

"Bring Victory, End the Fight—  
Conserve Tires, Day and Night."  
—First prize winner,  
Tire Slogan Contest.

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

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

"Under Every GI Fender  
Rolls Unconditional Surrender."  
—Second prize winner,  
Tire Slogan Contest.

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# Nazi Flank Forced Back

## 3,500 Allied Planes Pound Enemy

### Air Fleets Out for 3rd Day in Row

Flying around the clock, wave after wave of Allied planes battered the Wehrmacht, its supplies and its communications yesterday, and knocked weakening forces of the Luftwaffe out of the air. The U.S. and British air assault roared through its 72nd hour without a letup, and fragmentary reports last night indicated that more than 400 German planes had been destroyed during the three-day period.

Allied air losses, according to incomplete figures, were 215 planes of all types missing since Saturday. During the incessant onslaught, the Allied fliers have flown more than 14,000 sorties to attack targets in and behind the counter-attack zone.

Early reports said that at least 3,500 sorties were flown during yesterday's assault. This figure was expected to increase considerably.

More than 400 Flying Fortresses and Liberators of the Eighth AF bombed communication lines in the area of the German bulge. (Continued on Page 8)

### 77th Div. Closes In On Last Leyte Port

LEYTE, Dec. 25 (ANS).—American troops rapidly closed in today on Palompon, last Japanese stronghold on Leyte Island, as Gen. MacArthur announced a 280-ton bombing of Halmahera in the Moluccas and fresh attacks on the Manila area.

Yanks of the 77th Div., pressing westward toward Palompon port from the sealed-off Ormoc corridor, found Japanese resistance "weak and sporadic," MacArthur reported, and captured great quantities of tanks, trucks, ammunition, artillery and even construction material.



Gen. MacArthur

### Strike on Underground Keeps Londoners Home

LONDON, Dec. 25.—A strike of subway workers claiming two-day Christmas holidays tied up the London Underground today, stranding thousands of holiday travelers and keeping war workers from their jobs.

## Thunderbolts Watch Over Tank Columns



Scenes like this were numerous over the Western Front during the past few days as aircraft flew out to aid ground operations. Here a low-flying P47 "rides" a U.S. tank column.

## Christmas Was Blazing 'Holiday of Hell' For Nazi Troops Harassed by Air Fleet

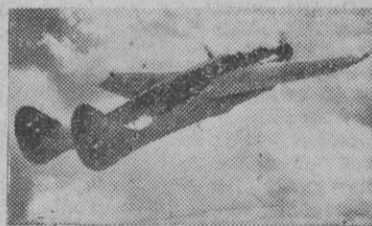
### 196 Planes of Luftwaffe Blasted; U.S. Losses Listed at 78

By Jules Grad  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer  
WITH U.S. FORCES, Europe, Dec. 25.—The Luftwaffe lost 196 planes against 78 U.S. ships shot down yesterday, and an army staff officer said, "Although we believe the Germans have many frontline fighters they can use in the present offensive, we have every reason to declare that the Luftwaffe cannot continue resistance very much longer."

The officer said he based his opinion on the losses the Luftwaffe has suffered in the past week. It was reported that two German airfields—at Wahn and Bonn—were smashed to such an extent that they are completely unserviceable.

Nineteenth TAC reported more than 700 German planes flew approximately 1,000 sorties during the day up and down the Belgian and Luxembourg battlefronts, but re-

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Black Widow ... roars to sting Nazis

### Robots Reported Over Manchester

The laconic British home security communique, which has been reporting enemy "aerial activity" against "southern England" almost daily, added "northern England" to its announcement over the Christmas weekend, and the Germans claimed that Manchester had been attacked by "long-range weapons."

Manchester, one of England's biggest industrial cities, is 170 miles northwest of London and many children had been removed there to escape the V1 and V2 attacks on London.

### Black Widow Prowls Front, Stings JU88 In Sky Duel

By Pat Mitchell  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer  
ABOARD BLACK WIDOW NIGHT FIGHTER OVER COUNTER-ATTACK ZONE, Dec. 24 (Delayed).—The Black Widows are out tonight, turning this clear, cold Christmas Eve into a holiday of hell for Von Rundstedt's Nazis in the breakthrough area.

From the observer's seat in the P61 piloted by 1/Lt. John W. Anderson, of Nashville, you can see artillery batteries spit in anger and many seconds later the blue-white flashes as projectiles exploded among enemy positions.

#### Patrol at 9,000 Feet

From every German-held cross-road town, small caliber flak guns criss-cross the night with red worms of tracers along moon-white roads. Occasionally lighted up by quickly flicked headlamps are fire-swept isolated farm buildings and wrecked vehicles.

Attracted to the Marche area, where parachute flares show a snowy meadow dotted with tanks, the Ninth AF Black Widows cruise along at 9,000 feet. Then Radio Observer 2/Lt James W. Mogan, of Boston, sees an enemy plane.

"Peter night, Johnny-bogie at three o'clock. Go get the bastard." "I see him, I see him. It's a"

(Continued on Page 8)

### Berle as Brazil Envoy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (AP).—Adolf A. Berle is slated for appointment as ambassador to Brazil it was learned authoritatively yesterday. Berle resigned as assistant secretary of state in the recent departmental shakeup.

## Foe's Drive Slowed for Second Day

American forces, attacking on a wide front in eastern Belgium and Luxembourg, ploughed into the left flank of the German bulge for several miles, it was officially reported last night.

The Nazi offensive, launched ten days ago against Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' U.S. First Army, kept surging in the center of the wedge, where battle lines still were fluid. It made no major advances in the latest 48-hour period covered by official reports, still 36 hours behind events in the field.

German DNB news broadcasts, picked up by Reuter, said the German situation in the Ardennes had undergone no material change up to Christmas Eve. The Nazi news agency said that Gen. Eisenhower's plan, now beginning to take shape, is to cut off German divisions from their rear communications by concentric pressure from the north and south and thus defeat the whole German offensive.



Gen. Hodges

Supreme Allied Headquarters did not specify how many miles attacking U.S. forces had advanced in Luxembourg. Americans cleared the town of Warnach, two miles north of Martelange, on the Belgian-Luxembourg border. They also cleared most of Martelange, but had not recaptured the town at last reports.

A sizable German armored force has been wiped out in the Monschau Forest and one German division is surrounded, Reuter reported from the front. A large number of Americans taken prisoner in the Monschau area have

(Continued on Page 8)



## Winning Slogans Announced In Tire Conservation Contest

Com Z G4, Ordnance and Supply Chiefs yesterday announced the prize winners in the tire conservation slogan contest and increased the prizes, awarding two-day passes to Paris for the winning entries and for the ten contestants awarded honorable mention.

T/4 Robert J. Porter, of XIX Corps Hq., won the first prize, a \$100 War Bond, with the entry "Bring Victory, End the Fight—

Conserve Tires, Day and Night." Winston Churchill won second prize, a \$50 War Bond. This particular Winston Churchill was Pfc Winston Churchill, of the 706 th Ry. Div., who submitted a total of five entries. His winning slogan was "Under Every-Fender Rolls Unconditional Surrender."

Third prize, a \$25 bond, was awarded to T/Sgt. Howard N.

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### Bonnet in Washington

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (ANS).—The new ambassador of the provisional government of France, Henri Bonnet, arrived in Washington yesterday to assume his duties as personal representative of Gen. Charles de Gaulle.

## 500-Mile Line Speeds Gas for Tanks of Yanks

By Ed Lawrence

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

The world's most important piece of plumbing, more than 500 miles of oversize steel stovepipe, is dally spurting a flood of gasoline from Cherbourg to tank farms near Paris for American forces along the German border.

The flow, almost a million gallons daily, wells from the States and is borne by transatlantic tankers to a section of six-inch steel macaroni on the Normandy shore. Hundreds of pumps are strung along the twisting, tubular snake to drive the fuel forward, uphill, downhill, over the rivers and through the woods.

### Each Section Swabbed Out

In building this tremendous feedline the pipers first survey a route, then drag the sections into position with tractors. Each section is swabbed out like a rifle barrel and joined to the line with field-bolted collars.

In addition, the pipers are charged with operation and maintenance of the pipe. A sole company, commanded by Capt. James P. Woolomes of Delano, Calif., handles 100 miles of

Early in the campaign the pipe was smashed along the quays by violent Channel storms and the engineers repaired it. Once the pipe was severed by artillery shelling. Another time strafing Luftwaffe fighters, hounding a convoy down the road, ripped it with their machine-guns.

### Losses at Minimum

The engineers boast that losses through fire, flood, theft, punctures, evaporation and all other causes have been kept to one-half of one percent.

The first sections of the pipe were bolted together on D-plus-3.

The units are salted with soldiers from the oil capitals of America—men like Cpl. Raymond J. Siemanski, of Tulsa; M/Sgt. Leslie C. Beck, of Oklahoma City, and M/Sgt. James C. Guyton, of Fort Worth.

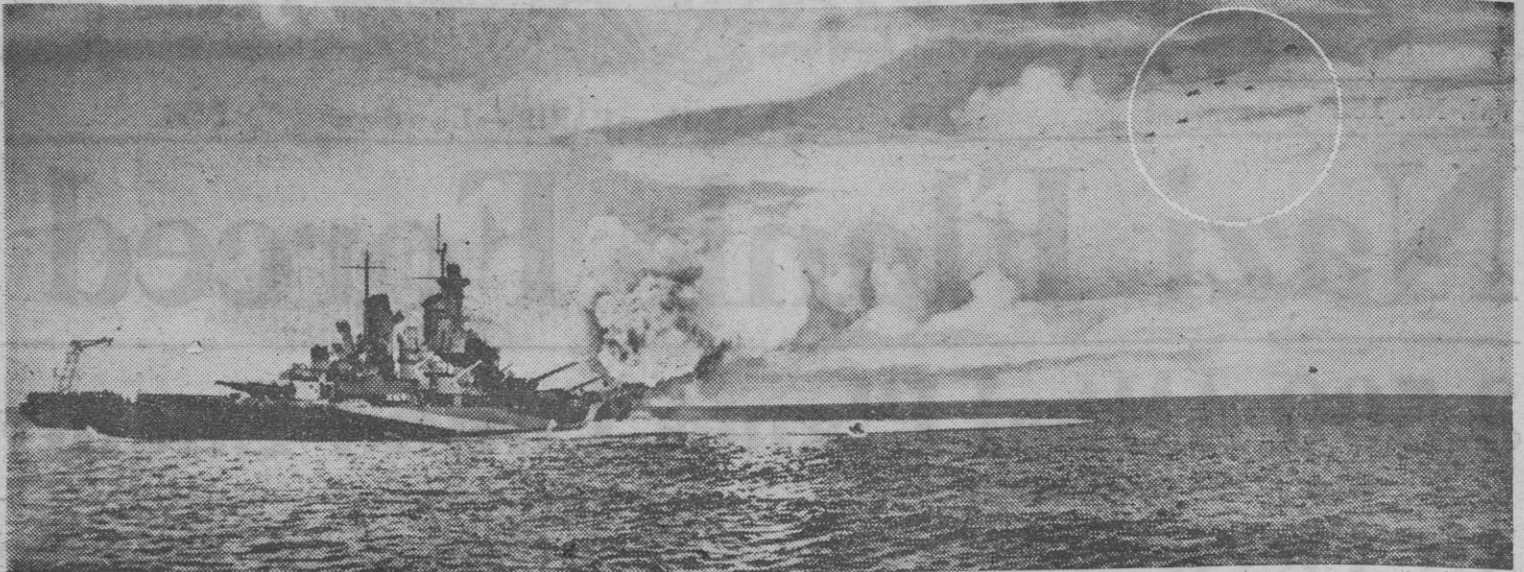
"Our toughest campaign was Normandy," says Sgt. Glenn F. Atkinson, of Perrysville, O., foreman of a seven-man coupling crew. "We had to bulldoze a path through the hedgerows for the pipe." The sergeant also relates that, dogging the heels of the infantry, they worked most of the time in the shell-filled dome arching between their own artillery and the enemy positions.

## P47 Passenger



QUEST OF AIR FORCE Thunderbolt group commander Col. Ray J. Stecker of Hazelton, Pa., whose fighter plane he tends, S/Sgt. Bailey E. Ingram, of Jacksonville, Fla., has his parachute harness adjusted before riding as passenger in the group's specially converted two-seater Thunderbolt.

## East Asia Co-operative Stock Drops Six Points



After a thunderous blast which rocks the 45,000-ton U.S.S. Missouri, one of the Navy's latest Iowa class battleships, six 16-inch shells (in circle) are hurtling toward the target. Fired from her two

forward turrets, the projectiles are stopped by the camera just after clearing the flames of the burning gases which propelled the shells screaming on the way to their distant goal.

## 'Rosie the Rocketeer' Plays Bazooka for German Tanks

By Ken Koyen

Stars and Stripes Special Correspondent

WITH THE FOURTH ARMORED DIV.—A flight in Maj. Charles Carpenter's bazooka-shooting Cub observation plane is something like a ride in a roller coaster equipped with sky rockets. The 32-year-old liaison pilot, who taught history in Moline, Ill., now hunts tanks with the six bazookas mounted under the wings of his tiny aircraft.

As we flew over the front where Fourth Armored tanks were blasting German positions with 75s and machine-gun tracer fire, the major pointed out a burned vehicle.

"That's a German armored car I hit the other day," said the flyer, who is credited with about six Nazi tanks and an ammunition truck.

### Fires Rockets

"There's a German tank down there, right next to that building in the village and another hidden under that tree," he pointed out, and dipped a wing to circle the positions.

"We'll go down for a try at the one in town," he shouted and shoved the nose of "Rosie the Rocketeer" down.

Diving almost vertically to less than 300 yards of the ground, Maj. Carpenter squinted through the sight, then touched a switch firing two of the rockets—one from each wing.

Tiles on the roof of the house next to the German tank disappeared in a cloud of red dust.

### 'Worries' Them

"Allowed too much for the wind," the major grinned. "Anyhow our tanks will know there's something there to shoot at."

"I don't expect to get them very often, especially from this long a range, but I imagine I worry them at that."

German gunners then attempted to prove that the worry should not be one-sided. Black puffs of anti-aircraft shell bursts spotted the sky.

"They usually don't shoot at a Cub for fear of observation and artillery fire, but when they see it shooting bazookas they cut loose."

## Bazooka Pair Carries Wounded GI to Safety

Pfcs Hugh E. Lucke, of Richland, Wash., and Marion J. Wallace, of Vincennes, Ind., bazooka team in a 41st Armored Inf. Regt., carried a wounded soldier to safety over 1,000 yards of ground under enemy artillery and tank fire, during a counter-attack. The two Pfcs who also carried their weapon and ammunition, returned to take part in their outfit's successful attempt to halt the attack.

## Tankers Horn In On a Stag Line, Fawn Over Deer

WITH SECOND ARMORED DIV., Dec. 25.—Sgt. Rains M. Robins, of Ben Hur, Va., spotted a target outside Merzenhausen, Germany, as he led his Sherman crew toward enemy positions.

"Right front, 45 yards in cabbage patch, two bursts," he called over the interphone to Gunner Cpl. Walter McGrail, of Lowell, Mass.

McGrail swung his machine gun to the right, fired two bursts. The tank halted for a few minutes, then rumbled on.

That night the crew ate the target—a five-point deer believed to be the first shot in Germany's open hunting season.

## Four Anzio Heroes Win Highest Honor

WITH SEVENTH ARMY, Dec. 25.—The Congressional Medal of Honor has been awarded posthumously to Pfc Patrick Kessler, of the 30th Regt.'s K Co., who wiped out three German machine guns and an enemy strongpoint after the Krauts had killed more than 16 of his buddies May 23 on the Anzio beachhead. Kessler, who came from Middleton, Ohio, was later killed in another action.

Three other Third Div. soldiers have also been awarded the nation's highest medal for actions in the 24-hour period that marked the Anzio break-out.

### Busy Place

Since early August, the 80th Inf. Div. message center has handled more than 126,000 messages.

## Marauder Pilot Wins Silver Star

NINTH AF HQ.—1/Lt. Rodney McCallister, Wilmington, Del., Marauder pilot whose bravery cost him partial loss of vision, was decorated with the Silver Star by Maj. Gen. Moyt S. Vandenberg, Ninth commander.

McCallister was cited for bringing his damaged Marauder down for a crash-landing after flak fragments struck him in the face, causing a partial loss of his eyesight. McCallister's skill was credited with saving the lives of his crew. The landing completely wrecked the bomber.



Lt. McCallister

### Chaplain Gets Silver Star

Chaplain Lawrence E. Cousins, of Walla Walla, Wash., made several trips under heavy shellfire to evacuate wounded from the XV Corps front. For his heroism, the chaplain received a Silver Star.

## Yanks Bag Artillery Piece; Use It to Break Up Ambush

By Dan Regan

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH FIRST U. S. ARMY, Dec. 25.—Pfc Russel P. Snow and Pfc John J. Dechaushar, along with men from their infantry outfit, were moving up a road behind a tank to aid in stopping German advances. They met three German self-propelled guns.

When the Nazis saw the tank and infantry, they abandoned the guns and ran. Snow discovered that one gun was still in operation. After experimenting, he managed to start it and his unit used it all day to haul personnel and supplies.

Nightfall came and Snow and

the others were in bivouac, when they learned that another company of their division was pinned down by German 20mm fire.

Snow called for volunteers and drove the self-propelled gun, on which were Dechaushar, two BAR men and two riflemen, to where the company was pinned down. Snow then managed to fire the captured piece and the others let go with rifles and BARs.

This drew German fire from the trapped company which retreated to a better position. One BAR man was wounded, but the gun was not damaged and today is still being used for a vehicle.

## Bridgebuilders Span 5 Rivers, Seine Toughest

By Jules Grad

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH NINTH U.S. ARMY, Dec. 25.—Ever since it arrived on the Continent six months ago today, the 82nd Combat Bn., of one of the 19th Corps' bridgebuilding outfits, has worked near the front, spanning rivers in France, Belgium and Holland. Now it's dodging mortars and 105s in Germany.

The Joes aren't much on looks in their mud-smearing ODs and they'd never make the red, white and blue cigarette ads back home, but they're as American as every one of the 48 states they come from.

Since June 17 they've supported the 29th, 30th and 35th Inf. Divs., Second, Third and Seventh Armored Divs., and the 113th Cav. Group.

### Seine Was Toughest

In six months they've spanned 1,400 feet of water across the Vire, Drôme, Seine, Somme and Meuse Rivers. One of their toughest jobs was a 720-foot trestle bridge across the Seine just west of Paris.

The Army calls them bridgebuilders, but the grimy engineers go in for extra-curricular activities like removing about 900 Bouncing Betseys from three death-laden Nazi minefields, clearing and maintaining 116 miles of roads from St. Lô to Germany and hauling a couple of thousand loads of gravel to repair another 150 miles of highways.

Just to keep in practice, where the fighting is rough, the 82nd captured 23 Germans.

## Yank Saves Woman From Burning House

WITH THIRD ARMORED DIV., Dec. 25.—An aged and blind French woman, trapped in her burning house during a furious tank battle, was rescued by Cpl. Dick Stupic, of Heilwood, Pa., an engineer with the Third Armored "Spearhead" Div.

As his half-track neared the building, Stupic saw the woman through a window. He tied a handkerchief around his nose and mouth, dashed into the blazing house and carried her outside. A short while later, the building collapsed.

### Varied CPs

The Third Div.'s 15th Inf. Hq. CP was the shade of a tree on D-Day in southern France. Since then, CPs were set up in tents, farmhouses, city halls, captured enemy barracks and, in Alsace, a chateau with sheets and room service.

# Guts of 3 GIs Lead Unit Out of 'Hell on Earth'

## Besieged Men Hammered for 7 Days by Foe

By Wade Jones  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer  
WITH U. S. SEVENTH ARMY, Dec. 25.—Seventy-eight haggard, battle-numb infantrymen of a famous Seventh Army division who were cut off for seven hellish days and nights in the German Siegfried Line town of Dundertal are alive and safe today because of the guts and savvy of three of their number.

The successful breakout at dusk last night was made possible by two men who slipped out through the enemy lines at dawn Friday and by a third man who had been in town and guided a combat patrol back in to cover the withdrawal.

The two who slipped out with vital information on enemy positions and ours were Sgt. William H. Alter, of St. Paul, Ind., and Pvt. Al Gurriel, of New Goshen, Ind.

### Led Combat Patrol

Sgt. Warren Haynes, of Taconite, Minn., headed the combat patrol which covered the rescue. Haynes and four others raced to the three houses as our artillery barrage lifted. They told those inside to make a break for it while the others of the patrol covered them.

E. D. Gates, a Kentuckian, snatched up a wounded man who had been overlooked in the hurry and confusion of the breakthrough and carried him in his arms through enemy lines amid a storm of German fire.

Completely surrounded and without communications to the outside, the valiant 78 had fought on in three houses, under almost ceaseless artillery, mortar, and small-arms fire and battling Germans who often were close enough to throw hand grenades in the windows.

The Germans also fired incendiary bullets into lofts adjoining the houses, setting the hay afire. The men were forced to fight the fire and the Germans at the same time.

### Germans All Around

The medics ran out of sulfa and morphine and there was little that could be done for the wounded. There were Germans in the houses all around and some of the men were forced to drink water which they believed came from a sewer. At least it looked and smelled like a sewer. Mostly they ate raw potatoes found in the basement of a house and once they sneaked over to a nearby house and nabbed four rabbits which were in a cage, cooking them in a rusty bucket.

Pvt. George S. White, of Washington, Pa., complained today that on one occasion he was "given away and damned near killed by a duck. I had a German just across the street in my sights when all of a sudden this damn duck standing beside the Jerry turned around and looked at me and went 'squawk.'" White went on, "The Heinie turned around and let go at me with a burp gun. Then one of our guys potted the German and I ran over and grabbed the duck. I was so damn mad at the duck that I shot him. Then I ate him."

### Negro Club in Paris

A Negro-staffed American Red Cross club is now operating in the Palace Hotel, 11 Rue de Lyon, in the Gare de Lyon sector of Paris. Under direction of Earl Howard, former Washington attorney, the club has beds for 181 men, a cafe, recreation rooms, barber shop and showers.

## Gen. Mud Takes Beating at Hands of Yank Engineers



Combating German mud with Yankee ingenuity, engineers of an American infantry division near Zweiff, Germany, construct a corduroy road out of logs felled in nearby Hurtgen Forest.

## Duke Just a Dog, But GIs Gave Him A Hero's Burial

WITH 30th INF. DIV.—They buried "Duke" and they put a cross bearing his name and description on the grave. All the men of Hq. Co., First Bn., 119th Inf., were at the burial. S/Sgt. H. A. Davidson looked the saddest.

Duke had been killed by a booby-trap that might have killed Davidson if the dog hadn't run into it first.

The battalion motor pool was setting up in a German village. Sgt. Davidson and Duke went hunting for a water pump in the cellar of an abandoned house. There was a blast and Davidson was thrown against a wall.

Seconds later, uninjured but dazed from the explosion, Davidson went looking for Duke and found the dog in another part of the cellar, badly mangled and lying across a booby-trap trip wire.

Davidson brought Duke back to headquarters, but there was nothing that could be done for the dog, except to put him out of his misery.

Duke had belonged to a German soldier before the company adopted him when the Jerry was taken prisoner. But they put an American cross on his grave.

## French Honor Maj. Gen. McLain

WITH NINTH U.S. ARMY, Dec. 25.—The French government has presented Maj. Gen. Raymond S. McLain, 19th Corps commander, with the French Legion of Honor and the Croix de Guerre with Palms for his service to France while commanding the 90th Inf. Div.

## Name the Job: Infantry Topkick Can Do It And, to Prove It, Does

WITH SECOND INF. DIV., Germany—Eleven years in the Army, the last three as topkick of Co. B, 23rd Inf. Regt., have made 1/Sgt. Thomas C. Black, of San Antonio, a Joe-of-all-trades.

In one engagement in France, Black began the day by lugging ammunition under fire. A machine gunner was wounded; Black took over the weapon. A German tank threatened the company's flank; Black led a bazooka team into position, directed fire and drove off the tank.

A mortar section leader was

## Yanks Stick to Cut-Off Town Because They Like Their Job

By Jimmy Cannon

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH AMERICAN FORCES, Dec. 23 (Delayed).—The German troops who threatened the city of Luxembourg in the first surge of their counter-attack were being slowly pushed back at several points along this snow-sprinkled sector. All danger of the Nazis taking the city was removed

## Belgian Square Honors Colonel

WITH THE FIRST INF. DIV.—Gemmenich was just another little Belgian town to Col. Elisha C. Peckham's First Div. battalion which liberated it on September 13.

Until a Civil Affairs administrator came, Col. Peckham took over the job of providing shelter for the homeless, feeding the hungry and keeping things in order.

The war moved on, and so did the colonel.

On November 12, the Mayor of Gemmenich found the battalion's CP near Aachen.

Col. Peckham returned to Gemmenich, attended a high mass in honor of the Americans, was made a member of the Federation of Belgian Combatants and heard a speech by the mayor.

The town square, the mayor said, had been renamed by the community's council as "La Place du Colonel Peckham."

wounded; the topkick evacuated him, reorganized the casualty-ridden section and directed mortar fire. Then he dashed across a field to rescue a wounded platoon leader, 1/Lt. James D. Morrison, of Detroit.

In another action, Black obtained stretchers from a battalion aid station and led his cooks in evacuating 44 wounded under fire. On return trips they carried ammo for the riflemen. He also repaired communication wires under fire and for good measure ran a new line to a forward artillery OP.

## Robot Factory Found in Cave By Yank Div.

WITH 26th (YANKEE) INF. DIV.—A Nazi underground factory, a mile-and-a-half long and a mile wide, was believed ready to begin production of robot bomb chemicals when YD men drove the enemy out of its Saar River site.

The factory was explored by YD officials. Equipment, they said, led them to believe it was "no myth" that the Nazis planned to produce "liquid oxygen and compressed nitrogen for robot bombs."

Lt. Col. John L. Miles, of Baltimore, led a party through a partially dynamited opening and down into the cavern.

They discovered that in addition to machinery, the factory contained offices, living quarters, restaurants and aid stations.

It was wired for lights and boasted a ventilation system. There was also water purification apparatus, chemical laboratories, and a Diesel-powered electric plant.

Horse-drawn wagons, electric trucks, and a railroad siding provided transportation.

## 3d Time Charm For GI Driver

HQ. THIRD ARMORED DIV., Dec. 25.—Like George Washington, Pfc Louis J. Chellico, of Nashwauk, Minn., with the Third Armored Div., is a three-time loser. George had three horses shot out from under him; with Louie it was trucks—and every time the shell exploded, he was "the little man who wasn't there."

In Normandy Chellico stepped out of his truck. A shell landed nearby and a piece of shrapnel demolished the cab. Chellico got a new truck.

In Belgium Chellico dived into a ditch as a mortar shell landed. He got another new truck.

A dud shell smashed the third truck in a German village.

## Oh La Lamour



Without a sarong, Dorothy Lamour is just as lovely in her new film, "Medal for Benny."

## Leadership Is Rewarded

WITH FOURTH ARMORED DIV.—Three times in as many months, T/Sgt. Dewey M. Fritz, of Barnesville, Pa., platoon sergeant, took charge of his platoon when his platoon leader became a casualty. He has been awarded the Silver Star.

*This Was America Yesterday:*

## Bond Buyers Top Goal, Subscribe 20 Billion

By Joe Fleming  
Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The home folks have already oversubscribed the \$14,000,000,000 goal of the Sixth War Loan drive, pouring \$20,360,000,000 into war bond coffers with a week still to go before the campaign ends. The figures indicated that Americans were not spending all their money on Christmas gayety.

There was evidence in many quarters of this spirit of "win the war first." In Buffalo, 50 soldiers marched into the Dunlop Tire and Rubber Co. this weekend and went to work to step up production of tires badly needed on the Western Front. The men were on 90-day furloughs and will receive the prevailing wage rate. Incidentally, they'd all had previous experience in the industry.

One of the last things President Roosevelt did before he hung up his Christmas stocking was to sign a bill for a billion-dollar flood-control program for after victory. The project is a major phase of the government's job-creating program and will include flood-control work in the river basins throughout the nation.

### FDR Family Spends Yule in White House

THERE was plenty of fowl conversation over the holiday weekend and service men were guests in thousands of homes. At that house on Pennsylvania Avenue the Roosevelts entertained family members at Christmas dinner.

Rehabilitation of returning service men was also a major conversational topic—and many people were making efforts to turn talk into action. Mayor LaGuardia promised that all men injured in combat can come back to their former city jobs in New York. The CIO Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America issued a union orientation guide for service men "to let men and women in service know how the homefront is backing them."

The Yuletide "good will toward men" theme grew a little wobbly in Chicago where court officials reported divorce actions have jumped to new highs. Several hundred ill-mated persons hurried to beat the Christmas deadline and jammed the divorce courts—some of them even sat on the window sills awaiting their turns. Some thought the increase could be attributed to the economic independence women have won through war jobs.

One somber note among holiday reports was the weekend casualty list, which numbered 207, more than half of them dead in traffic accidents.

### Deanna's Pix Opens on Broadway

BROADWAY reported its best holiday business in years. Unlike other years the pre-Christmas slack didn't cut into receipts. Expected to boost attendance figures even higher are this week's openings: Deanna Durbin's "Can't Help Singing"; "The Keys to the Kingdom"; "Experiment Verilous," and "Here Comes the Waves," which co-stars Bing Crosby and Betty Hutton—it's a film-tale of sea-going WACs.

ERNE PYLE'S "Brave Men" is still leading the non-fiction best-sellers, running ahead of "The Time for Decision," by Sumner Welles; "I Never Left Home," by Bob Hope; "Yankee from Olympus," by Catherine Drinker Bowen, and "Try and Stop Me," by Bennett Cerf.

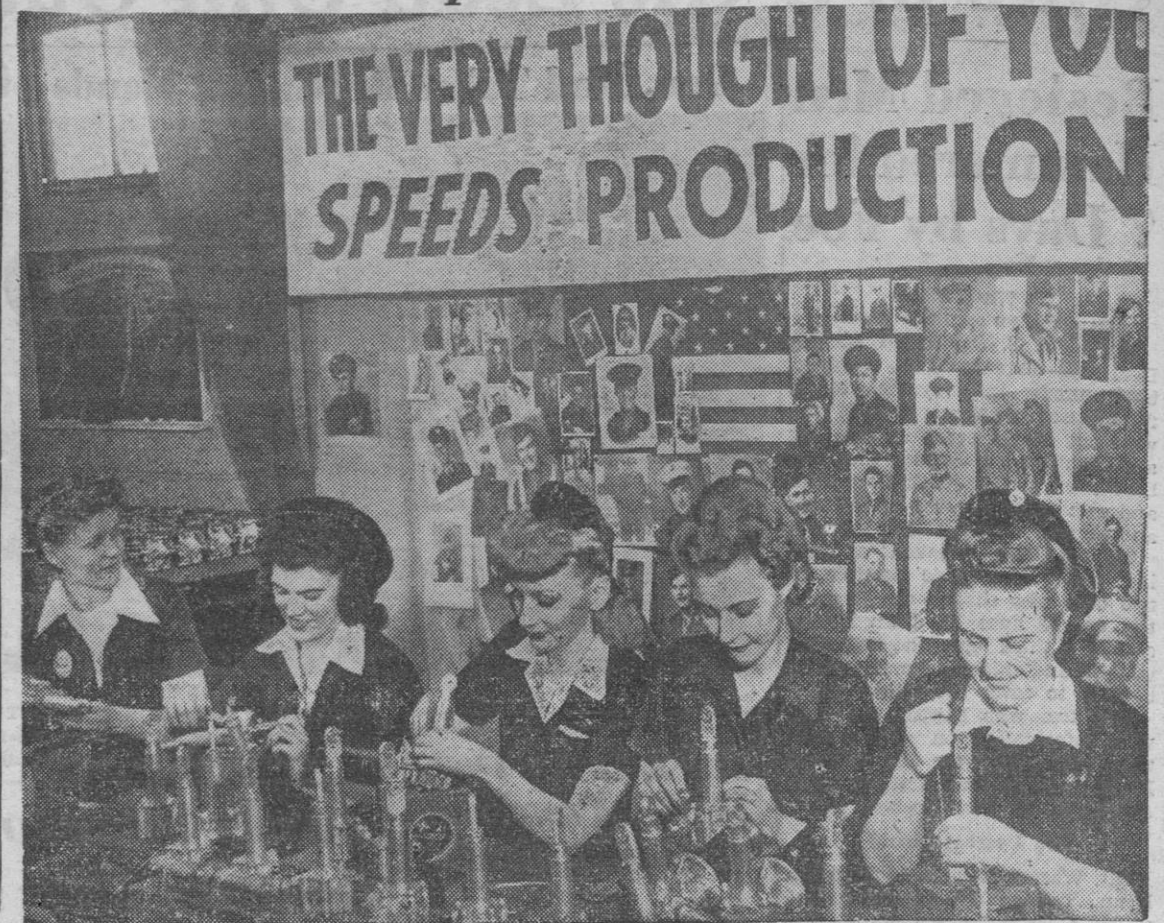
Fiction leaders are "The Green Years," by A. J. Cronin; "Forever Amber," by Kathleen Winsor; "Green Dolphin Street," by Elizabeth Goudge; "Earth and High Heaven," by Gwethalyn Graham and "Leave Her to Heaven," by Ben Ames Williams.

### 'By the Numbers...'



A celebrating stork saw double this Yuletide and these Chicago sisters, both wed to servicemen overseas, became mothers same day, same hospital, same doctor. Left, Mrs. Florence Leszczynski holds her blue-eyed, brown-haired son, and, right, Mrs. Emily Guennewig holds her blue-eyed, brown-haired daughter.

## Servicemen 'Keep An Eye' on Home-Front



Eyed by their personal heroes, these girls keep aircraft parts flowing from a Chicago war plant. Servicemen from their families are pictured in the gallery behind, l. to r., Rosalie Connors, Dorothy Toliusis, Muriel Black, Gladys Hackett and Stella Wozcik.

## Canned Goods, Meat Return To Ration List

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (ANS).—Canned vegetables go back to rationing Tuesday and nearly all meat will be on the list next Sunday.

Restrictions also were clamped tighter on butter and sugar as the Office of Price Administration announced today one of the broadest steps of the war in dealing with the distribution of pinched civilian food supplies.

The changes include a rise in the point value of butter from 20 to 24 points a pound; cancellation of all red and blue stamps which became good before Dec. and cancellation of all sugar stamps and home-canning certificates except one.

### Nearly All Meats Included

About 85 percent of all meats will be placed under rationing beginning Dec. 31.

Canned vegetables which will require points are peas, corn, green and wax beans asparagus and spinach in addition to tomatoes, which already are on the ration list.

"Civilian supplies of sugar, butter and commercial canned fruits and vegetables are at the lowest point since the war began and meat supplies are declining," OPA Administrator Chester Bowles said.

### Victory for OPA

The restoration of points to a wide variety of meat cuts and vegetables will be a major victory for the OPA over the War Food Administration. For the last five months the OPA has recommended that pointfree meats and vegetables be put back under rationing, contending that spotty distribution and shortages warranted such a move.

The consideration which apparently tipped the scale in the OPA's favor is the prospect that the war in Europe may be drawn out as a result of the German counter-offensive.

## 9,000 Bills Considered, A Low for Congress

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (ANS).—The 78th Congress has at least one modern record to its credit—a new low of approximately 9,000 bills considered of which 989 now are law.

The 59th Congress set an all-time high mark—30,000 bills considered with 6,940 going on the statute books.

## GOP Leaders Balk At Declaring Aims

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25 (AP).—Republican congressional leaders, rejecting a proposal to join with Gov. Thomas E. Dewey in a statement of party principles, will go their own legislative way.

That way, it developed today, will preclude the announcement of any general legislative program for the new Congress and leave up to selected individuals sponsorship of major measures.

Then if all turns out well leaders may get together near the close of the next session, sum up what Republicans have done and announce what they intend to do in the future.

Dewey's proposal that Senate and House chieftains join him in signing now a statement of the party's aims was reported to have been rejected speedily by a group which met in New York.

## 4 Paratroopers 'Brides' Find They Were Tricked

ALLIANCE, Neb., Dec. 25 (ANS).—Four girls who thought they married paratroopers here last August have discovered the nuptials were false, "performed" by a soldier impersonating an army chaplain.

The girls learned that no marriage certificates had been recorded when they applied for government allotment checks. None of the girls has heard from the men since they left for overseas.

## North, Eastern U.S. Have Snow On Christmas

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (ANS).—America had a white Christmas today in northern states from the Rocky Mountains to the eastern seaboard.

Scattered snow flurries and freezing rains continued throughout the Midwest where a cold wave was forecast for tonight which would push the mercury down to minus zero readings in five states.

A cold air mass now in the plains states gave Pembina, N.D., the nation's low mark of 15 degrees below zero and is expected to push into Iowa, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Indiana.

In the South, readings were slightly above normal with a range of 40 to 68 degrees and a top of 72 at Brownsville, Tex. The mercury was expected to go well above 70 in Miami and New Orleans.

## One Killed, 19 Injured In Illinois Train Wreck

BELVIDERE, Ill., Dec. 25 (ANS).—One person was killed and at least 19 others injured last night in a freak passenger train accident near here. The wreck was being investigated today by the FBI.

The FBI was called in after reports that a broken rail had caused two cars of the southbound Northwestern Railroad Viking to tumble over an embankment as it headed toward Chicago from Minneapolis.

## 'Gibson Girl' Creator Dies of Heart Attack

NEW YORK, Dec. 25 (ANS).—Charles Dana Gibson, 77, artist who created the "Gibson Girl," died yesterday after a heart attack.

At the bedside was his wife, Mrs. Irene Langhorne Gibson, sister of Lady Astor, Mrs. Gibson's beautiful hair and slender waist were said to have been Gibson's inspiration for the pinup girl of the gay 90s.

## Once Over Lightly

By Jimmie Cannon

WITH THE AMERICAN FORCES, Dec. 25.—Bucky Walters, Cincinnati Reds' pitcher who has been tramping this sector with a big league minstrel show, was telling the guys a story from the makeshift stage in the cold, draughty garage. As he came to the punch line, the ack ack guns started to thump with a hollow steadiness and the building quivered.

"That sounds like I was back pitching in the Phillies' ball park with the hits bouncing off the wall," he chuckled. The guys laughed and the guns fired into the sky.

Walters explained how Jimmy Wilson transformed him from a shaky thirdbaseman into a great pitcher.

THE ballplayers' act has a casual, mildly profane barber-shop humor that the fellows liked. After showing movies of the last World Series, Walters, Frankie Frisch, Pirate's manager; Mel Ott, Giant boss, and Dutch Leonard, good-natured Senators' pitcher, tell stories. Roy Stockton, St. Louis sports-writer, acts as master of ceremonies. They all behaved like oldtime vaudeville actors and seemed to have worked hard at learning their comical lines. After their spiel, they ask the GI audience to fire questions at them.

"HEY, Ottie," yelled Pvt. David Taggart, of guess what town? "When the hell are you going to do something for your farm club in Jersey City?"

"When the hell is Jersey City going to do something for me?" asked the Giant manager, for the biggest laugh of the evening.

Ott, who hails from New Orleans, said the first thing he was going to do when he returned to the States was to move out of New Orleans.

"After hearing what the Army did to Louisiana on maneuvers, I'm getting suspicious of the place myself," concluded Ott.

The troupe tossed autographed baseballs to every soldier who asked a question. Only one error was scored. The ball was dropped by a Brooklyn fan.

Frisch had a few things to say about umpires in general.

"They throw you out of a ball game for nothing," the Pirate pilot mourned. "All I said to Beans Reardon when he missed a play one day was 'You blind Tom, why don't you spend three dollars and get a room with a window' and he threw me out of the ball game."

### McNally Now Pro Scout

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 25.—Vince McNally, assistant football coach at Holy Cross, announced today he has signed with the San Francisco club of the All-America Pro Football Conference as Eastern representative and scout. He declined an offer to return to Holy Cross.

### Aggie Head Writer Can Get a Job Here

STILLWATER, Okla., Dec. 25.—Mack Creager, who boots extra points for the Cotton Bowl-bound Oklahoma Aggies, was advised two years ago to give up football completely because of a heart murmur.

When a scribe asked him for the story, Creager, who is sports editor of the college paper, agreed to supply the details if his own headline was used, "Kicker's Ticker Starts to Flicker."

## 'Tech's Tailback'

By Pap



## Tattered Georgia Tech Sees Uniforms Symbolic

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 25.—A ragbag Georgia Tech football team will be the most sartorially inelegant of all the bowl teams this year in beatup uniforms, but Coach Bill Alexander isn't bothered about dressing up for Miami's Orange Bowl date with Tulsa on New Year's Day.

## Rangers Again Tied by Hawks

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—The New York Rangers and Chicago Blackhawks played a 3-3 tie here last night, the third deadlock of the season for those teams.

Clint Smith and Lude Check put the Hawks ahead, 2-0, and Fritz Hunt and Ab DeMarco tied it. Hank Goldup sent the Rangers ahead in the third period, but Bill Mosienko knotted the count again on a pass from Smith.

Phil Watson, Rangers' center, left the game in the second period with a broken hand.

### Hockey Standings

National League				
	W	L	T	Pts
Montreal	14	4	2	30
Detroit	12	5	3	27
Toronto	10	7	2	22
Boston	8	11	1	17
New York	3	11	5	11
Chicago	3	12	3	9

American League				
	W	L	T	Pts
Buffalo 5, St. Louis 0.				
Hershey 8, Providence 3.				
Indianapolis 3, Cleveland 3.				

## Field Narrows to 5 For Top Grid Man

DES MOINES, Ia., Dec. 25.—The annual search for football's "Man of the Year" narrowed to five men following conclusion of the preliminary voting in the poll conducted by the Football Writers' Association of America.

Nominees are: Carroll Widdoes, Ohio State football coach; the late Maj. John Griffith, Big Ten commissioner; Gen. "Hap" Arnold, Army Air Force commandant; Les Horvath, Ohio State's All-America back, and Col. Earl Blaik, Army football coach.

Final balloting will be completed Sunday. Cmdr. Tom Hamilton of Navy won the award in '42 and Amos Alonzo Stagg, coach at College of the Pacific, won it last year.

Alexander thinks, as a matter of fact, that the faded and battered football clothes are symbolic of the rough and tumble schedule the Rambling Wrecks just completed, during the course of which Tech upset a great Navy team, 17-15.

Georgia Tech's starting backfield probably will consist of his "Faithful Four," Johnny McIntosh quarterback, Allen "Dinky" Bowen and Mickey Logan, halfbacks, and Frank "Red" Broyles at fullback. Bowen, a freshman, has an unerring kicking toe and has developed into a speed merchant when carrying the mail.

Top man in the line is Phil Tinsley, rated by several selectors as All-America end, but he's only a shade superior to the other wingman, George Murdock. Jack Glenn and Deane Gaines are giant tackles, while the guards, Maurice Furchgott and Roland Phillip are comparatively light at 165 and 185 pounds, respectively. Ed Helmsinger, Navy gift from Duke, is at center.

In previous bowl tests, Georgia Tech defeated California, 8-7, in the '29 Rose Bowl game made famous by Roy Riegler's wrongway run; defeated Missouri, 21-7, in '40 Orange Bowl; topped Boston College, 19-13, in '41 Sugar Bowl; lost 14-7 to Texas in '43 Cotton Bowl, and beat Tulsa, 20-18, in '44 Sugar Bowl.

### Oddest Award to Grid Official Who Broke Arm

DAYTON, O., Dec. 25.—Dr. David Reese of Denison College was the victim of the oddest happening in '44 sports, according to 88 sports-writers voting in the Associated Press poll. He was head linesman in the Army-Notre Dame game and came out with a broken arm when he found himself between Felix (Doc) Blanchard, Army fullback carrying the ball, and two Irish tacklers. They stopped Blanchard and Reese, too.

# Byrnes' Order Backed By Top Sports Figures

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Sports leaders throughout the country solidly backed War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes today in his action to crack down on sports wherever necessary to divert manpower, transportation and material to increase war production.

### Jimmy for President—LaGuardia's Reaction

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, long an advocate of War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes' action to ban wartime horse and dog racing, greeted the news with uncontrolled glee.

"A Daniel come to judgment," beamed "Butch." "I'm all for Jimmy for President."

## Sports Heads Put War First

NEW YORK, Dec. 25.—Following WMD James F. Byrnes' announcement to crack down on sports, if necessary, to step up war production, sports officials almost unanimously agreed that "the war came first."

Shortly after Byrnes' directive was made known, the following statements were among thousands supporting the campaign:

**Ford Frick, National League president.**—"We are all out to do anything we can to help win the war—and in a hurry."

**Elmer Layden, National Football League president.**—"We have not sought deferments for our players and don't intend to do so. We don't have the same kind of football we had, but have operated within wartime regulations. The league has about 500 players in service and an average of 20 to 28 players with each club during the past season were labeled 4F by their draft boards."

**Harold "Red" Grange, U.S. Football League president.**—"We planned to open our league in 1945, but are ready to hold off if the government says so."

**Abe J. Greene, NBA president.**—"Sports activity is relatively unimportant to that which has direct influence on the war. When men are willing to die, certainly the matter of temporal pleasure or excitement cannot be considered."

**Nat Rogers, Madison Square Garden matchmaker.**—"War comes first. We must abide by rulings of the War Manpower Commission and other agencies. If enough boxers remain after that we will continue to promote."

### Defenders, Avalanche In Scoreless Grid Tilt

The Defenders of Ninth Air Defense Command and Golden Avalanche of Ninth AF Headquarters played a scoreless tie in a Christmas Eve football game before a crowd of 3,500.

The Defenders, led by Fullback Johnny Kornosf, made their best bid for a score in the first half when they reached the Avalanche 15-yard line. The HQ eleven, completing three straight passes, had a first down on the Defender nine-yard line in the fourth quarter but were thrown back.

### GI Grid Game Called Off

The scheduled football game between the Second AADA Thunderbolts and SHAEF at Parc des Princes yesterday afternoon was called off for security reasons

Ford Frick and Will Harridge, presidents of the National and American Leagues; Elmer Layden, president of the National Football League; Abe J. Greene, president of the National Boxing Association, and governors of states where horse racing tracks are located were among the many to voice willingness to co-operate with the government in the campaign announced by Byrnes over the weekend.

### One Discordant Note

Only one discordant note was heard from directors of Tropical Park in Miami, Fla. In a statement agreeing that "nothing else counts when winning the war is in question" the directors said they couldn't see why a rule on transportation and manpower, directed against circumstances existing elsewhere, should apply to Florida and other Atlantic seaboard states which are not under pressure.

"Florida has no great war industries," the statement said. "The state isn't in an area affected by war labor conditions, there is no shortage of war workers, no dislocation of rail travel and gas rationing is rigidly enforced."

Meanwhile, club owners and officials showed no concern about major league baseball carrying on in 1945, despite the fact baseball figures to be hit harder than any other professional sport by conservation of transportation and Byrnes' request for a re-examination of 4F athletes and a "work or fight" clause for men of draft age.

### Short Season Possibility

There also was a possibility that a shortened baseball season may be proposed, reminiscent of 1918 when Sec. of War Newton D. Baker issued his "work or fight" directive to baseball. World War I ended in November of that year to save the situation.

Frick said he wasn't surprised by Byrnes' order and added that he knew draft reviews of players were to be made.

"Three years ago we said we'd play as long as we could get nine men on the field and that still goes," Frick stated.

## Question Box

**Lt. J. R. Wilson.**—Ohio State beat Texas Christian, 14-0, in '37.

**Pfc C. P. Clark.**—Fastest recognized mark for 100-yard run is 9.4 seconds, jointly held by Jesse Owens and Frank Wykoff. Buddy Young of Illinois has run 9.4 twice and is faster than Glenn Davis of Army, who hasn't concentrated on track but runs the century under 10 seconds.

**Pvt. G. Celizia.**—Notre Dame beat Southern California, 27-0, in '30.

**Pfc R. G. Ivey.**—Results Eastern League playoff '44: Binghamton won first two, 2-1, 17-7; Utica won third, 20-17; Binghamton 6-0, fourth; Utica, 3-1, fifth; Binghamton, 3-2, sixth.

**Maj. R. L. Coombs.**—Boston College beat Idaho, 60-0, at Boston in '40.

**Cpl. Louis Rose.**—Princeton-Rutgers 1869 meeting was the first college football game in the States, but there's no specific date dealing with the origin of the game.

**Pfc Lefler.**—Buddy Young tied Red Grange's Illinois record this year, scoring 11 touchdowns.

**Pvt. Anthony Krinich.**—The back of our hand to the New York Bureau of S & S, which supplies the answers for Question Box. Notre Dame beat Michigan, 35-12, in '43, is correct answer to your query.

# THE B BAG BLOW IT OUT HERE

## Understanding Americans

"Shades of Greengroin" in your Dec. 1 B Bag column is not the best piece of satire I have ever read, but its impact on "ETO Society" should, it seems to me, give Sgt. W. M. N. the temporary rank of a GI Jonathan Swift or Alexander Pope.—T/Sgt. E. S. Howard, AAA Bn.

I say, put them all up at the front lines and let them worry about such things as their scalps instead of cough drops and PX Rations.—Pvt. S. G., Med. Det.

*Of all the petty things to gripe about you take the paper bathtub.—A Disgusted T/4.*

*That letter sounded like something written by an addict of marihuana. Anyone writing such a letter must have an IQ of minus 56 making such childish complaints. —J. B., Inf.*

If your outfit is made up of sergeants like you, how do you expect to make headlines?—A. A., Gun Crew, Inf.

I don't like cigarettes either, even when the other guy smokes them; but cough drops! The trouble bearing heavily on the heart of the sergeant reminded me of the time when I was trying to preach to a congregation of Rocky Mountain Baptists. My throat was tickling something awful. In desperation I choked in the middle of my sermon and begged the people for a cough drop. Five deacons came to my rescue. Everyone of them had a vest pocket full and everyone of them came down the aisle with one raised toward me between his thumb and first finger. There was one of the most needed offerings I ever saw. Do you wonder at lumps in my throat when I read of people not having any cough drops?

Will you convey to the sergeant my most heartfelt sympathy and see to it that the accompanying package of cellophane-wrapped cough drops gets to him?—E. J. Cain, Chaplain.

*(Your offering is en route to the sergeant.—Ed.)*

*The boys in the front lines need the cough drops worse than you do.—Sgt. and 3 Pvts., First and Third Armies.*

*So, you don't like cigarettes; you prefer cough drops; you can't get to see a USO; the Red Cross never visits you, and you get pimples from soap. Boy, you are a typical Sad Sack.—Pvt. L. L. K., FA Bn.*

We boys from the "hut in the mud" have decided that it was a masterpiece. So good, in fact, that we are nominating the author as our candidate for the post of GI Plenipotentiary to the peace conference. He has already expressed our war-time tribulations, and we feel him capable of doing us justice at the peace parley. At least why couldn't some one

induce Sgt. W. M. N. to write to The Stars and Stripes more often. His sense of humor is pulverizing. Let's have more of his excellent works.—Pvt. R. Scoring and two others, AAA Bn.

In response to the illiterate so and so who wrote "Ain't got no cough drops in the double-wrapped cellophane bags," we at the front shed tears of sorrow as we read his very touching advertisement for "cough drops in the double-wrapped cellophane bags."—G. D., Armd Recon. Bn.

## Global Quarterbacks

We're sick of reading all of this boloney from so-called experts 3,000 miles away, who never were in the army but nevertheless think they are able to manage it better than the people we have over here. They're the ones who seem to know all the answers about how many reserves the Germans have, where he'll attack next, what we ought to do to counter him and what's wrong with our conduct of war and our intelligence.

They remind me of those Monday morning quarterbacks back home who used to win Sunday's games on Monday morning without even as much as a black eye.

Personally I've been in the army long enough to know what kind of people are running it. They're men who have given all their lives to preparation for the very situations we confront today. At Kasserine, in North Africa, Sicily, at Anzio and all the way from the Normandy beaches to the Rhine, they proved time and again that they knew the score and could run this war all the way to victory.

My prediction is this: when my kid picks up his history book 20 years from now, he'll learn what lots of people don't know today—that good preparation, good leadership and first class savvy of the Nazi and his plans made our past victories possible and put this next and final victory on ice.

My money's on Ike Eisenhower and Omar Bradley and not on these so-called military experts who have muffed the ball time and time again.—Pfc. E. O'D.

## An Editorial

# It's an Ill Wind...

THE generals and the Joes knew better. But there were folks who thought we had those Nazi devils by the tail and hollering ouch and so they started fishing for bigger fry. You know, something more our size and smell than a poor, brokendown beatup Nazi.

Then all of a sudden the Nazi turned around and kicked us in the you-know-where. And what happened?

What didn't happen! An armada of 5,500 planes takes the air—the greatest force of heavy bombers ever mustered by any air force—and gives the Kraut a sweet shellacking. War Mobilizer Byrnes makes the most drastic manpower move of the war. Horse and dog races go out of biz. Home Front rises to new production heights, booming away on Christmas Day.

The 8-ball of the outfit becomes a ball of fire. The Joe who's been sweating out everything from TS to trench foot digs in and comes up with more than ever. Ten percent more? Hell—all or nothing. Where an American soldier gets his gall and guts is an all-time miracle.

Convoys that used to get lost and late are arriving on the button. Details that



used to be ducked are drawing volunteers. Home Front and West Front are teaming together like honeymooners at Niagara Falls. Old Man Weather gets on the beam. The Nazi counter-offensive is stopped in its tracks.

It's an ill wind that doesn't blow some good. But must we ALWAYS be kicked in

the pants before we get on the ball? Can't we learn from history—not Hitler? Can't we keep the teamwork—steamroller huffing and puffing at its present pitch until we blow Hitler's house down.

And then use it to build a better home for us all—tomorrow?



## Accent Has Cook in Siew

It's not easy keeping the barbed wire tight around 17,000 PWs. GIs in the 2024th PW Overhead Det. say their job is further complicated by T/4 Rudolph Schmidt, the cook, whose German accent makes it sometimes doubtful who is who. "It's scary business for me, around here," Schmitt admits. "Maybe some night the guards shout 'Halt!' and I forget and answer, 'Ya, here.' You guys have one less cook tomorrow." Maj. J. C. Virgilio, the outfit's CO, says Schmitt's baking is good enough to be worth the risk, and the GIs, from 1/Sgt. H. D. Jacobs on down to Pfc V. J. (Pop) Rosky—first man in the chow line—agree.

## That's Right, Sarge

You never know what you're going to find when you start chasing a woman. Sgt. Angelo Speggen, of Fayette, Pa., a mortar section leader in the Fifth Inf. Div., found 27 prisoners.

Speggen was leading his section on a drive for a pillbox near Metz when he spotted a girl and followed her. She led him right to the doorway of the pillbox and, at his spoken invitation, 27 Germans came out with their hands up.

## Dog Robber Has Busy Day

Bored with his job as dog robber to a colonel in the 79th Div., Pvt. Homer F. Cooley, of Chicago, went out with a patrol, knocked out a

strongpoint with a rifle grenade, killed three Germans, took 12 prisoners, and won a Silver Star.

## Here's Another Claim

The 629th TD Bn. claims to be the only tank destroyer outfit in the First U.S. Army credited with the destruction of a German plane. Pvt. George C. Maringer, of Cincinnati, Ohio, had just finished cleaning his .50 cal. machine gun when several FW190s attacked. Maringer brought down one in flames. Then he had to clean his gun again.

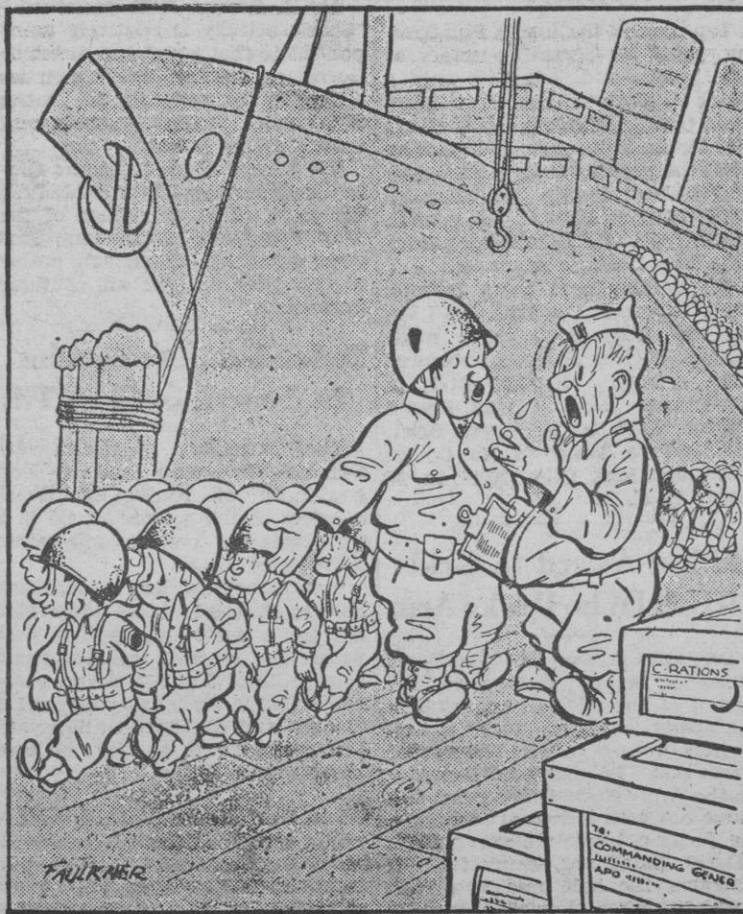
## Hot Time in Town

Yanks spending a Sunday in the village of Givry were literally "visiting firemen." They helped to extinguish a blaze in a barn.

Pfc Nathan Breen, of Brooklyn and the 26th Inf. Div., had just organized a GI bucket brigade when the local fire department rolled up—pulling an 18th-century hand pumper. So the soldiers pumped and had the fire out in a couple of hours, in spite of leaky gaskets.

## Tipsy Tipperary

In the line of German prisoners trudging back from the Siegfried Line was one, apparently tipsy, who was singing. According to 1/Sgt. Howard C. Crawford, of St. Charles, Ill., the prisoner was singing, "It's a Long, Long Way to Tipperary," which he learned as a PW in England during the last war.



"It's to save shipping space—they're dehydrated!"

## THE STARS AND STRIPES

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# Hash Marks

Signs of the times. Scribbled neath some pin-ups in a Nisser. Hut are these words: "I'd gladly give my army pay to have a date with Alice Faye."

Boy, it's really crowded in Paris over the holiday season. Pvt. Joe Lipsman sez he was in a night club that was so crowded that when a GI bent over to tie his shoe, a waiter threw a tablecloth over him and seated three more customers.

In keeping with the holiday, or calvados season, we quote this little jingle:

Roses are blue, violets are pink  
Immediately after the thirteenth drink.

On the home front: A sign in a meat market on Broadway reads: "Ladies, please don't bring your fat cans around on Saturday any more."

"Some stars," said she.  
"Some dew," said he.  
"Not me," said she.

Today's daffynition. A gentleman



is a fellow that a girl doesn't know very well.

Overheard in an office. "How dare you kiss me? I won't stand for things like that—and besides, you forgot to lock the door."

And once upon a time there was a guy who went to a nudist camp on his furlough because he didn't want to see the sight of a uniform.

This utility make-up is something awful, sez the guy who left this verse in our typewriter:

He took her gently in his arms  
And pressed her to his chest,  
The lovely color left her face  
And lodged upon his vest.

Sad comment from our spy on the home front. "The modern gal dresses to kill—and cooks about the same way."

GI observation. It takes a lot of experience for a girl to kiss like a beginner.

Overheard in the blackout. "The old-fashioned girl wanted an all-day sucker. The modern miss wants one just for the evening."

J. C. W.

## Births

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

L. T. Laurence E. Zeleznik, Brownsville, Pa.—Larry Wayne, Dec. 13; Pfc Joseph Bergon, New York—boy, Dec. 7; Pfc Richard C. Fisher, Williamsport, Pa.—Jeffrey Lee, Dec. 14; Maj. Edmund Beshara, Cleveland—Dennis, Dec. 15; Lt. Fred C. Webster, Randolph, Vt.—boy, Dec. 5.

CPL. Edgar C. Avery, Concord, N.H.—Nancy Ann, Nov. 2; Sgt. Charles Banner, Mass.—girl, Sept. 11; Lt. Reuben Markowitz, Brooklyn—boy, Nov. 18.

L. T. Melvin L. Willhoite, Indianapolis—boy, Oct. 2; Sgt. Alva M. Lumpkin, Columbia, S.C.—Mary Holbrook, Dec. 21; Sgt. Kenneth Garabrant, Morristown—Pamela, Dec. 21.

## AEF-RADIO-AFN Program-AFN

Time TODAY  
0925—Music America Loves.  
2015—All Sack and the 40 QMs.  
2105—Charlie McCarthy.  
2207—Hit Parade.

TOMORROW  
1715—Amos 'n Andy.  
2015—Johnny Mercer's Music Shop.  
2105—Eddie Condon's Jazz Session.  
2130—Bob Hope.

### Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features.

By Al Capp



### Terry And The Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate

By Milton Caniff



### Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune Syndicate Inc

By Chester Gould



### Abbie an' Slat

By Courtesy of United Features

By Raeburn Van Buren



### Male Call

By Milton Caniff



### Blondie

By Courtesy of King Features Syndicate

By Chic Young



## Fierce Battles Mark 'Day of Peace' at Front

By Ernest Leiser

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

There was no peace on earth for soldiers on the Western Front this Christmas Day. The only Christmas lights were the red and green flares splashing the skies to coordinate the relentless assaults and counter-blows. There were no bells—only the roar of artillery, the thud of bombs and the chatter of small arms fire. There was no warmth no cheer. There wasn't even time enough to think about what Christmas might have been. It was white along the front lines yesterday but it wasn't Christmas.

When moments were stolen from the battle, they were mostly devoted to religious services or to attempts to warm up with a bottle of bad cognac bartered for under enemy fire. There was turkey in most places but turkey didn't taste as good eaten out of icy mess gear or in a foxhole filled with snow.

### No Battle Lull Expected

The men in the lines hadn't expected any battle lull on Christmas Day. "I heard a crazy rumor there might be a few hours of truce," said Sgt. Cecil E. Houston, of Konawa, Okla., doughboy in one infantry division, "and that we would exchange cigarettes with the Germans. But it was a lot of hooey. Under the non-fraternization rules, it would have cost us \$65,000 to give a Nazi cigarette and they're not worth that much."

Most of what little talk there was about Christmas was about next Christmas—or the one after. Pvt. Emmett T. Burke, of Brooklyn, an MP who hasn't been home for the holidays for four years, said, "Maybe I'll make it next year—but if it ain't Brooklyn, it'll be Tokyo."

T/Sgt. Andrew Hilka, of Pittsburgh, Pa., was expecting a strictly combat Christmas present today. He was scheduled to receive his battlefield commission as a second lieutenant.

### Turkey Dinner

On the line every effort was made to give the fighters at least the break of a turkey dinner. Lt. Col. Gilbert E. Strickler, of New Glarus, Wis., executive officer of one infantry regiment, ordered the Christmas meal cooked in field kitchens in small villages and carried to the troops in ammunition boxes.

Pfc John McDonald, of Brooklyn, told the story of the front line GI who had been expecting a Christmas box from home for six weeks. "He finally got it—and that's all he got—one box. The contents had slipped out." Most of the men, though, had their only real touch of Christmas in packages and letters from home.

## ELAS Questions Right Of British Intervention

ATHENS, Dec. 25 (AP).—ELAS (leftwing resistance group) leaders challenged the right of the British to intervene in the Greek disorders and said that they could surrender their arms only to a Greek government, according to the official text of their note to Maj. Gen. Ronald M. Scobie, the British commander, published today.

As heavy fighting between the ELAS and British troops continued, the British reported that they had cleared approximately half of Athens of the leftists. The ELAS forces still held the central electric power station.

## Engineers Take On Still Another Job



U.S. Army Signal Corps photo. Snow blocking a road near Krinkelter, Belgium, slowed down U.S. First Army movements, so engineers of the Second Inf. Div. rigged up this GI snow plow. A blade is mounted on a 2 1/2-ton truck.

## List Winners In Tire Contest

(Continued from page 1)

Barks, of the 53rd Air Service Sq., whose entry was "Soldier—Our Victory May Be Hanging by a Tread."

Originally, the judges, Maj. Gens. H. B. Saylor and Frank S. Ross, and Brig. Gen. James H. Stratton, had intended to award only the bond prizes. However, they said, "because of the high quality of the additional entries, and the sincerity of the contestants," it was decided to give the three winners and the ten next entrants the special passes to Paris, which will not cut into their unit allotments.

Honorable mention winners were: St. C. J. Smith, of a fighter squadron; Pvt. E. Ackerman, of the 783rd MP Bn.; Sgt. Anthony V. Daria, of the 60th Inf. Med. Det.; T/Sgt. L. P. Troch, SGS Section, 12th Army Gp. Hq.; Pvt. Russell W. Stuber, 538th QM Gp.; T/Sgt. Clifford W. Hutchinson, Hq. Co. CAS; Sgt. Glen C. Price, 23rd Sp. Tps.; Pfc John Stenzinger, Infantry; Cpl. Herbert B. Ashley, 55th Fin. Dis. Sect., and Pvt. Leonard J. Siegel, First Eur. Civ. Aff. Rgt.

## Budapest Is Held In Vise by Soviets

MOSCOW, Dec. 25 (AP).—The Red Army applied a death-lock on Budapest today, throttling its last communication lines to Vienna and moving up to the suburbs of Buda on the west side of the Danube River.

Northwest of the Hungarian capital, Russian units driving northward, northwestward and northeastward cut every road and railway out of Buda except the electric line to Vienna, and brought that under artillery fire from north and south.

(The United Press put the northward drive within 100 miles of Vienna).

Marshal Feodor Tolbukhin's offensive from southwest of Budapest had swept through the Germans' deep defense line hinged on the rail and highway junction of Szekes-Feharvar and captured that city and some 200 other inhabited places by Christmas morning. The breakthrough was 25 miles deep in some places.

## Redlined 13 Months, Sees Silver Lining

WITH THIRD INF. DIV.—He doesn't care whether it's a record or not, but T/Sgt. John Ten Eyck, of an AAA AW Bn. in the Third Inf. Div. has finally been paid after being redlined for 13 consecutive months.

The payoff, as far as Ten Eyck is concerned, is that he's going to be able to spend the money back home in Colorado Springs, Colo. While the finance office was unscrambling his payroll status, Ten Eyck was notified that his rotation had come through.

## 196 Nazi Planes Blasted From Skies

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turning pilots declared that "the Germans were neither too aggressive nor too experienced."

This force, sent up on an all-or-nothing gamble to support Von Rundstedt's drive, made a greater number of offensive missions than at any time since the Battle of Britain, an officer said.

U.S. planes destroyed five buildings, two hangars, a barracks and, in a double play, smashed a plane being serviced by a gasoline truck, and then destroyed the truck. The attacking planes were engaged by 60 FW190s and ME109s. Nine were shot down.

## Yanks Throw Book at Nazis In Fortified Bitche College

By Ed Clark

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH SEVENTH ARMY, Dec. 25.—Company F crept down out of the hills rimming the German-held Maginot fortress of Bitche the other day and went to college.

Led by 2/Lt. James P. Shields, of St. Paul, Minn., who had been commissioned that day, and immediately afterwards was named CO, the men carried machine guns, mortars and rifles instead of pens and pencils and lugged ammo rather than books, for they were headed for no ordinary classrooms, but the College de Bitche. The

## 'Hell Holiday' For Germans

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JU88," and Anderson whips the responsive Widow, of the squadron bossed by Lt. Col. O. B. Johnson, of Natchitoches, La., into a tight-climbing turn.

For 20 minutes high-speed teamwork between Anderson and Mogan keeps the Widow on the trail of the evasive Nazi fighter. From 5,000 feet to deck level the moonlit dogfight pinwheels over the Rundstedt-held Marche area, as the enemy flak guns splatter the P61s with tracers.

### JU Darts Across Path

As Anderson closes in for the kill, a second JU suddenly hurtles toward us, in an attempt to scare the Widow off, but Anderson continues to bore in, even as the new JU cuts across between us and the target plane in an attempt to throw off his sights.

Finally a burst from the Widow's guns hits the JU's right engine. It explodes and the Nazi trails groundward in a screen of smoke. Anderson closes in again to make the kill certain, but his guns are empty. The fight is over.

The flares, artillery flashes, and the tracers still light up the battlefields. In St. Vith, you can see houses gutted and burning. Only embers illuminate the manglers. It makes a grim Christmas spectacle.

## Enemy's Flank Forced Back, Drive Slowed

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been liberated, the Reuter report said.

Other forces to the west in Belgium captured Chaumont, six miles south of Bastogne, which is still firmly held by Americans, and smeared the first counter-attack the Nazis threw at Chaumont.

In this sector, U.S. troops were reported coming up from the south astride the Arlon-Bastogne section of the highway which runs to Liege.

Heavy fighting continued around Bastogne, but U.S. forces still held the town in the face of strong enemy attacks.

American advances also were made in eastern Luxembourg in the sector northwest of Diekirch, a town north of Echternach.

West of Diekirch, U.S. troops threw the enemy out of the town of Heiderschied. Americans were pushing generally toward the Sure River, which crosses the Duchy and flows in an east-west line north of the Diekirch sector.

Westward in Belgium, Allies threw back heavy attacks northwest of Laroche and Lierneux, a town midway between Laroche and Stavelot.

### Northern Sector Quiet

The northern sector of the offensive was relatively quiet. Some German parachutists were dropped north and northwest of Stavelot, but official report said these were being dealt with.

While the enemy made no major advances, it was said in official quarters that this did not mean necessarily that the offensive had played out. The Germans still have powerful forces concentrated in the Bastogne area and they are still active, it was said.

The temperature dropped to below freezing Christmas Eve, the UP said, and the war's sixth Christmas dawned cloudy.

## Nazis Pounded By Air Fleets

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again yesterday, following up Sunday's record 2,000-bomber attack.

Skies over the targets were clear, and Eighth fliers reported devastation behind the German front, leaving roads clogged with wrecked and burning vehicles. Early reports indicated that 44 German planes had been shot down by the Eighth.

The Eighth reported 13 bombers and 19 fighters missing.

RAF Lancasters, which Sunday night had bombed the marshalling yard at Cologne and an airfield at Bonn, sent out strong forces again yesterday after the Eighth's attack to hit at targets behind the bulge. During Sunday night's raid, the Lancs were escorted by Mosquitoes, which attacked locomotives and rolling stock.

Medium and light bombers of the Ninth AF flew more than 750 sorties against communication lines of the counter-offensive yesterday. Encountering no enemy fighter opposition for the second day, the Marauders, Havocs and Invaders smashed at highways in the towns of Bitburg, Irrel, Munstereifel and Vianden, leaving them "clogged with craters," according to a Ninth report.

### White Christmas in Italy

ALLIED MEDITERRANEAN HQ., Dec. 25 (Reuter).—Heavy snowfalls blanketed the Italian front on Christmas Day, limiting activity to patrolling. Temperatures were below