

104-P-105C

WIEGE EDITION

Man Spricht Deutsch

Foer einstellen.
Foyer aynstellen.
Cease firing.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily News paper of U.S. Armed Forces
Vol. I—No. 36

in the European Theater of Operations
Saturday, Feb. 24, 1945

A FULL PAGE OF PICTURES
ON THE ATTACK—PAGE 8

1st and 9th Armies Attack; Cross Roer, Drive On East

Across the River at Dawn



Ninth Army infantrymen yesterday crossed the Roer River in assault boats like the one used here, in pre-assault practice in the dim light of dawn.

Planes, Artillery Aid Troops; Nazis Say Big Push On

The First and Ninth Armies jumped off at dawn yesterday. Assault troops stormed across the swollen Roer River and slugged eastward into Germany toward the Rhine, 20-odd miles away.

The Nazis said Gen. Eisenhower's big push had started.

The attack was preceded by an artillery barrage which blazed across the West Front sky for nearly an hour.

As infantrymen and engineers made good their bridgeheads and pushed on with the dawn, American and British warplanes began to converge on the Reich from north, south and west. Before nightfall heavy, medium and fighter-bombers, covered by swarms of fighters, had flown more than 5,000 sorties from the West Front to Czechoslovakia, from Italy to the North Sea, and carried the Allied total of air sorties to more than 12,000 in 36 hours, by unofficial estimates.

First Army Spans Roer Beyond Aachen

By Seymour Sharnik

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH FIRST U.S. ARMY, Feb. 23—The First U.S. Army resumed the offensive this morning, crossing the Roer in the area east of Aachen. Following a heavy artillery preparation, troops of the First struck across the river at 0330 hours beside units of the Ninth Army on their left.

Penetrations of one to two miles beyond the east bank were reported, as infantrymen fought their way into the streets of Duren and stormed the towns of Huchen-Stammeln and Berchsdorf. Resistance inside Duren at first was severe but lessened after artillery had been brought against strongpoints within the city.

Artillery Silent in Morning

Assault-boats and paddle-boats brought troops across the river all morning in increasing numbers, fighting to enlarge their bridgeheads under opposition that tightened as the attack progressed. Heavy mortar and moderate automatic weapons fire harassed the initial landings but German artillery was conspicuously silent until late in the forenoon.

Under a bright moon, the early crossings were developed in full observation of Germans holding high ground around one of the objectives. It was the river itself and not enemy fire, however, which provided the most difficult opposition to the amphibious attempts. A strong current swept hastily-thrown bridges downstream, upset the light landing-boats and carried them away from their points of approach.

Casualties during the first day were described as "extremely light for such an operation."

Enemy air activity over the area of the attack was marked by the appearance of German ME262 jet-propelled fighters in unprecedented number. Antiaircraft claimed the destruction of six of the "squirts" in the first major encounter of American ground weapons with the jet planes.

Ninth Shoves Off After Dawn Barrage

By Ernest Leiser

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH NINTH ARMY, Feb. 23—The Ninth Army crossed the River Roer today. Following a thunderous, 45-minute saturation barrage by nearly 2,000 artillery pieces, the long-awaited attack shoved off at 0330. Assault boats carried the first waves of infantrymen across the surging river while vast concentrations of machine guns shot tracers at the Nazi front-line positions to cover their advance.

Despite the treacherous, flood-speed current and rapidly developing enemy artillery concentrations on the crossing sites, engineers, starting with the pre-Hour barrage, hauled assault boats down to the river's edge, then began work on foot bridges, infantry support and treadway bridges.

Upsets Frequent

Most of the troops, especially in the central and southern sectors of the assault front, were forced to make the crossing in the paddle-operated assault boats, and upsets were frequent as the river flow forced the boats far downstream and against partly-submerged trees on the river's normal banks. Life preservers, issued before the attack, held drowning casualties down.

Details of the operation itself, including size of the attack, unit designations, ground gained, towns taken, and casualties were withheld for the first 24 hours of the operation. But field commanders reported that results for the first 16 hours were "very satisfactory."

The Roer, front for the Ninth Army along some of its sectors since back in December, has proven a formidable obstacle in the drive for the Rhine.

The Germans had made a bid to delay the drive by releasing water from the dams that controlled the flow into the Roer valley and soaking the soil along the river's banks with a temporary flood.

However, by mid-afternoon completed bridges in strategic sites all along the front were visible, carrying traffic across and up to the troops driving eastward.

9th AF Hits Biggest Blow

Marines Win Iwo Mountain

Marines of the 28th Reg. raised the American flag today over Mt. Suribachi, powerfully-defended volcano at the southern tip of Iwo Jima, but elsewhere the bloody battle was at a virtual stalemate as three leatherneck divisions attempted to drive toward the last enemy-held airfield in the center of the tiny island.

Lt. Gen. Holland M. Smith, commanding the Marines, called the Iwo campaign the "most difficult problem with which the Marine Corps has been confronted in 168 years," and Fleet Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced that in the first 58 hours of fighting the Yanks suffered 5,372 casualties—including 644 killed, 560 missing and 4,168 wounded. In the same period 1,222 Japanese dead were counted.

It took the Marines 96 hours to win command of 566-foot-high Mt. Suribachi, from which the Japs had poured deadly mortar, rocket and artillery fire.

Turks Declare War On Germany, Japan Effective March 1

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 British 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 allowed to participate in the San Francisco Conference of the United Nations, on April 25. The Turkish declaration takes effect on March 1.

Defending Turkish foreign policy, the foreign minister said Turkey had "taken up its place at the side of peace-loving nations before the outbreak of this world war."

1,900 Sorties Over Fronts

Ninth AF sent its greatest air offensive of the war—more than 1,900 sorties—against German rail and road communications yesterday, clearing way for the new Allied offensive from the west.

Light bombers and fighter-bombers strafed highways and rail lines in front of the Ninth and First Armies, while Marauders, Havocs, and Invaders concentrated on road junctions in eight towns north and east of Duren.

Altogether, 5,000 Allied bombers and fighters struck at Germany from border to border yesterday, in support of the knockout twin offensives, from the Eastern and Western fronts.

Yesterday's attacks brought to 12,000 the total of Allied planes that struck at enemy rallyards, rail lines, and bridges in the 48-hour period ending last night.

(Continued on Page 3)

This Was America Yesterday

Byrnes Pleased With Public Response to Curfew Plan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—War Mobilizer Byrnes expressed pleasure at public response to his midnight curfew on amusement spots but failed to illuminate the question of how it would be enforced.

Byrnes said representatives of the entertainment world had "already pledged cooperation" and state and local officials had promised to carry out his orders.

But there were some sounds of grief and protest from night club men and members of cafe society in larger American cities which indicated that Byrnes' pleasure at public response may have been somewhat premature.

The State Liquor Commission of Michigan opened a loophole for Detroit tavern-owners by directing all Detroit nightspots to remain on Eastern War Time while the rest of the state goes on Central Time. This would give the clubs and bars an extra hour.

In Newark, N.J., a move for an after-midnight "candle-light hour" to beat the curfew was snuffed out when George S. Pfau, local WMC director, pointed out the idea of the restriction was not only to save fuel but also "to get people out of the taverns and into essential war work."

William S. Hopkins, head of the Philadelphia Café Owners' Guild, proposed the government close all non-war businesses one day a week rather than shut down bars every midnight to save fuel.

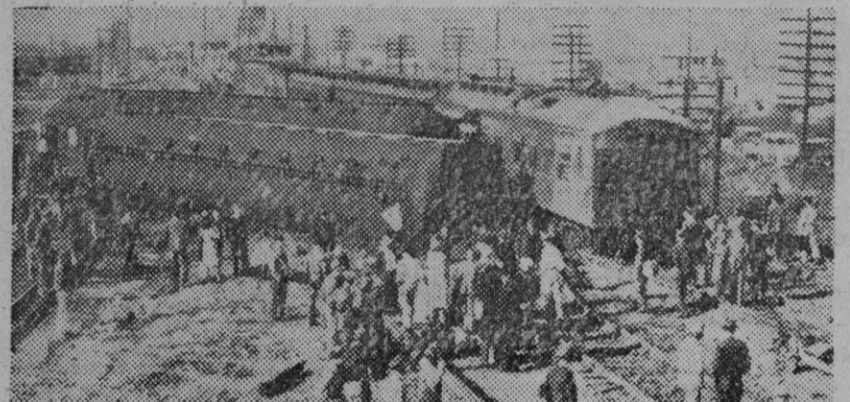
Gallup Finds Most Approve Yalta Talks

PULSE-PEELER, George Gallup polled the nation again and announced that 75 percent of the American people approved the policy of unconditional surrender as reaffirmed by the Big Three conference at Yalta. Only 12 percent of the people disapproved, with 13 percent undecided.

In putting the question, Gallup pointed out that the policy did not call for destruction of the German people, but only of Nazism and militarism.

Opposition to unconditional surrender centered around two main points. One was the belief that the demand was liable to prolong the war, as it offered no inducement to the German people to give up, and that every day the war lasted more Americans were killed. The second point was made by those who fear Russian postwar designs. These people said a crushed Germany, stripped of its resources, would leave Europe open to "a rising tide of Communism."

Injured in Texas Train Wreck



THE second section of the Southern Pacific's Sunset Limited was derailed while travelling through the yard in Houston, Tex. Two coaches overturned, injuring 50 passengers, of whom 27 were taken to hospitals. The conductor J. B. Van Ness, said the train was moving at 26 miles an hour at the time.

Patient Wants to Meet Foxhole Doc

PFC Henry Roon, 35, of Grand Rapids, Mich., was identified today as the doughboy whose life was saved Nov. 11 by an amazing windpipe operation performed on the battlefield with a GI knife and a fountain pen. The delicate operation was performed by Pvt. Duane Kinman, 19, a medic of College Place, Wash.

Roon, now at Gardner General Hospital in Chicago, said he still had shrapnel in his throat and that one vocal cord was paralyzed. However, he can speak softly without effort. Kinman's feat was hailed as a medical miracle and won him a postwar medical course free.

Roon wants to get in touch with Kinman. "He saved my life," he said.

Iowa Plans Fair—1946

THE Iowa State Fair Board has again voted to cancel the annual event this summer. The last Fair was held in 1941, but since that time the Board has decided annually to forego the event until after the war. This year, however, the Board made plans for a State Centennial Fair to be held in 1946.

SUCKERS for one-arm bandits may draw comfort from a ruling by the Minnesota state supreme court, which declared a loser might recover money lost in slot machines in that state. The decision was handed down in a suit by Horace P. Foley, of Albert Lea, who claimed he had lost \$20,000 in nickels and quarters in five and a half years.

Postwar Projects in the News

POSTWAR projects were in the news in cities throughout the nation. In Detroit, the City Plan Commission has approved the use of an undeveloped 10-acre area on the Detroit River between Lycaste and St. Jean Avenues as the site for the postwar location of a \$5,000,000 Public Lighting Commission power plant.

General Motors has taken title to 125 acres in Chicago, on Joliet Road near LaGrange, adjoining the plant of the corporation's electro-motive division. The land was bought in anticipation of an expansion of the plant, which manufactures Diesel-electric locomotives.

The South Dakota Rural Electrification Association announced at Huron that plans have been completed to provide electricity for 40,000 farms in the state. Work will start as soon as the war ends and will require three years. Cost of the project is estimated at \$20,000,000—and veterans will get the first call on jobs.

Senate Gets Kilgore's Bill On Manpower

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (UP).—The Kilgore Manpower Bill, a milder substitute for the House-approved May (work-fight-or-jail) Bill, was sent to the Senate yesterday by the Military Committee after a last-minute amendment penalizing employers who violate personnel ceilings or hire workers in violation of War Manpower Commission orders.

The bill, introduced by Sens. Harley M. Kilgore (D.-W.Va.), Warren R. Austin (R.-Vt.) and Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D.-Wyo.), will be debated by the Senate Monday. If it passes—and indications are that the session will be stormy—it will probably go to a hostile House committee which has declared its determination to stand pat on the May Bill's provisions.

Generally milder than the work-or-else May Bill, the Kilgore measure would authorize the War Manpower Commission, under James F. Byrnes, to set employment ceilings in designated plants or areas and to regulate or prohibit hiring of new workers over these ceilings.

Teeth Put in Bill
The bill originally was based on voluntary cooperation, but teeth were put in it by the amendment subjecting violating employers to one year in prison and a \$10,000 fine.

The only class of employees subject to penalty under the bill are farm workers deferred for agricultural duties and unfit for military service. If these men leave their farms without draft board permission they are subject to five years imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.

The Kilgore Bill, unlike the May Bill, affects both men and women.

New Army Plane Made of Plastic

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (ANS)—A new Army training plane made with plastic parts—the single-engined BT15—has just been put through a series of test flights by the Air Technical Service Command, and engineers are claiming that plastics may form the basis of combat planes of the future.

The BT15 has a rear fuselage section, a tail cone and side panels made of a special glass fiber plastic. Its construction is said to be 50 percent stronger than metal fabrication and 80 percent stronger than wood.

The plane uses a sandwich type construction, with a balsa wood core between inner and outer layers of the plastic. Aerodynamically, the BT15 is said to be more efficient than other models since it has no bolts or rivets to mar its external surfaces and interfere with streamlining.

Pregnant One Year, Bears Normal Baby

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23.—The birth of a baby girl to Mrs. Beulah Hunter, 25, wife of an aircraft worker, after more than a year of pregnancy, was reported today.

Dr. Daniel Beltz offered his records as proof that the six pound, 15-ounce girl born at Methodist Hospital was conceived a year and 11 days ago.

The baby, Penny Diana, was normal and required no special treatment. Beltz said pregnancies of longer than 300 days were not unusual, but that he baby should have weighed 12 to 14 pounds.

Bride, 13, Becomes Stepmother to Ten

SHELDON, Mo., Feb. 23 (ANS)—A 13-year-old farm girl married a 46-year-old farmer, thereby becoming the stepmother of ten children, some of them her schoolmates and others many years older than herself.

The child bride was Mary Lou Brown and her husband Ralph Houdeshell. Mrs. Oscar J. Brown, the girl's mother, gave her consent.

Million-Dollar Joliet Fire

JOLIET, Ill., Feb. 23.—A million dollar fire in the heart of Joliet's industrial section destroyed five warehouses today.

'Liar!' Charge in House Ends in Grapple on Floor

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (ANS)—Rep. Frank E. Hook (D.-Mich.) and Rep. John E. Rankin (D.-Miss.) wrestled on the floor of the House yesterday in a brief struggle until other Congressmen broke it up. Hook called Rankin "a dirty liar" and Rankin, shouting, "I don't take that from anyone!" ran down the aisle and locked his arms around Hook's neck.

The fight started after Rep. Clare E. Hoffman (R.-Mich.) had delivered a speech denouncing the CIO's Political Action Committee. Hook had taken the floor to answer Hoffman and to praise some of the PAC personalities.

Rankin attempted to interrupt him, but Hook cut him off, saying he would "do better to get acquainted with some of the good men in the CIO and stop his continual ranting and raving."

"That will be when I get down to the level of the gentleman from Michigan, who is shown in the records to associate with those people," Rankin said.

"You're a dirty liar!" Hook yelled, brandishing his fists at Rankin. The black-haired, 195-pound Michigan representative then took a step in the direction of Rankin, who was twisting his way through the seats.

"I don't take that from any man!" Rankin roared, his face livid. Then he ran down to the well of the House and flung himself at Hook.

The two Congressmen grappled, panting, until others separated them. Rankin is 62 years old, and Hook, 51.

Another disorder occurred when Rep. William J. Gallagher who once swept the streets of Minneapolis for a living, made his first speech in the House.

There was constant interruption by both Democrats and Republicans, but the mild little Democrat-Farm Laborite finally managed to get across his message—criticizing both parties.

At one point, when the tumult was at its height, Rep. Gordon L. McDonough (R.-Calif.) inquired of Gallagher, "Who's making this speech on your 30 minutes?" But the Minnesotan smilingly yielded the floor to everybody who wanted it.

Luce Asks House To Condemn Polish 'Deal'

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (UP)—Rep. Clare Boothe Luce (R.-Conn.) introduced a resolution today claiming the Big Three agreement on Poland represented a "direct violation of the Atlantic Charter."

The resolution demanded a permit allowing all members of the Polish armed forces supporting the London Polish Government to immigrate to the U.S. to "prevent their being persecuted in Poland for their political beliefs." It stated that "all Poles who dare condemn Poland's partition will be exposed to a charge of treason and threats of reprisal on return to their native country."

Urges U.S. Loans to Vets

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (ANS)—Director Maury Maverick of the Smaller War Plants Corp. today recommended 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.

'Happy Warrior's' Memory

ALBANY, N.Y., Feb. 23.—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, using the same pen with which the late Alfred E. Smith signed his first oath of office, signed the Shaw Bill yesterday, changing the name of the Edifice Building to the Alfred E. Smith building. The change was proposed by Assemblyman Stanley Shaw (R.-Tompkins County).

My Sin, Indiscretion

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 23 (ANS)—Included in the loot of a burglar who robbed a Hollywood perfumer were scents named Follow Me, Escape and My Alibi.

Rivers Flood 6 Dixie States

NEW YORK, 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, had inundated lowlands.

Minor flash floods in some midwest cities were subsiding, but 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 property damage at Alexander City.

The season's heaviest snowfall, 26.17 inches in the Red Oak area, covered sections of Iowa. Southeastern Nebraska had 17 inches. Heavy snows also covered Missouri, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Elsewhere in the nation normal February weather prevailed.

Navy Is Planning For Greater Fleet

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23 (Reuter)—The U.S. Navy, largest in the world, is planning to build still more ships in the next three years to hasten victory and help control the world's oceans after the war, Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal said today in an annual report to President Roosevelt.

Forrestal said in the report "Seapower is the foundation, though not the final element of victory. Our ability to reach the homelands of our enemies and their inability to reach us depend on one factor—Allied control of the sea. By June 30, 1944 we and our Allies dominated all oceans of the world except those seas immediately adjacent to Japan, Formosa, the Philippines and East Indies."

By the end of the 1944 fiscal year the Navy was the largest in the world said Forrestal. It consisted of 1,108 warships and 68,191 other craft together with 34,000 airplanes. Manpower comprised 3,623,000 officers and EMs of whom by far the largest part had no previous experience seagoing before Pearl Harbour.

"Why then do we plan to build more ships in 1945-1946-1947?" asked Forrestal. "We must maintain and increase the tremendous margin we now have, a margin which enabled us to conduct almost simultaneously operations against the Japanese and Germans."

Big Top Will Go Up As Usual This Spring

SARASOTA, Fla., Feb. 23 (ANS)—Ringling Bros.-Barnum and Bailey Circus will go on tour again this season, it was announced yesterday, after stays until April 6 were granted five key circus men sentenced to prison for involuntary manslaughter in connection with the Hartford (Conn.) fire last July which took 168 lives.

Civil War Heroine Dies

PLAQUEMINE, La., Feb. 23 (ANS)—A heroine of the Civil War died at her home here, in her 102nd year. She was Mrs. Valsey Templet, who sneaked through the Union lines to take medicine to Confederate soldiers.

Panties Not Essential—That's What WPB Says

NEW YORK, Feb. 23 (ANS)—New York's garment center was shocked today to discover that by inference the War Production Board had ruled women's panties non-essential.

WPB orders, aimed at placing priorities on rayon wool cotton so that "vital civilian articles can be produced at low cost, listed men's shorts, diapers and pajamas. Notably absent were women's panties.

Assault Craft Fail But 60 Men Cross

Troops Take Town Long a Sore Spot; Julich Destroyed

By Ray Lee

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH ADVANCED FORCES, GERMANY, Feb. 23—Following one of the most terrific artillery barrages seen on the Western Front since D-Day, a regiment of a famous American assault division today bridged the Roer River to break a three-months' lull in this sector. By late afternoon it had completed the capture of a town which has been a sore spot on this front since the division first reached the Roer last November.

The barrage, which consisted of several battalions firing everything from 105 cannons to eight-inch guns, lasted 45 minutes and from a forward OP on the river it seemed that no human being could be alive on the other side.

"It is the most artillery this outfit has had supporting it since D-Day," said a high ranking officer. "I've been a soldier a long time and I've never seen anything like it."

Fifteen minutes after the barrage began, a young lieutenant from Virginia took a platoon across in assault boats to act as a covering force and to secure positions for foot bridges.

Fighting in Streets

As the barrage lifted, combat engineers began building foot bridges and ferrying troops in assault boats. By daylight, troops were fighting in what was left of the streets of the city itself.

The artillery hadn't left much of Julich intact. Relatively light resistance was encountered as the Nazis showed little desire to fight.

The Germans, feeling secure in their pillboxes and trenches, were taken by complete surprise. Most PWs, of which there were many, said they knew nothing about it until the GIs were in the streets or they saw them coming over.

"It was the most amazing thing I ever saw," said Lt. Col. Paul Kzmarich from Tucson, Ariz., who flew over the area in an observation plane. "All troops and equipment had been moved to the river's edge without a shot being fired."

Red Drive Kills 800,000 Germans

Marshal Stalin, commemorating the 27th anniversary of the founding of the Red Army, announced yesterday that more than 800,000 Germans had been killed and more than 350,000 captured by the Russians in their 40-day-old winter offensive.

Simultaneously, Marshal Ivan Koniev's First Ukrainian Army began a battle for bridgeheads across the Neisse River southeast of Berlin, while Marshal Gregory Zuev's rear troops in Poland completed the capture of by-passed Posen after a month-long siege. More than 25,000 Germans were killed and captured in the fight for the city.

German reports of the fighting on Koniev's front said the Soviets had penetrated Guben and Forst, but had been repelled. These reports, if true, meant the Russians had crossed the Neisse, which flows through Guben and east of Forst.

Forst, south of Guben and 13 miles east of the important communications center of Cottbus, was under heavy Soviet artillery bombardment.

In the Polish Corridor, Russian forces were only a little more than 30 miles from the once-free City of Danzig. In East Prussia, the Soviets further tightened the trap around German forces southwest of besieged Koenigsberg.

Yanks Take Italy Height

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 Torracca through an elaborate German trench system today as Brazilian troops on their right captured Mt. Castello.

Battalion Wouldn't Quit—They Fought Roer And Germans

By Bud Hutton And Andy Rooney

Stars and Stripes Staff Writers

WITH FIRST ARMY TROOPS ON THE ROER, Feb. 23—In the red light of bursting shells the battalion moved out of the shadows and started to cross the Roer. It was 0330 hours.

Chemical smoke hung low over the water and spread out the glare of Jerry's mortars as they began to fall among the men of Paul Hickey's A Co. The medics came up and went to work while the first wave pushed its motorboats out into the flood waters. One engine started; the rest never did.

The mortars came faster, and while they fell the assault troops of Maj. Harry Beckley's battalion gave up the engines which wouldn't start and began to paddle against the 12-mile-an-hour current.

"Gotta get there," S/Sgt. Joe Carplaux heard Capt. Fred Patterson, the Wall-halla, N.Y., commander of B Co., shout. Carplaux began to paddle and was swept into the current. A handful of the boats got away from the shore. The rest of them were holed by the mortars and the quick bursts of Schmeisser fire from buildings 60 yards away on the river's east bank, or were swept out of wounded men's hands by the racing water.

Patterson took eight men out into the river, through the tracer, but the job that was meant to be done by motorboats couldn't be done with paddles, and the flood waters twisted them in midstream, hurled them spinning through a sluiceway and against the same shoreline they had left. When they tried to crawl out, machine gun fire cut their number in half. But Patterson wasn't wounded.

In the CP, Maj. Lou Dughl, of Westfield, N.J., and the others talked a minute, called the engineers. The darkness was fading and dawn was half there through the smoke and fog. The engineers went out into the mortars and the 88s and began to build a footbridge. The captain was hit. A lieutenant took his place and was hit. They got the bridge finished in the morning, and when it was done the Jerries zeroed in and blew it to pieces.

60 Trickled In

To a brick-walled factory on the enemy shore, men trickled in through the night until there were 60 of them when the day came.

"What happened to the rest who started across and never got there, we couldn't tell," T/Sgt. Charles Scabery of Cantril, Iowa, said. "Maybe you'd see their boats twist all of a sudden when the current threw them, or hear a holler, but then the noise of the barrage would go on and the smoke would close in and there wasn't anything there at all."

By noon they'd rebuilt and rebuilt the footbridge. The battalion would figure out one thing and it was no good, so they'd try something else. By all the rules in the book they should have been stuck.

But there were 60 men over there and they had no support; they didn't even have enough rifles. Lots of rifles had gone into the chill Roer when assault boats overturned, and the few who could make it swimming got there that way and the rest disappeared in the smoke.

But the battalion wouldn't quit. Two men came back from the 60, bringing five prisoners because information was needed. They were Carplaux and Scabery. They said, "We haven't got any communications, or food, and not much ammo. But we'll stick all right. We're going back."

Beckley leaned forward in the smoky air of the CP and said, "Go ahead. And we'll keep trying to get the battalion there."

Someone talked over the phone to Regiment, and they said Soandso was on its objective, and the outfit two units up the line was in the big town. The CP was quiet a minute and everyone was picturing the precise situation maps up and down the Roer, showing neat grease pencil marks that told how the big push was going eastward into the Esch.

Then they went back to getting help to the 60.

The Tacticians And the Terrain



Gen. Simpson, Ninth Army commander, and Marshal Montgomery.

Just Before the Jumpoff

GIs Crack Jokes, of a Sort; A General Had a Son ---

By Ralph G. Martin
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH NINTH ARMY AT ROER, Feb. 23.—The hayloft was filled with the stink of dirty, sweating feet last night, but nobody seemed to notice it: The men of the squad were stretched on the straw, packed close together. Most of them were talking in low whispers, some were sleeping, a few were just lying still, smoking, staring at the darkness.

In a couple of hours this first squad of the platoon of Able Company of the First Battalion could be piling into an assault boat to cross the Roer River in the first wave.

"I just wrote a long letter to my mother today," said 18-year-old Pvt. Willard Ross, of Arab, Ala., BAR man. This was his first action.

"I just wrote her that I was feeling fine and that there was nothing to worry about. That's the trouble with mothers—they're always worrying."

Everyone Writes Letters

Everybody had written letters. That was partly because there was nothing much else to do, nowhere to go. The CO had ordered all units to stay inside their billets all day, for security reasons. One of the boys had an ancient issue of Cosmopolitan Magazine and it had made the rounds, everybody reading every word in it, before putting it in the toilet paper supply.

"We were playing casino in the afternoon because I'm the only one who has enough dough to play poker," said Pvt. Cletus Crawford, of Tama, Iowa, who is also 18. Crawford just joined the squad last month.

"I've got 40 bucks in my shirt pocket and I told the guys that if I kick off on this show, they're supposed to split the dough between them and play at least one hot game of poker in my memory."

"Well, just don't walk in front of me," warned Pvt. Harry Hosier, of Peenshanken, N.J. "You're so damn small that if they aim at you, they're liable to hit me."

The whole squad was wide awake now, everybody laughing.

Ack Ack Opens Up

The ack ack guns started up suddenly, loudly, just as they had been doing all night long.

"Wish to hell we could get going already," said Pfc Robert Curtis, of Richmond, Va., the bazookaman.

"This waiting around is worse than anything," he said. "We've been sweating this one out two weeks now and we've practiced river crossing so many times that we could go through the whole show blindfolded."

"What are you bitching about?" said the kid from Scranton, Pa., Pvt. Bernard Bentler, who shoots grenades now instead of spraying furniture. "This waiting around is so much gravy . . . you've had two extra weeks to live."

This was the tipoff for another round of laughs.

Pfc Paul Vasington, who studied engineering at the University of Connecticut, explained why everything was so funny. Vasington is the assistant squad leader.

"If we didn't laugh, we'd go nuts," he said.

Up at No. 1 Long Tom of Charlie Battery, you could see right over the river.

"See that town over there?" said the chief of section, Sgt. Robert Harris, Scribner, N.C. "We're gonna flatten it like a pancake tonight."

T/4 Ernest Passagaluppi, Tappahannock, Va., the section mechanic, came in to report on his final checkup.

"My baby is all set," he said. Harris looked at his watch.

"Well, it won't be long now," he said.

It was the captain's job to worry about the 36 assault boats which would carry the division doggies across the river until footbridges were put in. He was Capt. Seymour Deutsch, Baltimore, of A. C. E. outfit.

"It's going to be tough," he said.

The division general stood along the side of the road watching the doggies march by slowly, single file, well-spaced, on both sides of the road. The general could watch them march past the CP because his division CP was located in advance of even his Company CPs. He was that kind of general. He looked at his soldiers for a long time. The general's son had been reported missing in action.



Stars and Stripes Map by Brown
Where First and Ninth Armies crossed Roer River.

Air ---

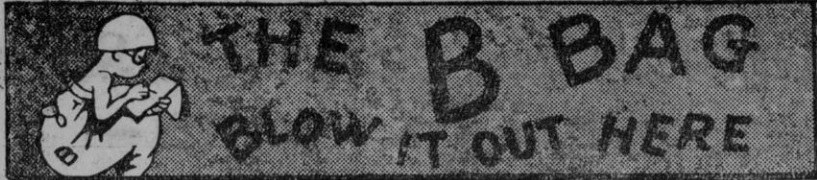
(Continued from Page 1)

It was estimated that 40,000 airmen are participating in the blitz.

Heaviest of the air blows 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 Eighth's attack, as well as oper-

ations by 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.

Six hundred and two 29th TAC planes, striking on the Roer River front, destroyed and damaged 1,192 railcars, 64 locomotives, 493 motor transports and armored vehicles, 395 buildings, and nine bridges, and cut rails in 115 places. It was the biggest operational day in the 29th's history.



Bravery

There have been many articles written of bravery and heroism since this war began, but this evening I witnessed the acme of heroism.

A young soldier entered my tent. He had just been notified that his brother had been killed. I told him that he had our sincerest sympathies and prayers, and that we regretted to hear such news, but that we must be expecting such things at any time until peace does come.

"Father," he said, "I understand. But Emmet is my third brother that has been killed. But I am not worried about Emmet, for I know he served his God and his country. But I am worrying about mother."

When informed that it might be possible to go to the States and be with his parents in view of the fact that three of his brothers have been lost, he replied:

"No, Father, all I want is to find out how mother is. I want to be over here so I can do my part and take my brothers' part. Dad served in the last war and we are doing our bit now so that America might be a better America and that we might all return to our loved ones soon." Chaplain (1st Lt.) Walter M. Boul, Inf.

Mail Service

Mail clerks send mail of their patients to all sorts of medical installations such as field hospitals, clearing stations, and units which hold patients for a very short time.

As a result the letters are delayed that much longer. Those fellows like their mail perhaps even a little more than you do so why not cooperate and hold their mail until the patient sends you his correct address. It will lighten the mail routes and maybe a fellow will get a February letter in February. —Cpl. R.S.R., Field Hosp.

Oh Doctor

Did an Act of Congress make medical officers gentlemen? It seems in some cases that it did not or what excuses have they for their rowdy conduct? Please keep in mind some nurses are over here to take care of patients and not just to entertain lonely officers.

Let those whom the shoe fits be guided accordingly.—Nurse.

Cleaning Up Germany

Policing Germany does not become the role of conquerors.

From time to time articles on treating the Germans in a stern manner have been read to this command. How can we be stern when our morale is lowered by such inconsistencies?

The policing that we have to do consists of picking up numerous items that the Germans have left behind in their hasty retreat to safer ground. We have also policed garbage which the civil population leaves around for suckers like us to cart away for them. Why shouldn't we as a victorious Army make these people do this sort of thing?

These people must believe we are a soft touch when they see us cleaning their towns and villages. If we are to be the conquerors that they expect us to be, let us treat these people as such and by all means let's dispense with making their sacred soil beautiful.—Cpl. F.A.

Letter From Home

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 that 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 that 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.

Morale Down—Profanity

Please cease publishing articles like the one on opinions of Army Chief of Ordnance General (We're Leading Them All) Campbell.

Let our propagandists tell the folks at home what they want them to hear, but for heaven's sake don't mock the Americans who fight low velocity light and medium tanks with high velocity German heavies in our own newspaper. It only decreases morale and increases profanity.—Chaplain Luke Balin, Armd. Reg.

Eyewitness Report

Marines Found Frontlines Safer Than Iwo Beach

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 islands, a thick layer of debris and the wrecked hulls of scores of boats testify to the price we paid to get troops onto the eastern shore.

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.

Jeeps 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 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 even letters are strewn among the debris as though war insisted on prying into man's personal life.

Coxswains Heroes

Scattered amid the wreckage is death. Perhaps the real heroes of this battle the coxswains who steered the landing boats through the gantlet of fire and who 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 in killed and wounded. 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.

Blown in Half

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 first. The boys who did it deserve a medal, but a lot of them won't be around when the medals are passed out.

Births

Folks at Home Send These
GIs Swift News of S-r
Stork's Arrival:

Pvt. Walter Arwin Hanson, Champaign, Ill.—girl, Dec. 13; Cpl. Paul Schiegele, Oceanside, L.I.—Barbara Ann, Feb. 11; Cpl. John A. Jriehaber, Hollywood, Fla.—Gloria, Feb. 9; Pfc L. Siciliano, New York—boy; Cpl. Louis Schwartz, New York—boy, Feb. 11; Lt. Peter F. Toale, New York—boy, Feb. 11; Pfc. Joseph Berton, Brooklyn—Patricia Anna, Feb. 12; Lt. E. I. Klungnes, Minneapolis—girl, Feb. 13; Pfc Norman Eekstein, Bronx—girl, Feb. 13; Pfc Leon Kosak, Richmond Hill, L.I.—girl, Feb. 12; Cpl. Murray Goldberg, Brooklyn—boy.

Lt. Robert M. Yoke, Detroit—Suzanne Beverly, Feb. 9; Lt. Vincent W. Lintzman, Hugo, Okla.—Faye Dianne, Feb. 15; Pvt. Harry Gross, Philadelphia—girl; T/Sgt. Andrew Oltis, Nek York—Coral, Feb. 4; Lt. J. S. Fleishman, New York—Harrlette Alene, Jan. 28; Pfc Clyde E. McKnight, Memphis—Ronald Clyde, Feb. 17; T/5 William E. Schimpf, Minneapolis—boy, Feb. 16; T/3 Herbert Thielhelm, New York—girl, Feb. 15; Pvt. Walter P. Wilgrube, Waupun, Wis.—Pamela Jean, Feb. 17; Pvt. Harry K. Wrench, Minneapolis—girl, Feb. 16; Pfc Phillip Whithorn, Brooklyn—Meryl Charma, Feb. 15.



Fall In!

Unarmed, Lt. Chester M. Johnson, of Wichita, Kan., was searching a cellar for a case of maps he'd left behind during an attack by the 104th Inf. Div. Suddenly his flashlight beamed on three half-asleep Germans, who surrendered without a fight when Johnson made so much noise they thought he was a squad.

As he started marching them off, nine more Jerries walked up. Johnson was startled, but motioned for them to "fall in." They did. He turned all 12 of them over to soldiers up on the street, then went to get his maps.

Follow That Wire

Sgt. Elmo Rhodes and Pfc. Balzer Bentzler, of Btry. C, 26th FA Bn., of Ninth Div. were sawing wood when Pfc Leonard Hobbs spotted a wire under Rhodes' foot. Tracing the wire, they discovered that it was attached to a grenade.

Beautiful Sight

"THE most beautiful sight my eyes ever rested on," was the way Sgt. Ellis Vaughan described the vehicles of his own 31st Tank Bn. and the 814th TD Bn. With eight others, Vaughan had spent two weary, hungry days and a night working his way back to his outfit through the German lines near St. Vith, after abandoning a half-track under heavy enemy fire. The men with Vaughan were Cpl. Ernest Parker, Sgt. Joe Brezowski, Pfc Thomas Jenkins, Sgt. Armand Constantini, Pfc Clifford Buchanan, Pfc Peter Barone, Pvt. John Tomko and 1/Sgt. Alvin Davis.

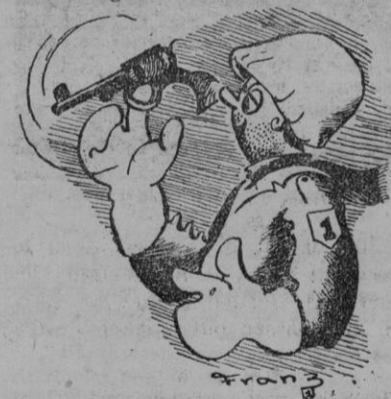
Delbert's Digt

When shrapnel pierced the gas tank of the jeep in which he was riding, T/5 Delbert Anderson, of Clyde, Mo., plugged the hole with his finger until the vehicle could be halted safely. Anderson is in the 35th Inf. Div.

German Cooking

CAPT. George K. Felk, of Rawson, Ohio, and acting 1/Sgt. John C. Hein, of Pittsburgh, enjoyed a home-cooked meal in Ramsched which was in the process of being taken by L Co. 18th Inf. Regt., First Div.

Searching for a cellar in which so set



up their company CP, they smelled fried ham and eggs. They found a German officer and his two orderlies preparing a feast. The three Germans held up their hands and the captain and the sergeant sat down to eat.

Foxhole Artist

It takes all kinds of people to fill foxholes. Pfc Denver Detillon of the 83rd Inf. Div. is constantly with a brush in one hand and a palette in the other. His foxhole is lined with drawings and paintings which he put on the backs of letters, mortar range cards, and scraps of message paper.

Laundry Service

MUD-sloggers of the 331st Inf. Regt. are able now to withstand the elements more comfortably through a system, inaugurated by Capt. Leonard T. Risley, which combines clothing supply and laundry service.

When the men go into the line, they do not, like most outfits, leave their extra set of clothes in personal duffle-bags at a storage point. Instead, clothing is assorted in three size-groups and pooled. Each week, clean clothes are distributed in the line and soiled articles are brought back for laundering. S/Sgt. Archie Davies, of Taylor, Pa., supervises the service.

Baa! Baa!

T/4 Charles H. Meiser, of Philadelphia, and T/5 Wilbur G. Nickrent, Saybrook, Ill., radio operators in Hq. Btry., 110th FA, working their 300 in the basement of a blasted house, were startled to hear footsteps in the room above.

The artillerymen grabbed their carbines and charged the stairs. When the



command, "Halt! Who's there?" went unanswered, they proceeded to close in. The footsteps were in the kitchen now.

"Come on out," shouted Meiser. Slowly the footsteps approached. The men were alert, finger on trigger, when a goat hove into sight, and emitted a plaintive, "Baa!"

Stick 'em Up

Pfc Ernest Fomaker, Co. C, 308th Egr. Combat Bn. of 83rd Div. was selecting a house for an advanced OP and went down cellar to look for booby traps. Unarmed and equipped only with a flashlight and a probing stick he noticed several pairs of old shoes in the corner. Kneeling to more closely examine the shoes he discovered they were in use by five Jerries. Waving his probing stick he called on them to surrender and they meekly marched out of the cellar and back to the PW cage.

Litter Bearers Lit Out

THREE Second Div. men, Sgt. H.Q. Cockrell, of Hillsboro, Tex., and Pfc J. C. Webber, of West Fork, Ark., and Carl M. Ruckert, of Rochester, Pa., were captured by Germans and forced to serve them several hours as litter bearers, but they finally escaped, and with a prisoner of their own.

It was while wounded Jerries were being carried across a field that one of them was shot from Cockrell's back. The GIs then took to a ditch and headed back to their own lines. En route, they talked a German with a wounded foot, into surrendering.

Meat on the Table

Six men in Co. A, 331st Regt., 83rd Inf. Div., were in a house when two 88s landed, yet they lived to tell the story.

The first shell hit a pile of bazooka ammo which exploded. Another 88 went through the wall into a barn and killed a cow.

T-t-t-that W-was C-close

THE stuttering of Pvt. Charles G. Hodge, of Apollo, Pa., proved a slight handicap to him and his buddy, Pvt. Zed Jenkins, of DeWitt, Mo., and it caused some anxious moments. A German machine-gunner stuck his head up cautiously getting ready to blast away at the two Second Div. men. Hodge aimed his M1, pulled the trigger, and it snapped.

With precious seconds ticking away, he turned to his buddy.

"J-J-J-Jenkins, h-h-hit him," he stammered.

Jenkins did, and quieted the enemy gun.

HUBERT by SGT. DICK WINGERT



"Them ack-ack guys never had it so good, now that the Luftwaff's scarce."

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Published daily by and for the U.S. armed forces at the plant of La Meuse, Liege, Belgium, telephone Liege Switch 152 for editorial department, 151 for circulation department.

Contents passed by U.S. Army and Navy censors. Entered as second class matter Mar. 15, 1943, at the Post Office, New York, N.Y., under act of Mar. 3, 1878.

Other editions at Paris, Nancy, Dijon, Marseilles and London, under auspices of Information and Education Division, Special and Information Services, ETOUSA.

Vol. I, No 36

Frontliners in 'Parquet Circle' Special Rates for 'Babes' In Artillery Bn. Theater

THE management of the Foxhole Theater gives its patrons a double shuffle. A sign at the entrance advises that "Soldiers in Uniform with Babes in Arms are Admitted Free." But the attendance of babes is discouraged. Inside is a "Ladies' Room," with a silk-stockinged leg visible just stepping inside. But the leg never moves and the door never opens, for both are painted on the wall.

Customers are cautioned "Do Not Feed the Operator" and are admonished: "In Case of Fire Mission, Run, Do Not Walk to the Nearest Exit."

There are never any complaints, however, for patrons and management are one and the same—the men of Hq Btry, 45th FA Bn.

Whenever S/Sgt. Carlisle F. Adams took out a patrol of 99th Div. doughs, the Germans let them alone, waiting until the Yanks had returned to their outfit, then following the tracks in the snow back to the American lines. Adams cured them of the habit by placing anti-personnel mines in the foot-prints.

THE most intellectual PW turned into the cages of the 35th Div. was a young private, a PH.D. and graduate of a leading German university. He had served a six-month jail-term for writing a paper on "The Decadence of Modern German Literature," and after his release he had been drafted. But neither prison nor the Army had changed his mind. He had walked for eight hours to give himself up to the Americans and, he asserted in perfect, soft-spoken English, "I still say German literature is decadent."

Frontline show business: Latest reported broadcast system is the 13th Inf. Regt.'s wire hot-loop hookup, featured performers are Pfc Aubrey Mills, hillbilly tuner; S/Sgt. Jack C. Ritchison, harmonica player; and Pfc James Jackson, tenor banjo virtuoso. The idea came from T/Sgt. Quinton C. Chavis, who calls his program "Entertain Yourself."



Sgt. S. W. Dustin, 82nd A/B Div., receives DSC from Lt. Gen. Lewis Brereton

THE 346th Inf. received march orders just as the boys were about to dig in—to a chicken dinner. Mess sergeant Leroy P. Akers didn't let the movement spoil the occasion, however. He loaded dinner on to a truck, drove to the head of the column, and passed out chicken as the men marched by.

CANDIDATE of the 83rd Div. for membership in the younger set of the upper rank is Lt. Col. Granville A. Sharpe. The former Davidson College football standout is 25. . . . At the beginning of last November, the 84th Inf. Div. was still in England; by the end of the month, they had been fighting in Germany for 13 days against one of the strongest sectors of the Siegfried Line. After leading the outfit to this speed record, divisional commander A.R. Bolling has been promoted to major general. . . . 1/Lt. William B. Dickerson, of the 347th Inf., called for artillery fire from the 912th FA Bn. against an enemy-held house. He reported the results of the three rounds: "Bulls-eye—bulls-eye—no house." . . . When tankers of A Co., 81st Tank Bn., grew tired of C rations, they changed to steak—venison steak with seconds. During a two-week period in Germany, hunting parties led by Sgt. Wendell C. Dean stalked and killed 17 deer for the company's larder. . . .

For two months, Pfc Charles Eckert, of the 395th Inf., plagued his supply sergeant for a pair of rare size 13 overshoes. When they finally came through, Eckert put them aside for a moment while he finished his job. A Jerry 88 burst found them. Eckert is now plaguing his supply sergeant for a pair of rare size 13 overshoes.

ONE of the leading sideline occupations of Yanks in the ETO seems to be assisting at childbirths, calfings, and foalings. The latest concerns a baby and Capt. Theodore H. Maxson, of the 51st Combat Eng Bn., who helped bring her into the world. Asked by his medics how much he would have gotten for a job like that at home, Maxson answered: "Not so much as I got for this one. They named the little baby Maxine—after me."

Darling of the Regiment



A new twist in selecting pin-ups was turned by the men of the 331st Regt., 83rd Div., when they named Erve Roth of Philadelphia "Miss Three-Thirty-First." She is the fiancée of a 331st man, T/Sgt. Walter S. Bernheimer, and is a member of a USO troupe expected to make the ETO circuit.

III Corps Troops Seize Segment of Skyline Drive

WITH III CORPS—Skyline Drive, super-highway of western Germany, fell to troops of this corps in the swift attack that erupted out of the Bastogne pocket.

Under the leadership of Maj. Gen. John Millikin, III Corps troops smashed their way back into the Reich and acquired the first segment of highway links which loop their way ultimately to Berlin and total victory.

This high ground of the German border country was a hard-won prize. Beginning Dec. 19 when the Germans surrounded Bastogne, III Corps fought against seven enemy divisions and parts of eight others. The Sixth Armd. Div. alone identified PWs from ten separate Nazi divisions.

Enemy on Defense

Ordered to attack on Dec. 20, Corps troops moved toward Bastogne and by Dec. 26 the Fourth Armd. Div. had made contact with the Bastogne garrison. On the same day there were indications in the 26th Inf. Div. zone that the enemy

had changed to the defensive along the Sure river.

Joined next day by the 35th Div., the Corps moved on and the Sixth Cav. Group mopped up Harlange. By Jan. 9th the Harlange pocket was clear and spearheaded by the 90th Inf. Div., the Corps had pushed the Germans back to the high ground from Wiltz to Bourge. Then the Corps smashed its way to the Skyline Drive. It had been the only major unit to seize the initiative when German offensive tactics were at their peak.

Chemical Units Aid 2nd Div. Joes

WITH FIRST ARMY—At least one infantry regiment, the 38th of the Second Div., has good reason to remember the 86th Chemical mortar battalion. 2/Lt. Raymond C. Lindsey, of Texarkana, Texas, forward observer, heard German tanks and infantry were starting to overrun the 38th Regt.'s position.

Before he could range in, he got another message which stated the Nazis were only 200 yards away. Map coordinates were radioed back and Lindsey directed fire for 90 minutes, while the 4.2's laid down a smoke barrage that blinded the attackers, caused tanks to run into ditches, and allowed the 38th to withdraw.

Both the 86th and 87th Cmi. mortar battalions have been firing the same general missions. The 86th, however, boasts of having served with 2. different divisions in six corps and three armies. The 87th has served continuously with VII Corps since D Day and on one occasion, at Celles, it boxed in the 2nd SS Panzer Div. while the Second U.S. Armd. Div. moved in for the kill.

501st Med. Coll. Co. Cited

The Meritorious Service Unit plaque has been awarded the 501st Med. Coll. Co., commanded by Capt. Edwin Mackowsky, for superior performance of duty and maintaining a high standard of discipline.

11th Armored Pulls Surprise At Westwall

WITH 11TH ARMD. DIV.—When mountainous terrain, mud and highly fortified defenses prevented the advantageous use of their combat vehicles, men of the 11th Armd., commanded by Brig. Gen. Charles S. Kilburn, recently dismounted and advanced as foot troops, penetrating the main Siegfried line to a depth of two miles.

In order to attain the element of surprise and avoid a costly frontal assault on the positions, the Division Reserve Command, under Col. Virgil Bell, of Columbus, Ga., jumped off in pre-dawn hours minus the usual artillery preparation. The troops enveloped the elaborate system of concrete bunkers and pillboxes.

The surprised enemy opened up from positions to the east with intense mortar and artillery fire, and hurled a counter-attack against the 21st Armd. Inf. Bn., commanded by Maj. Milton W. Keach, of Columbia, Tenn., and the 55th, commanded by Lt. Col. Frederick K. Hearn, of Paterson, N.J.

Bangalore torpedoes and dynamite charges were used to eliminate remaining barriers and blast the Jerries from their pillboxes, which were found to be comfortably fitted with triple-decked bunks, stoves, and stores of supplies. Units lost no time in setting up CPs amid these surroundings.

Shortly after dawn, the Division objective was taken, and the 41st Cav. Recon. Sqn, Mezd, under Lt. Col. Herbert M. Foy, of Burlington, N.C., pushed along on the west flank to take the towns of Berg, Grosskampenberg, and Lutzkampen.

Subsequently, the 21st Armored Infantry Battalion was relieved by the 63d Armored Infantry Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. John W. Brady, of Annapolis, Md. The 63d continued the clearing of the enemy from his fortified positions.

Thirty-seven occupied concrete pillboxes and bunkers were captured and destroyed by three infantry battalions advancing through the main defense of the Siegfried Line, while many others were neutralized.

Two-Gun Sarge Captures Five

WITH 106TH INF. DIV.—When his rifle unit was pinned down on the edge of a wood, S/Sgt. George B. Champion, of Co. K 424th Regt. walking straight in, a captured P38 in each hand, and firing as he went. Five Jerries walked out with their hands in the air.

Combat Spotlight

99th Div.

CARL M. TRUESDALE
POTTERSVILLE, N. Y.
Chaplain 393rd INFANTRY REGIMENT

DURING THE BREAKTHRU HE CRAWLED FROM HOLE TO HOLE—HOLDING ONE-MAN CHURCH 'TILL THE COLONEL ORDERED HIM OUT—

HIS JEEP WAS SHOT OUT FROM UNDER HIM ON THE WAY BACK

SO THAT NIGHT HE ORGANIZED A STRAGGLER LINE AND HELPED THE NEARY DOUGHFEET TO FIGHT AGAIN

MIXED PANCAKE BATTER IN A BATHTUB WITH A BAYONET IN A ONE-MAN REST CENTER HE HAD JUST BEHIND THE LINES!

Robbie

Some Sugar

Sonja Henie's Taxes Make Her Favorite of Morgenthau

By Bob Considine
INS Sports Writer

NEW YORK, Feb. 23—Pro athletes are currently in the dog-house in Washington, but at least one of them is the apple of Secretary of Treasury Morgenthau's eye. That would be Sonja Henie.

The skater, whose face and figure startle you when you remember, like a cad, that as a kid she was tops back in the days when Babe Ruth was in his prime, before Bobby Jones made the Grand Slam, when Ty Cobb was still playing, and when a third Dempsey-Tunney fight was being talked about. What's more, she's as good as ever.

Sonja's ice show, which recently held forth at Madison Square Garden, was handsomer than ever. It gets better every year, which is a tribute to the round, shapely Norwegian wife of Dan Topping, the Yankee owner.

MORGENTHAU, a responsible family man, is stuck on Sonja strictly from an academic, or financial, angle. Under the present tax set-up, Sonja buys a new Sherman tank, or a hunk of a Super-fortress every time she cuts a figure eight. Her show grossed \$246,583 in Indianapolis, \$397,945 in Detroit, close to \$750,000 in Chicago and nearly a million bucks in New York.

Poor little Sonja tops this sum off—in fact, exterminates it—by making two or three moving pictures a year, and though she'll never quite cause the theatrical world to forget Duse, or even Mary Miles Minter, she does very well in Hollywood. She makes about \$125,000 a picture, which automatically takes all the personal appearance dough in excess taxes.

WE used to marvel at the heavy income of Joe Louis, over a given number of exciting minutes, and still speak in respectfully hallowed tones of Babe Ruth's \$80,000 a year.

Sonja makes them all look like butt-snipers. In addition to her ice show and movies, she endorses everything remotely connected with ice, except Scotch and soda, and is now so high up in the income tax brackets that she is forced to breathe oxygen twice a day. Takes it straight, too.

Report ODT Ready to Hit All Sports

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23—The Office of Defense Transportation, which yesterday caused the cancellation of baseball's All Star game and left the playing of the 1945 World Series in doubt, was reported ready to strike at all sports in an effort to bring about a general 25 per cent reduction of travel.

In a formal announcement of policy concerning sports, the ODT said it will soon clarify points along the following lines:

1. Will intercollegiate basketball tournaments, such as the NCAA in Kansas City, and the National Invitation Tournament in New York be affected?
2. What is ODT's attitude toward basketball tournaments in light of order to baseball to refrain from traveling to play exhibition games?
3. What is in store for forthcoming outdoor intercollegiate track meets, like the Penn Relays and Drake Relays, which draw athletes from all over the country?
4. What about the hockey teams playing now?
5. When will restrictions, if any, be applied on sports other than baseball?

No Blow to Baseball
Few people were shedding any tears over baseball's sacrifice today. The cancellation of the All Star game will have absolutely no effect on 1945 operations, and there are few who believe the World Series will be eliminated. The provision is that "if" the war situation demands, the Series will not be played. It was felt that by the time the regular season is over the status of the European and Pacific wars will be such that baseball will easily be able to get an okay to stage the Series.

Ahead of Odt

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 23—Clarence Rowland, president the Pacific Coast League, says his loop is way ahead of ODT, which has requested baseball teams to cut their travel by 25 per cent this year.

"We've been conforming to a policy of limited travel right along," Rowland said. "We are the only league that plays a seven-game series, and I'd say that it saves almost 50 per cent of our ordinary travelling."



Brooklyn Joes Would Have Known It Wasn't 'Boily'

NEW YORK, Feb. 23—Tom Meany PM sports writer, yesterday took Washington's birthday as an occasion to print the biggest lie he's heard in years.

Meany, who recently returned from a tour of Mediterranean war zones with Leo Durocher and Joe Medwick, told of a soldier in Naples who claimed to be Burleigh Grimes, former major league pitcher now piloting the Rochester Red Wings of the International League.

The soldier was down on the Army rolls as Burley Grimes, which he insisted was the correct spelling of the name. His outfit had a ball game scheduled one day, gave him a uniform and told him he was to pitch. The company commander, horrified when Grimes started warming up left-handed, called his man over and asked him how come?

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

Wayne, Ex-Olympian, Home With Leg Injury

MIAMI, Feb. 23—Lt. Col. Marshal Wayne, 1936 Olympic diving champion and twice holder of the American title, arrived here yesterday with a leg injury received when he bailed out of a fighter plane in Italy three weeks ago. Wayne served as an operations officer in the Eighth Air Force in England before he went to Italy.

Moore's Eye Still Good

COLON, Panama, Feb. 23—Sgt. Terry Moore, former St. Louis Cardinal outfielder and captain, today was listed as the Army Baseball League batting leader with .400, as well as the top batter in the Canal Zone League, with .429.

Says Haegg Is Unbeatable

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 23—Gil Dodds, American indoor mile champion who hung up his running shoes to preach the gospel, said today that a four-minute mile is beyond human capability. Dodds, on a preaching tour of the South, believes a pair of human legs capable of that performance just haven't been made.

"I've tried it repeatedly, using every possible method. I've tried a fast first quarter, fast third quarter, everything I could muster in the finishing kick, but I've never even come close," said Dodds, whose best effort is 4:06.1.

The parson said there was nobody in the United States capable of beating Gunder Haegg. Up to now there's nobody in the States capable of finding him, let alone beating him.

"Nobody in training now can beat Haegg," Dodds said, but he inferred that he himself might be able to do it if he got back into shape. "Without trying to sound my own horn I think maybe I could beat Haegg on an indoor track."

Haegg Billed to Run

NEW YORK, Feb. 23—The National AAU today announced that Forest Efav and Jim Rafferty will furnish the competition for Sweden's Gunder Haegg in special three mile and one mile events in the AAU championships Saturday night in Madison Square Garden.

The announcement came with Haegg's whereabouts still a mystery. The Swift Swede, whose absence has been the subject of as many gags as the cigarette shortage, was last reported aboard a boat en route to New York, but nobody knows whether or not he has arrived. Nevertheless, the AAU has gone ahead and printed Haegg's name in its program for Saturday night and avows he will be at the Garden in time to run against Efav, former Oklahoma A&M runner, in the two-mile event and against Rafferty, N. Y.A.C. miler, in the mile.

Rangers Trip Wings, Near Fourth Place

NEW YORK, Feb. 23—The New York Rangers moved to within two points of fourth place in the National Hockey League last night when they outscored the Detroit Red Wings, 5-3, before a crowd of 13,000 in Madison Square Garden.

The victory enabled the fifth-place Rangers to pick up two points on the fourth-place Boston Bruins in the fight for the fourth-place in the Stanley Cup playoffs.

Jack Mann and Guy Labrie, a couple of newcomers with the New Yorkers, were the key men in the Ranger triumph. Mann, who recently graduated from the "amateur" New York Rovers, scored one goal and handed out two assists in the first period when Lester Patrick's athletes flashed the red light four times. Labrie registered two goals in the fruitful first round, while Walt Atanas got another.

Wings Get 3 in Third
The second period was scoreless, but the Wings came to life with three rapid goals in the third to make a game of it. Murray Armstrong got the first on a pass from Earl Seibert, Jud McAtee went in on a solo for the second and Carl Liscombe whisked in the third on a pass from Flash Hollett.

The anxious Rangers went into a strictly defensive game after that, while the Wings put five forwards on the ice in an effort to tie the score. Ab DeMarco, Rangers' high scorer, grabbed a loose puck, however, and went down the ice all by himself to score the fifth New York goal with a minute and a half to go.

National League

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

Army, Navy Plan Sports Programs

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23—The Army and Navy are planning comprehensive athletic facilities for overseas posts, according to Commander Gene Tunney.

The former heavyweight champion, on a world-wide tour to inspect Navy physical fitness programs, made his statement yesterday on Guam. He said the services planned to construct football fields, baseball diamonds and boxing rings in forward areas to keep men occupied between the time hostilities end in their war zones and the time they return home.

"After the last war it took a year to get men home and the guard houses weren't big enough to hold all the AWOLs," Tunney said. "This time we hope to have equipment ready so they can return to civilian life in the best possible physical condition."

Packers Drop Trafton

GREEN BAY, Wis., Feb. 23—Curlie Lambeau, coach of the Green Bay Packers, announced today that because of war-time conditions the club was forced to drop Line Coach George B. Trafton from its staff. Trafton, former member of the Chicago Bears, coached the Packers' forward wall last year under a one-year contract and, according to Lambeau, did an excellent job.

Rose Bowl Drew \$342,000

PASADENA, Calif., Feb. 23—The Rose Bowl committee yesterday turned in a report on the 1945 game between Southern California and Tennessee which listed the gross receipts as \$342,000 from an attendance of 94,000 fans.

CAGE RESULTS

- American 60, Lowell Textile 50
- Johns Hopkins 39, Loyola 27
- Phillips Oilers 64, Drake 23
- Delaware 38, Gallaudet 28
- Oklahoma Aggies 23, Oklahoma 17
- Florida Aggies 57, Xavier 41
- Otterbein 67, Ashland 40
- South Carolina 55, Clemson 24
- No. Carolina 52, No. Carolina St. 21



Plastic Protection—Thanks to the manpower shortage among male models Veronica Thompson presents the new football helmet, made of acrylic plastics, and displayed at the plastics products exhibition in Los Angeles

Question Box

Cpl. Woody Brown—Tennessee 25, Duke 2, 1931; Tennessee 16, Duke 13, 1932; Duke 10, Tennessee 2, 1933; Tennessee 14, Duke 6, 1934; Duke 19, Tennessee 6, 1935; Tennessee 15, Duke 13, 1936; Tennessee 0, Duke 0, 1937; Tennessee 13, Duke 0, 1940; Duke 19, Tennessee 0, 1941. Tennessee All Americans were McEver, Dodd, Hickman, Feathers, Wyatt, Cafego, Suffridge, Molinski, Foxx, Shires, Debelstein. Duke All Americas were Crawford, Went, Parker, Hackney, Brumansky, Hill, Tipton, McAfee, Ruffa, Lach, Karmazin, Gantt and Preston Milner.
T/Sgt. L. Ungaretti—Rhode Island State totaled 1,730 points in 19 games during 1942-43, averaging 80.7 per game. Stanley (Stutz) Modzelewski's four-year record was 1,730 points in 80 games for a 21.6 average. Hank Luisetti's was 1,596 in 98 games, for a 16.2 average. Chet Jaworski, Rhode Island, scored 1,426 points in 76 games for an 18.7 average. Ernie Calverley, Rhode Island's present captain, has collected 1,209 points in 54 games, averaging 22.3. Calverley had the best sophomore year with 534 points in 20 games, while Modzelewski scored 509 in 22 and Luisetti 416 in 20.
Lt. Pierson L. Shephard—Ossie Solem coached at the University of Iowa before he went to Syracuse, to succeed Vic Hanson. Before Iowa, Solem coached at Drake University.
Cpl. Arthur F. Brown—Joe Louis was born May 13, 1914.
Cpl. Elwood Luby—Bobby Lane's home town is Dallas, Tex.

Hash Marks

Quip of the Week (By T/5 Ray Stamm). If the Germans continue to resist their battle line will soon be such that the only command their CO's will have to give is "About Face—Fire!! About Face—Fire!!"

Oldest gag of the week. The judge looked at the culprit and demanded, "Why did you steal that \$50,000?" Sighed the victim, "I was hungry."

Afterthought. Liquor may be slow poison—but who's in a hurry?

Signs of the Times? An Evanston, Ill. woman has asked a court to judge her husband insane because he dared to talk back to her.

Daffynition (By S/Sgt. Bill Pfriendler) The Metro is where the ill-fated sardine takes its basic training.

Suggestion to mess sergeants. Left-over pancakes, if varnished and hung up to dry, make melodious dinner gongs.

Then there was the GI who arrived in France fresh from the States and said he "wanted his francs with mustard"—if you please.

Today's daffynition. German pillbox: A concrete shell with nuts inside to crack.

And we still like that old gag about the GI who moaned, "this army life is



beginning to tell on me. Every day I look more and more like my identification photo."

Pfc Emil Vigilante writes in that he is all puzzled and a little bit discouraged about current rumors of demobilization plans. In fact, he sees so little hope of getting out of the Army that he asks: "Do soldiers in the Old Soldiers Home stand reveille?"

Pfc Frank Bushek sez, "You can never tell how far a couple has gone in a car by looking at the speedometer."

And then there was the yardbird who wanted to know why he's still classed as a private when he's doing general work in an admirable way.

Peter Alfano writes this little verse of wisdom:
I love little WACs
Their skin is so warm.
And if I don't touch them,
They'll do me no harm.

Afterthought. Conscience may be blamed for a lot of things that are really due to cold feet.

Two Joes stepped into a cinema which was highly scented. "What's that smell?" asked one of the guys.

"Don't know," quipped his buddy, "it must be coming from the stalls."

Incidental information. Troop trains are mentioned in the Bible—when it says, "The Lord made every creeping thing."

Today's one act play. (Scene: Street corner of any city.)

Girl: "Stop that soldier. He tried to kiss me."
MP: "Don't worry. There'll be another one along in a minute."

Revised quotes. Man who hesitates is lost—likewise girl who doesn't. J.C.W.

Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

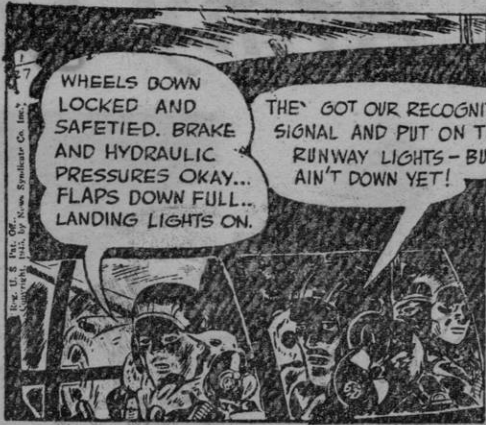
Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, The Stars and Stripes, Liege Edition, APO 887.

FOUND

BRACELET, gold identification, inscribed Ernest W. Grimball, Jr., ASN 3484486. Can be claimed at Liege office, The Stars and Stripes.

Terry and The Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate



By Milton Caniff

Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features



By Al Capp

Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune Syndicate, Inc.



By Chester Gould

Blondie

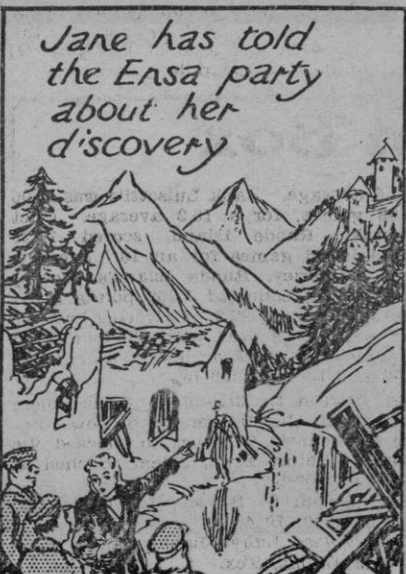
By Courtesy of King Features Syndicate



By Chic Young

Jane

By Courtesy of The London Daily Mirror

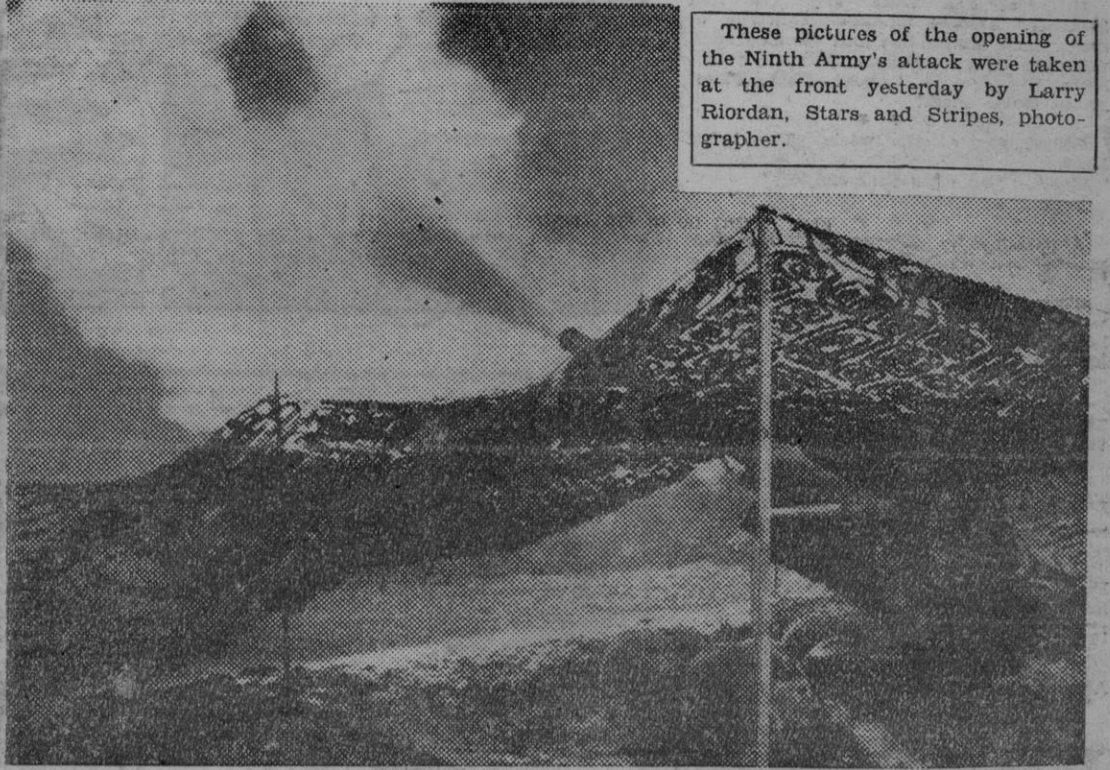


By Norman Pett

The Start of the Ninth Army Offensive



Artillerymen open thunderous barrage . . .



. . . their 155 Long Tom shatters the night

These pictures of the opening of the Ninth Army's attack were taken at the front yesterday by Larry Riordan, Stars and Stripes, photographer.



Sleepy-eyed doughs eat breakfast (pancakes) at 11 PM



Infantrymen move out at dawn



Mine-sweepers have important role



First two prisoners come in early



Tankers dig in on turnip field