side of a drydock which is under water when it carries a ship displacing up to 300 tons. Included are a galley, shower room, storeroom, four bedrooms and a lavatory. A machine shop, which includes two drill presses, an air compressor, two generators and arc and acetylene welding equipment, occupies the other side of the dock.

The men were assigned to the drydock in England and came across the Channel in it.

The Hot and the Cold

WITH 757th RY. SHOP BN.—The men of the 757th Ry. Shop Bn. have constructed more than 300 pot-bellied GI stoves for units near the front lines. They have also erected and installed ice-cream freezers for a number of hospital trains.

After-Action Report

Footnotes on a Battle:
The Colonel Tells a Few

By James Cannon
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH 301st REGT. of 94TH INF. DIV., Feb. 23.—On the road that bent around the hill and up into the town which this regiment took today, a German soldier lay dead on his back in a wheelbarrow, arms dangling in the mud. Many more were in the fields and they would be the only crop planted this spring, because the farmers were long gone.

Col. Roy N. Hagerty, who has many home towns but believes Lubbock, Tex., is the closest to being right, was smoking a big cigar and carrying a horn-handled yellow cane that once belonged to a Nazi regimental commander. He was feeling good because the outfit had reached the Saar and two-thirds of the Saar-Mosel triangle had been cleared. And he had a new cane for his collection.

Squad Took Care of Six Pieces

"There were six field pieces on that hill," he said, pointing with the cane that is carved so that it resembles a twisted strand of taffy. "But they are not there any more. One squad took care of them. Just one squad, used marching fire on them and knocked them out one at a time, going from one to the other. They were Russian pieces the Germans were using, but they aren't using them any more."

The colonel took off his helmet and he was wearing a tight blue beret under it. Down the muddy village street a medic who wore a high silk hat and a swallow-tailed frock coat played "Tangerine" on a harmonica.

"There was another hill we had to take," he said, "but we ran into a big mine field. Eight hundred yards long and 100 feet deep. The company knew it was there and they were out of primacord. They would have to wait to blow those mines out, but they had to take the hill at daylight and the night was almost over. So they said 'to hell with it,' and attacked right through that mine field. They took that hill by daylight but they lost a lot of feet doing it."

Story of the Corporal and the BG

"Did you hear about the corporal and the one-star general," the colonel asked, and laughed.

"The general was making an inspection tour and he came out of a CP and stopped near a machine-gun. The people with the general stopped too, and they made a little crowd around the corporal. The corporal didn't know it was a general and I guess he was sore as hell.

"Hey, you," the corporal yelled, "get away from that gun. Do you want to draw fire and get a lot of these guys killed?"

"What did the general do?" someone asked.

"He looked at the corporal," the colonel said, "and he got out of there. I'm looking for the corporal now. I want to promote him."

Up the road German prisoners were dragging logs in the warm afternoon.

"Those Jerries spent all night building that road block," the colonel said. "We captured them—now they are spending all day tearing it down."

A Pfc watched the colonel walk down the street, swinging his cane. "The old man sure is in a good mood today," the Pfc said.

Nazi Held in Atrocities to Reds
Tries Suicide in Aachen Leap

By John B. McDermott
United Press Correspondent

AACHEN, Feb. 23.—Johan Dell, 52 years old, charged with atrocities against Russian prisoners of war, yesterday shouted, "May God strike me dead if I am not telling you the truth," wrestled away from his guards and leaped from the fourth floor of the military prison here. He is not expected to live.

Dell had been superintendent of the Eschweiler coal mines and had been appointed town mayor by the Nazis. His brother Wilhelm was a assistant superintendent of the mines.

When the Americans took over Eschweiler in November the Dell brothers were charged with atrocities to Russian prisoners who were enslaved in the mines—the first time such charges were made on the West Front.

At Eschweiler today a gray-haired Jewish cemetery caretaker told military investigators that the Germans had buried 70 naked Russian bodies in his graveyard, mostly victims of "death in the coalmines."

Other German civilians who worked in the mines had told of beatings and lashings given the half-starved Russians.

"The guards made the Russian prisoners dig graves and dump the bodies of former comrades into them. Then they piled dirt on them and took the coffins away for more miners," the old man said.

He said the prisoners were not allowed to make crosses or grave-stones for their comrades. The only sign permitted on the grave was a wooden board on which the Germans wrote the dead man's name.

WMC Places 300,000

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (ANS).—The War Manpower Commission assigned jobs to some 300,000 physically handicapped workers last year, Chairman McNutt reported today.

Veterans of this war were among those placed but WMC said there is no record of how many.

First Revises
U.S. Furloughs

FIRST ARMY HQ., Feb. 23.—More than 100 soldiers of the First Army are going home in March for 30-day furloughs under a new policy, which gives preference to soldiers with extended overseas and combat service.

The new policy supersedes the previous plan instituted in December which gave preference to soldiers twice decorated and twice hospitalized for wounds. A total of 670 men went home from the First Army under that system.

The new program gives preference to divisions and units attached to divisions. Quotas are based on length of service overseas by actual reports from commanding officers. There will be an additional allocation for those who have less time overseas but have been in combat for long periods.

Riot Reported in Frankfurt

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (AP).—A routine Gestapo arrest of a river sailor and his wife at Frankfurt-on-Main, western Germany, caused a waterfront strike accompanied by hunger riots and demonstrations against political arrests, the Stockholm newspaper Svenska Morgensbladet said in an article reported by OWI.

Scenes from the Historic Big Three Conference at Yalta



The Big Three—Marshal Stalin, President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill—are shown at the Crimea conference table. At the President's

right are Secretary of State Stettinius and Admiral Leahy. Anthony Eden is standing behind Churchill, in right of picture.



In photo above, left to right: Admiral E. J. King, Admiral William Leahy, President Roosevelt and General Marshall, in conference aboard a warship.

Iwo Jima . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

both flanks of the American troops inching their way toward the airfield, which is on a plateau. One enemy attack apparently was repulsed, but there was no report on the other—made against the American right flank.

American artillery and the guns of U.S. warships off Iwo poured withering fire into enemy positions. Japanese air strength appeared to be reviving after last week's powerful attacks by American carrier planes against Japanese airfields in the Tokyo area.

One small group of enemy planes attacked U.S. shipping near Iwo yesterday, and two other small groups approached the Iwo area. American fighters and anti-aircraft fire downed six Japanese planes.

Conditions Improved

Adm. Nimitz reported that "conditions on the beaches were generally improved and a substantial quantity of supplies was unloaded."

Vice-Adm. John H. Hoover, Commander of Forward Areas in the Central Pacific, who watched the invasion of Iwo from a warship, disclosed that for a time on Monday "our position on the beach appeared doomed." He said "it was touch and go."

North of Iwo, in the Bonin Islands, Liberator bombers attacked Chichi Jima and Haha Jima on Tuesday. Other Liberators hit Marcus Island and pounded Paramushiro, in the Kuriles.

Paramushiro was bombarded by American warships on Monday and Tuesday—the first two days of the Iwo invasion. Kurabu Saki was the target.

Nazis Change System
Of Soldier Identification

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 22 (AP).—The whole system of soldier identification has been revised by the German Army, according to the Berlin correspondent of the Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter. Observers believe that this radical change after five years of war may be a precaution against desertions which unconfirmed reports say are occurring in increasing numbers.



Commissar of Foreign Affairs Molotov, center, and Russian Army representatives greeting President Roosevelt on his arrival at the Yalta conference.

Wages Top List of Problems
Facing President on Return

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (ANS).—President Roosevelt will come home from the Crimea conference to a desk full of problems, and one of the toughest will be what to do about wages.

Labor leaders were putting pressure on him just before he left to let worker earnings climb through the 15 percent ceiling imposed by the Little Steel formula, and it will be resumed soon after his return. The War Labor Board public-industry majority report published today recommends no change in the formula, and this means labor will carry its fight to the White House just as soon as it can get an appointment.

Delayed Own Action

Before he left, Roosevelt told both CIO and AFL heads he would postpone action on their request that wages be tied to fluctuating living costs until WLB made its report. Now the decision is up to him.

That is only one of the many domestic and foreign questions he will find in his "incoming" file.

Among others will be the George bill, carving out of the Department of Commerce the lending agencies Congress has decided must go before the Senate passes on Henry

Wallace's nomination to head the department. The President has already said he will sign the measure.

Another question is whether to put in a further plug for the May bill covering limited national service, as rewritten by the Senate Military Affairs Committee. The Chief Executive has repeatedly appealed for this type of legislation.

In the foreign field he will find as "firsts" on his calendar:

1—A report on his Crimea mission.

2—Preparations for the United Nations World Security Conference, set for April 25 at San Francisco.

Red Officers Received
U.S. Medals in Crimea

MOSCOW, Feb. 23 (AP).—President Roosevelt awarded U.S. military decorations to eight Soviet officers, including the Red Army Chief of Staff and the commander of the Red Air Force, during the Crimea conference.

The Legion of Merit, degree of chief commander, was bestowed upon Marshal Vasilevsky and Air Marshal Novikov.

Covering GI Sports

HQ NINTH BOMBARDMENT DIVISION.—Exploding in the second half like bombs of their B26 namesakes, the Marauders—fast-stepping quintet representing a headquarters squadron—soared into a sectional championship with a 51-23 win over a Signal Corps team.

The Marauders now point for the final championship tournament which pits teams from Marauder, Invader and Havoc bomb groups in a court argument that will decide Bomber Division entry into the Ninth Air Force tournament to be held in Paris Mar. 26-28.

Marauders	GFP	Signals	GFP
Carson, f.....	4 0 8	Forster, f.....	0 0 0
Petrocholis, f.....	3 1 17	Wagner, f.....	1 0 2
Kneuber, c.....	1 0 2	Green, c.....	4 1 9
Fox, g.....	4 2 10	Prokop, g.....	0 0 0
Spillain, g.....	5 0 10	Tariska, g.....	3 0 6
Cassidy, g.....	0 0 0	Del Simone, f 1 1 3	
Masarsky, g.....	0 0 0	Erdie, g.....	0 1 1
Viglione, g.....	0 0 0	Flowers, f.....	0 0 0
Sleer, g.....	2 0 4	Schrya, g.....	1 0 2

Totals...24 3 51 Totals...10 3 23

NORMANDY BASE SECTION, HQ.—The Quartermaster All-Stars defeated the Signal Corps, 51-47 in an overtime period to snap a two-year winning streak racked up by the Signal unit. The Navy defeated the Engineers in the second game of a twin bill, 36-29. Fleming, center for the Quartermaster team, was high with 20 points, while Johnson, a forward for the Signal Corps, dumped in the same number.

OISE SECTION HQ.—The 1313th Engineer's basketball team defeated the 55th QM here, 30-22, with Pfc Ernest Miller, of Brooklyn, pouring in 14 points for the Engineers. Cpl. Frank Novatny, of Chicago, tallied six points to lead QM scorers.

A basketball league formed by the 7 1 AAA AW Bn. is in full swing. Standings of the loop are as follows:

W L Pct.	W L Pct.
"B" Battery 5 1 .833	"D" Battery 2 3 .400
Officers..... 5 1 .833	"A" Battery 0 5 .000
Hq Battery, 3 2 .600	"C" Battery 0 5 .000
255th S/L..... 3 4 .429	

ROUEN.—Pfc Eddie Carrell, New York heavyweight, won the feature match of a U.S.-British-French soldier fight show before a crowd of 3,500 GI spectators when he scored a first round TKO over Pvt. Leo Klotz, of Milmont Park, Pa. Carroll dropped Klotz three times in less than two minutes before the referee halted the fight. Twelve bouts were staged, with U.S. and British soldier-boxers in five apiece and French fighters in two bouts.

THE QUESTION BOX

Pvt. Jerry Szczepaniak.—The 1934 St. Louis Cards had Jimmy Collins, lb; Frank Frisch and Burgess Whitehead, 2b; Leo Durocher, ss.; Pepper Martin, 3b.; Joe Medwick, Ernie Orsatti, John Rothrock, outfielders, with Virgil Davis, Bill DeLancey and Francis Healey, catchers. 2. Schoolboy Rowe retired 22 consecutive batters from 4th inning until one out in the 11th, Oct. 4, 1934, World Series game won by Detroit over Cards, 3-2, in 12 innings.

S/Sgt. William H. Matthews.—Stanford defeated Nebraska, 21-13, in the 1941 Rose Bowl game.

Pfc James George.—If a pitcher is knocked out of the box in the first inning with his team out in front, 5-4, and the game is won by that score, the relief pitcher is invariably given credit for the win by the official scorer, who pitches eight scoreless innings. A pitcher can win or lose a ball game on one pitch. The number of innings a pitcher must work before he gets credit for a win or charged with a defeat, remains up to the judgment of the official scorer.

Pfc Robert Purpura.—The actual seating capacity of Comiskey Park is 49,000. The largest crowd to pack the park was 54,125 when the Yankees played the White Sox, May 19, 1933.

Cpl. Woody Brown.—Football scores: 1931: Tennessee 25, Duke 2; 1932: Tennessee 16, Duke 13; 1933: Duke 10, Tennessee 2; 1934: Tennessee 14, Duke 6; 1935: Duke 19, Tennessee 6; 1936: Tennessee 15, Duke 13; 1937: Scoreless tie; 1940: Tennessee 13, Duke 0; 1941: Duke 19, Tennessee 0. Tennessee All-Americans: McEver, Dodd, Hickman, Feathers, Wyatt, Cafego, Suffridge, Molinski, Fox, Shires, Dobelstein. Duke All-Americans: Crawford, Went, Parkes, Hackney, Brunansky, Hill, Tipton, McAfee, Ruffa, Lach, Karmazin, Gantt and Preston Milner.



Ninth's Teams In Semifinals

The 16th Air Defense Group defeated the 925th Signal Bn., 51-42, and the Headquarters' team trimmed the 42nd Service Group, 58-47, last night to reach the semifinals in the Ninth Air Force Service Command basketball tournament, now in progress at Japy Gym, Paris.

Two games are scheduled this afternoon with the consolation and championship final tonight, beginning at 7:30 PM.

Three games were played in the afternoon. Sullivan's Raiders defeated First Transport Group, 44-31; Sgt. Clarence Randolph sank a one-handed long shot in the final nine seconds to enable 1586th QM to defeat Ninth Service Group, 43-32, and First IDG eliminated 45th ADG, 36-32.

Hqs.	GFP	42nd S.G.	GFP
Comitz, f.....	7 3 17	Pfaff, f.....	4 4 12
Wilson, f.....	8 7 23	MacLain, f.....	2 0 4
Risinger, c.....	6 0 12	Massengill, f 1 0 2	
Weksler, g.....	1 1 3	Dau, c.....	3 2 8
Gerlach, g.....	1 0 2	Cote, g.....	3 1 7
Blaine, g.....	0 1 1	Dietze, g.....	3 2 8
		Silver, g.....	2 0 4
		Tranney, g.....	1 0 2

Totals...23 12 58 Totals...19 4 47

9th Sv. Gp	GFP	1586th QM	GFP
Budge, f.....	7 3 17	Randolph, f.....	5 1 11
Verner, f.....	0 0 0	Jennings, f.....	6 0 12
Schwab, f.....	0 0 0	Thomas, c.....	6 2 14
Marquez, f.....	0 0 0	Dawkins, g.....	0 0 0
Bissmeyer, c.....	3 1 7	Davis, g.....	3 0 6
Shapiro, g.....	5 0 10	Ramsey, g.....	0 0 0
Fischer, g.....	3 2 8		
Coranto, g.....	0 0 0		

Totals...18 6 42

Transport	GFP	Raiders	GFP
Shortridge, f.....	4 2 10	Schlitter, f.....	3 2 8
Young, f.....	0 0 0	Eagan, f.....	6 1 12
Eldred, f.....	3 2 8	Ross, f.....	1 3 5
Stibor, f.....	0 0 0	Smith, f.....	0 0 0
Dahlstrom, c.....	2 0 4	Petit, c.....	5 0 10
Smith, g.....	1 1 3	Champion, c.....	0 0 0
Bailey, g.....	0 0 0	McKay, g.....	4 1 9
Dowell, g.....	1 1 3	Donaldson, g.....	0 0 0
Marshall, g.....	1 1 3	Radich, g.....	0 0 0

Totals...12 7 31 Totals...19 6 44

45th AGD	GFP	First IDG	GFP
Langard, f.....	2 0 4	Robbins, f.....	2 0 4
McElroy, f.....	0 1 1	Kattingell, f.....	6 0 12
Redenbaugh, f.....	0 0 0	Teyro, f.....	2 1 5
Largest, c.....	2 2 6	Barrett, c.....	0 0 0
McMillan, g.....	7 2 16	Kilskiski, g.....	3 0 6
McMillan, g.....	2 1 5	McGahanan, g.....	4 1 9

Totals...13 6 32 Totals...17 2 36

CAGE RESULTS

American 60, Lowell Textile 50. Assumption 59, Canisius 43. Buckley Field 68, Fort Logan 31. Delaware 38, Gallaudet 37. Florida Aggies 57, Xavier 41. Fort Riley 57, Wenter Hosp. 43. Johns Hopkins 39, Loyola (Balt.) 27. Loyola (Chi.) 54, Army Ord. 30. N. Car. 52, N. Car State 28. Okla. Aggies 23, Oklahoma 17. Otterbein 67, Ashland 40. Phillips Oilers 64, Drake 39. S. Car. 55, Clemson 24.

Demaret Wins Golf Preview

PENSACOLA, Fla., Feb. 23.—Jimmy Demaret, of Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, won the pro-amateur prelude to the \$6,500 War Bond Open golf tournament here yesterday with a 65 which, with the help of his partner, R. V. Coe, of the same station, was lowered to 64 in the best ball play.

Chick Rutan, of Birmingham, Mich., and Ed Furgol, of Detroit, were next with 65, tied with Albin Buckholz, of Mobile, Ala., and Bill Powell, of Laurel, Miss.

Eighty players, 52 pros and 28 amateurs, will start the 72-hole tournament tomorrow.

Lambeau Drops Trafton As Green Bay Coach

GREEN BAY, Wis., Feb. 23.—Curly Lambeau, coach of the Green Bay Packers, world professional football champions, announced today the club, because of wartime conditions, was forced to drop Line Coach George "Brute" Trafton from its staff. Trafton, former member of the Chicago Bears, coached the Packer forward wall last year under a one-year contract, and did an excellent job according to Lambeau.

Waits for Leg Man



Miss Dorothy Nortier, engaged to wed Gunder Haegg, famed Swedish distance runner, said she expects their wedding day to be set when Haegg calls her from New York. Haegg's now en route to the States. Meanwhile, Dorothy's hangin' on.

Once Over Lightly

By Gene Graff

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Two former National Hockey League stars, currently leading their teams toward the division titles and playoffs in the American Hockey League, are the erstwhile bad man and defense ace of the Boston Bruins, Eddie Shore, directing the Buffalo Bisons toward the Eastern section crown, and Bun Cook, doing likewise with the Cleveland Barons in the west.

Cook, a member of the New York Rangers' immortal Cook-Boucher line of the early 1930s, has molded fighting, fast-skating youngsters into a smooth hockey squad and the Barons zoomed from third place to the front position last week. Now they're safely entrenched ahead of Indianapolis, Pittsburgh and St. Louis. Shore's athletes also enjoy a comfortable lead over Hershey and Providence in the other bracket. If and when Cook succeeds in steering his team to the AHL pennant he will equal the record of the late Frank Carroll, only coach to win the title three times.

SHORE'S experience at crashing through from his defense position to score or set up plays for his mates happens to be paying dividends at Buffalo. One of his defensemen, Roger Bedard, husky fellow who handles himself like Shore did in his prime, already has tied the league record for the number of assists made by a defenseman—he collected his 33rd a week ago against St. Louis—and still has several games to go. The record was established two years ago by Roger "Broadway" Jenkins, of Hershey.

THERE is a nip-and-tuck duel being offered to fans these days by quintets in the American Basketball League, Eastern professional conference. At present the colorful Philadelphia Sphas boast a half-game advantage over Trenton's Tigers. Far behind, lag Wilmington, Baltimore, New York and Paterson, N.J., in that order. The Sphas vaulted to the front by handcuffing Mike Bloom and his Trenton mates, 46-37, but the Tigers regained their stride a couple of nights later to dump Baltimore as their star marksman found the range for seven buckets.

Ruppert Fishing Prize Won by Florida Angler

MIAMI, Fla., Feb. 23.—Arthur G. Penman, of Nephew Beach, Fla., received the \$250 first prize in the annual George Ruppert fishing contest for the outstanding angling achievement of 1944, it was announced by the award committee today. Penman landed a 125-pound tarpon on a 15-pound test nylon line to grab the prize.

A world's record was set in the sea trout division by A. Weisbacker, of Egg Harbor, N.J., who caught a 17-pound, eight-ounce catch in New Jersey.

Clapper Hockey's Iron Man

BOSTON, Feb. 23.—Every sport has iron men, but hockey differs from other major sports by having only one outstanding player for the ironman title. He is Dit Clapper, of the Boston Bruins, who celebrated his 38th birthday a week ago.

Durable Dit insists he is good for at least two more years, which would give him the all-time record of 20 years of service.

"I guess I'll stick around for the duration," remarked the player-coach, who has been active in National Hockey League circles for almost as long as three clubs. Clapper entered National Hockey League play in 1927, one year after the Rangers, Black Hawks and Red Wings acquired franchises. Clapper and Reginald "Hooley" Smith, who retired three years ago, are the only players in the history of hockey to play for 18 consecutive years.

"The game is slower with so many stars in the services of both the United States and Canada," Clapper pointed out. "I'm not kidding myself at all. If it weren't for that, I'd probably be doing my

Rangers Beat Wings, Creep Up on Bruins

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—The New York Rangers put on a four-goal spurt in the first period to defeat the Detroit Red Wings, 5-3, before 13,000 at the Garden last night and moved to

National Hockey League

W L T Pts	W L T Pts
Montreal...32 5 4 68	Boston...14 25 2 30
Detroit...25 12 4 54	New York...10 23 8 28
Toronto...19 19 2 40	Chicago...9 25 6 24

within two points of fourth place in the National Hockey League.

Jack Mann, who has been playing with "amateurs" in the afternoons and the Rangers at night, was the leading light of the first period rally with one goal and two assists. Guy Labrie scored two goals and Walter Atanas scored the other one in the opening period.

In the final period the Red Wings came to life and drilled home three straight goals before the Rangers could score again. Murray Armstrong scored on a pass from Earl Seibert, Jud McAtee scored on a solo flight and Carl Liscombe tallied on a pass from Flash Hollett before Ab DeMarco skated through alone with 1:30 remaining for the Rangers' final score.

GI in Naples Told Best Baseball Lie

NEW YORK, Feb. 23.—Tom Meany, sportswriter on the New York newspaper, PM, took Washington's Birthday as the occasion to print the biggest lie he's heard in years.

Meany, recently returned from a tour of the Mediterranean war zone with Leo Durocher and Joe Medwick, tells of a GI, 48 years old, in Naples who claimed to be Burleigh Grimes, former major league spitball pitcher, now piloting Rochester of the International League. This character was down in Army rolls as Burley Grimes, which he insisted was the correct spelling of his name. His outfit had a ball game scheduled one day so they gave him a uniform and told him he was to pitch. The company commander was horrified when Grimes started warming up lefthanded.

"I pitched righthanded in the National League so long," he told his boss with a straight face, "that I wore my arm out and now I have to pitch with my left arm."

Coast Loop Had Vision

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23.—Clarence "Pants" Rowland, president of the Pacific Coast League, says his loop is far ahead of the ODT, which has requested baseball teams to cut their travel 25 percent.

"We are the only league that plays a seven-game series and I'd say this practice saves almost 50 percent of our ordinary travelling," Rowland said.

coaching from the bench right now. My legs aren't what they used to be, but my noggin' tells me where to go and what to do when I get there."

He is optimistic about hockey's postwar prospects, particularly the possibility of plane travel.

"Plane travel will allow fellows to get their sleep even on hops like Chicago to New York. They'll be able to skate out on the ice fresh every time. Since the war, traveling has been the toughest part of the game."

After 18 years of oody cnecks, Clapper feels qualified to choose an all-star team. His choices are, Milt Schmidt, center; Harvey "Busher" Jackson and Bill Cook on the wings; Earl Siebert and Eddie Shore, defense; and Tiny Thompson, goalie.



Comment by Pvt. George Hargett when he first read the announcement of the Big Three meetings: "Now that the Russians have their meat grinder going, the three 'Big Boys' are going to get together to chew the fat."

It must be the Navy influence. A brand new pfc writes that he is now an "NCO (jg)."

Latest report on the once famous gum-chum racket: Cpl. C. Little sez a youngster in Southern England approached him and quipped, "You know, chum, I've graduated from gum—have you any Philadelphia cream cheese?"

Daffynition: A wolf is a maiden's prayer.

Who said that? It takes a baby about two years to learn how to



talk and it takes a man 40 years to learn how to keep his mouth shut.

Fashion note: Sweater girls are observed in the best places.

The ten longest years of a woman's life are from 28 to 30.

Our fan-mail department. Hashmarks received one Valentine. It went like this:

Roses are red, violets are blue, Rain on the roof reminds me of you—drip, drip, drip.

T/S Charles Lee suggests a new



name for MPs. He sez why not call them "Yank Retrievers?"

Unconditional surrender song: "All or Nothing at All."

GI philosophy: It isn't what a girl knows that bothers us—it's how she learned it.

According to Hill Henes, a recent spot-check reveals the Navy's most exciting drink is "port" wine. J. C. W.



Table with radio program schedules for TODAY and TOMORROW, including times and program names like '1200-News', '1815-U.S. Army Band', etc.

Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features



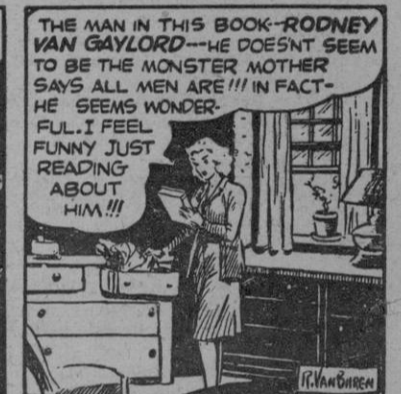
Terry and The Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate



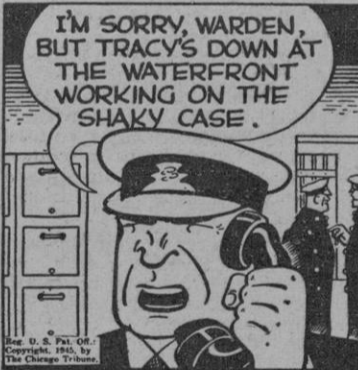
Abbie an' Slat

By Courtesy of United Features



Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune Syndicate, Inc.



Blondie

By Courtesy of King Features Syndicate



Births

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

List of names and dates for births, including Nancy B., Raymond R. Bernauer, etc.

Help Wanted - AND GIVEN

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

FOUND: AMERICAN Express traveler's checks endorsed Cpl. Marie E. Hanan. Capt. J. F. N. Dennard. BRACELETS belonging to: Earl Cooper, etc.

Identify by giving serial number. Sgt. Ira S. Nesbitt. BRACELETS belonging to: L. Arthur Zedaker. Pfc E. J. Eaton. BRACELETS belonging to: Robert Razes, etc.

Don't Look Now, For Jane Is Lost

Jane, you will notice, is not down there where she is supposed to be. In that castle. Don't know whether a spook snatched her, or if she got lost in the wine-cellar, or under the bed. It's just one of those things that happen in castles, and on this newspaper occasionally. Please be tolerant—we'll get her back soon and sooner, wearing lesser and lesser.

Stettinius Tells Mexico Parley Of U.S. Aims

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 23.—Two wars have taught the U.S. that war must be stopped at whatever point it appears in the world, Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius declared today in outlining five basic objectives of American foreign policy to the delegates of the Inter-American conference.

Stettinius devoted his address—his first major speech since becoming Secretary of State—to a review of the accomplishments of the Crimea Conference. President Roosevelt felt that the results of the Crimea meeting "greatly advanced" these objectives of American foreign policy, Stettinius told the delegates.

These were the objectives:

- 1—The earliest possible defeat of Japan and Germany.
 - 2—Control of Japan and Germany so that neither state can ever again have the military and industrial capacity to make war.
 - 3—The right of all peoples to choose their own form of government, as stated in the Crimean declaration on liberated Europe.
 - 4—The establishment of a world organization to insure peace, by force if necessary.
 - 5—The determination to wage war, together with the other United Nations, "with equal vigor and unity against hunger, poverty, ignorance and disease."
- Stettinius did not mention Argentina, despite the fact that Argentina presents one of the most critical questions before the conference.

Yanks Mop Up On Capul Isle

MANILA, Feb. 23 (ANS)—Yanks of the Americal Div. mopped up Japanese troops today on little Capul Island, off the southern tip of Luzon, after a new Philippines landing intended to clear a shipping lane from the United States to Manila.

Gen. MacArthur, in announcing that the landing had been made on Wednesday, said that the American force, a part of the U.S. Eighth Army, had encountered only light Japanese opposition.

Capul lies in San Bernardino Strait, between Luzon and Samar Island. MacArthur said that Capul "is the key to the straits through which passes the main navigation route to Manila Bay from the United States."

Last October units of the Japanese Imperial Fleet steamed through San Bernardino Strait in a futile attempt to eliminate the American beachhead on Leyte Island, just south of Samar.

Capul is 260 miles from Manila, where U.S. troops are still engaged in a bitter fight against the stubbornly-resisting remnants of the Japanese garrison.

In the southern part of the city, Yanks now hold the City Hall, the Manila Hotel and all of the General Postoffice except the basement.

The town of Muntinlupa was reached by Yank units driving along the west coast of Laguna de Bay, southeast of Manila, to prevent trapped Japanese troops from escaping by barge.

On Corregidor, Americans hurled liquid fire and explosives at Japanese units isolated in caves and tunnels.

UNRRA to Consider Easing of Limitations

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (AP).—The four-power central committee of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration will meet Monday to consider a recommendation providing "limited supplies for emergency welfare needs" to France, Belgium, the Netherlands and other so-called "paying" countries.

Heretofore, UNRRA's by-laws had prevented it from sending supplies to "paying" countries, which supposedly deal directly with outside governments on cash-credit basis.

Three Navy Heroes of Bataan Back in U.S.

Naval Officers Feted By San Francisco

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 23 (ANS).—Three American Naval officers, first of the heroes of Bataan to reach the U.S., were the toast of San Francisco today as they prepared to rejoin their families after three years as prisoners of the Japanese.

The men, rescued from Cabatuan and flown to San Francisco, arrived in the vanguard of those liberated from the Philippines to find a civic reception awaiting them. First they telephoned their families.

Lt. Emmet Manson, 38, dental officer wounded at Corregidor and emaciated by hunger and beriberi, heard his five-year-old son Frank, in Worthington, Minn., speak for the first time. Lt. Earl G. Baumgardner, whose wife, Ethel, lives at Yonkers, N.Y., and Lt. George W. Green were the other two officers to arrive.



Lt. James McLure, 28, of Los Angeles, two years a prisoner of the Japs in the Philippines after the fall of Corregidor, hugs his niece, Judy Anderson, three, as he tells of the barbarities of the prison camp and how he escaped. He arrived in L.A. via airliner.

First and Ninth Start Offensive

(Continued from Page 1)

apparent water barrier facing Simpson's men before the Rhine is the tributary Erft River, a stream about 13 miles east of the Roer.

In the skies above the two-army attack, 400 medium and light bombers of the Ninth Air Force smashed road intersections north and east of Duren between the Roer and Cologne. More than 900 fighter-bombers of the 29th and 19th TACs blasted the way across the river for assault doughs of the two armies.

The crossings were made quickly after the Roer River had subsided back into its channel in some places and floods which had pooled to 550 feet in others receded to 250 feet.

Cross in Assault Boats

Infantrymen swarmed across the barrier river in assault boats, some of which were carried downstream by the current, which was three to four knots an hour.

Germans had fortified the stream with poles, pipes, underwater wire and floating plastic mines.

Troops which swarmed across the river were officially reported making satisfactory progress. Resistance at first was not too heavy. It had been softened by an intense artillery barrage which in the Ninth Army sector lasted 45 minutes.

Nazis fought advancing Americans with mortar and automatic weapons, but German artillery was lighter than expected.

American doughs were driven toward the main body of enemy troops and heavier defenses erected since the fall of Aachen.

In addition to assault boats, Americans crossed the river in ducks and alligators while engineers threw infantry bridges across despite the swiftness of the current.

Meanwhile, German reports claimed that the American forces had established three bridgeheads across the Roer at Birkesdorf, northern suburb of Duren, and at Selgersdorf and Gevenich. The Nazis said that "incredibly fierce fighting" was raging between Roermond and Aachen.

The German commentators said that the offensive was regarded as the beginning of the decisive phase of the war aimed at the annihilation of Germany planned at Yalta "on Russian lines," and that new onslaughts by the Red Army could be expected any moment.

Third Army Sector

In the Third Army sector, all of the Saar-Mosel triangle was cleared and Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's men were advancing into the broader triangular areas formed by the Mosel and Rhine.

North of the Mosel, a narrow escape gap remained for German troops being encircled by two Third Army divisions whose leading elements yesterday were six miles apart.

U.S. Third Army's 94th Inf. Div. drove a third assault crossing of the Saar River north of Saarburg yesterday, while other troops of the

77 West Front Medics To Be Repatriated

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The first noncombatant troops repatriated in this war—77 Medical Department officers and men released by Germany—will arrive early in March at Charleston, S.C., from Marseilles.

The War Department explained today that noncombatants are "protected" personnel who are not treated as prisoners of war and are repatriated as quickly as conditions permit.

Although the 77 are travelling on a hospital ship, the War Department said all are in good health and none will require hospital treatment. Upon arrival they will be sent to reception centers near their homes and given 30-day furloughs, with option of an additional 30.

Ninth Seizes Roer Footholds

(Continued from Page 1)

or five days ago, had subsided to three or four knots, making the crossings rough but not unfeasible.

Beyond the river the American troops faced the deep defensive belt which takes the form of continuous lines of fire trenches, traverse trenches, anti-tank ditches and in some cases, concrete pill-boxes.

The villages are fortified. These defenses were built after the fall of Aachen, and some are not heavily-manned.

There are two main belts: the line from Erkelenz to Elsdorf, which is the weaker, and another running from Rheindahlen, along the arc of the River Erft.

Six enemy divisions are facing the attack.

There were elements of tactical surprise, as illustrated by the fact that some prisoners were captured asleep. The opposition at the start was not heavy, consisting mainly of mortar fire. There was less artillery fire than expected and the crossings were made quickly.

It was regarded as probable that attackers had not yet met the main body of the enemy, and the main weight of his defenses are likely to be further back.

The Germans had planted stakes and spikes in the river bed and wire under water.

Danes Placed Under Curfew

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 23 (AP).—The Free Danish Press Service reported that German military authorities had declared a state of emergency throughout Denmark with a curfew at 8PM.

Nazi Railroads Battered Anew

(Continued from Page 1)

Eighth, as well as the sweeps of the planes from France and Italy, followed the same pattern as Thursday's record smash against communications. The bombers split into small formations to bomb at low altitudes and the fighters dropped down to shoot up freight and troop trains.

In front of the U.S. Ninth Army, approximately 1,900 medium, light and fighter-bombers of the Ninth AF bombed and strafed highways and rail lines. Results were described as good, despite the haze raised over some targets by the great artillery barrage preceding the Ninth Army's jump-off.

The Marauders, Havocs and Invaders of the Ninth AF concentrated on road junctions in eight towns north and east of Duren, while 29th TAC fighters riddled more than 700 freight cars along the Roer River front.

Lash Bridges and Tunnels

Concentrating on an area north of Kaiserslautern and Landau, the First TAC's French and American-flown fighter-bombers flew more than 700 sorties, hitting rail bridges, closing tunnels and chalking up numerous rail cuts.

From Italy, the Forts and Liberators of the 15th AF hit 54 separate rail targets in Germany, Austria and northern Italy.

RAF bombers, escorted by fighters, attacked communications centers in western Germany and bombed the industrial town of Essen.

division battled in Siegfried Line pillboxes to link up two previous crossings at Taben-Rodt and Serig, south of Saarburg, into a single bridgehead.

Patton's troops control the west side of the town, while north and south of it they are driving across the river beyond it.

U.S. Seventh Army

Southward, along the belly of the Saarland, U.S. Seventh Army troops cleared two-thirds of the Saar border town of Forbach in bitter fighting. Smashing two counter-attacks in the St. Arnault and Pfaffenwald forests in the borderlands, they edged to within two miles of Saarbrücken, major city of the southern Saar Valley, and gained high ground overlooking it.

Canadian First Army

On the northern hook of the west front, Canadian First Army troops captured the village of Till, north-east of Moyland, which was taken Thursday. They consolidated positions 1,000 yards east and south-east of the Goch-Calcar road, now out in so many places it is virtually useless as a lateral route for the enemy.

Russians Take Posen After Month's Siege

Marshal Ivan S. Koniev's first Ukrainian Army yesterday began a battle for bridgeheads across the Neisse River, on the southeastern approaches to Berlin, while Red Army troops in Poland completed the capture of the by-passed German stronghold of Posen after a month-long siege.

Marshal Stalin, reporting the Posen victory in an order of the day, said that more than 25,000 Germans had been killed and 23,000 captured by Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's forces in the bitter fighting for the city, which is far behind the Soviet lines.

Earlier Marshal Stalin had issued an order of the day commemorating the twenty-seventh anniversary of the founding of the Red Army. In the order, he reported that in 40 days of its winter offensive the Red Army had killed at least 800,000 German troops and captured more than 350,000.

Neisse Crossing Indicated

German reports of the fighting on Marshal Koniev's front said that Soviet forces had penetrated the Neisse River strongpoints of Guben and Forst, but had been repelled. These reports, if true, meant that Soviet troops had crossed the Neisse. It flows through Guben, and Forst is on its western bank.

Other German reports said that Soviet troops were in the "fringes" of Guben, which is 65 miles southeast of Berlin, and an Associated Press dispatch said that the Soviet troops had reached the eastern bank of the river in strength on both sides of the town. Official Soviet reports stated only that the Russians were less than two miles from the town.

Forst, south of Guben, was under heavy bombardment by Soviet guns on the eastern bank of the Neisse. Beyond Forst lies the important German communications center of Cottbus, 13 miles west of the Neisse.

Russian dive-bombers, as well as artillery, pounded the Germans on the western bank of the Neisse to pave the way for Koniev's troops.

Moscow Radio reported that Marshal Koniev, in driving to the Neisse, had seized an area from which the Germans had intended to launch flanking attacks against Marshal Zhukov's forces along the Oder, some of which are less than 35 miles from Berlin.

Nazi spokesmen speculated that the opening of a new American offensive on the Western Front might be the signal for Marshal Zhukov to renew his drive toward the German capital. For days, the Germans have been saying that Zhukov has completed his preparations. Last night's Soviet communiqué announced that Zhukov had extended his northern wing by taking Arnswalde, in Pomerania.

Reunion in the Netherlands



Pfc. Neeltje Zonneville, of the WAC, with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Maarten Zonneville, at their home near Schoondyke, Holland. Neeltje, whose home is in Sodus, N.Y., was born in Schoondyke 25 years ago.