

17 Jap Warships Blasted by U.S. Navy Planes

Man Spricht Deutsch
Pluendern Verboten.
Pleuendern Ferboten.
No Looting.

PARIS EDITION
THE STARS AND STRIPES
Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces in the European Theater of Operations

Ici On Parle Français
Je préfère ceux-ci à ceux-la.
Juh prayfair sussy a suh-la.
I prefer these to those.

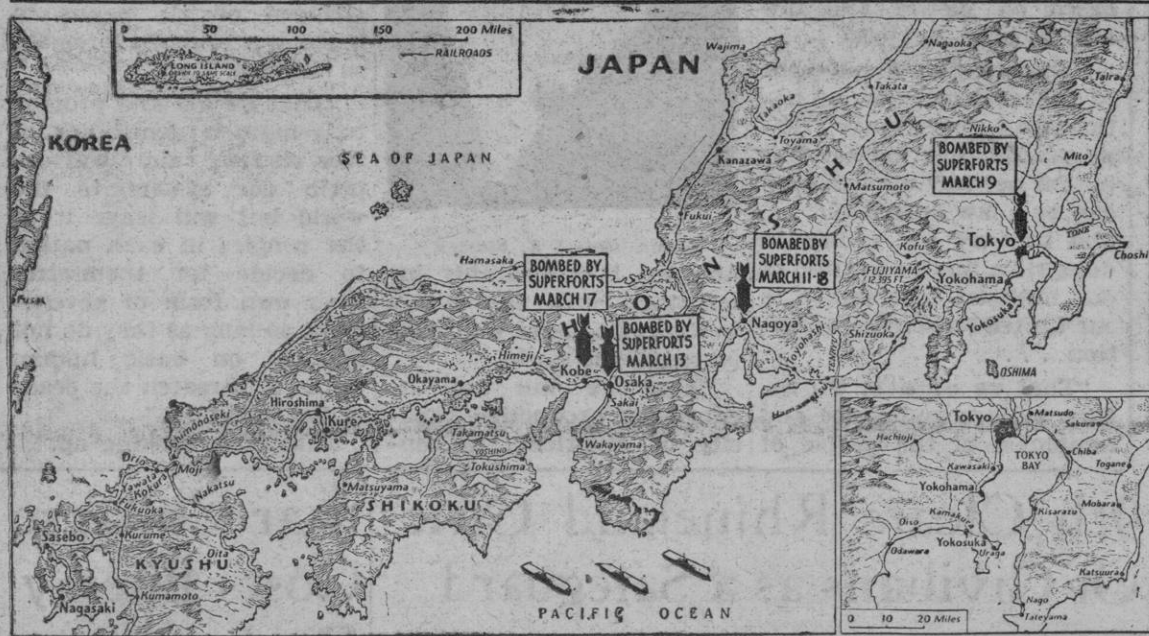
Vol. 1—No. 238

1 Fr.

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Thursday, March 22, 1945

Third in Ludwigshafen



American carrier-based planes, sweeping right into Japan's backyard, crippled at least 17 enemy warships and heaped destruction on scores of air and naval bases in Nippon's inland sea, the 240-mile waterway bounded by the islands of Kyushu, Shikoku and the western end of Honshu.

Eight Carriers, Battleship Crippled As 1,000 Planes Hunt Out Jap Fleet

GUAM, March 21 (ANS).—At least 17 Japanese warships, including a 45,000-ton super-battleship and eight aircraft carriers, were crippled Monday by more than 1,000 American carrier planes which hunted down the bulk of the enemy home fleet, hiding in Japan's 240-mile-long inland sea, Adm. Nimitz revealed today.

Audacious raiders from Vice-Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's world's largest task force, penetrating a hitherto, untouched area which Japan had considered safe for her navy, also destroyed 475 enemy planes Sunday and Monday and damaged well over 100 more, Nimitz said.

The Japanese home-based air force retaliated by sending wave on wave of planes against the ships in Mitscher's (Continued on Page 8)



Adm. Mitscher

Air Admiral Says Pacific War Is In Its Third and Last Phase

NEW YORK, March 21 (AP).—Rear Adm. Dewitt Clinton Ramsey, chief of the Navy Bureau of Aeronautics, said today that U.S. carrier attacks on "heavy land masses" represented the "third and last phase of the war in the Pacific." Ramsey told the Wings Club that the U.S. naval air arm, already "through the carrier duel phase and the island attack phase" of the war, would be hurled against anything and everything the enemy has to offer.

There's Plenty Left—But Try and Find it!

Don't let the bartenders kid you. There's plenty of good cognac and champagne left in France—if you know where to find it.

A Paris newspaper said yesterday that the cognac reserve is the best in 100 years. As to champagne it is estimated that there are at least 75-million bottles in hiding around the country.

One reason for the large reserve stocks, the newspaper said, is that during the occupation the producers hid the good stuff and peddled off "ersatz" hooch on the Nazis.

Rested, Arnold Back at Desk

WASHINGTON, March 21 (AP).—Gen. H. H. Arnold, commanding general of the AAF, has returned to his desk after resting more than a month in Florida to recover from an illness attributed to overwork.

Obey Curfew, Army Orders Soldiers in U.S.

WASHINGTON, March 21 (UP).—All Army personnel in the U.S. were ordered yesterday to obey the government's midnight curfew despite any extensions fixed by local authorities.

In New York, where Mayor F. H. LaGuardia had extended the curfew to 1 AM, the War Department order came as a surprise, with MPs sud-

LaGuardia Stands Ground

NEW YORK, March 21 (AP).—Mayor LaGuardia refused to budge today on his 1 AM curfew, despite President Roosevelt's statement favoring the midnight curfew. "He's running the country. I'm just running the city," LaGuardia said. "I tried to run the Army but they wouldn't let me." His last remark was interpreted as referring to the time he sought an Army commission.

denly appearing in the Stork Club and other night spots and ordering all Army personnel to leave.

Following the Army's lead, Rear Adm. Monroe Kelley, commanding the Third Naval District (New York), today directed that naval personnel also observe the midnight curfew.

The War Department move came soon after President Roosevelt at a press conference said he favored continuation of the midnight curfew.

When reporters asked the President if he intended to do anything to "bring New York back in line," (Continued on Page 8)

Germans' Retreat Turns Into Rout

BULLETIN

United Press reported late last night that Patton's troops have entered Ludwigshafen, the big Rhine River city of 143,417 pre-war population, which was one of the last principal escape goals for Nazi troops fleeing the Saar. Mannheim is across the river.

The German retreat in the Saar was turning into a rout yesterday with the collapse of the western Siegfried Line, although the Nazis still held firm in the eastern half of the line in an attempt to keep open an escape hatch between Ludwigshafen and the Alsatian frontier.

Confusion, fire, smoke and retreating Germans, harassed by rampaging American tanks, filled the Saar where Von Rundstedt's armies were suffering a major disaster. In a week, 50,000 or more Germans were captured by Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third and Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's Seventh Armies. Yesterday the Third ran 8,229 into the PW cages.

To top it all, the Nazis in Berlin predicted a big Allied Rhine crossing along the middle and lower reaches of the Rhine. The DNB commentator, Max Krull, claimed preparations were nearly completed for the attack against which, he said, Germans have strengthened the Ruhr defenses.

Already across the Rhine, Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' bridgehead was expanded to 25 miles between Bonn and Honningen. Infantrymen of Maj. Gen. Edwin C. Parker's 78th Div. advanced nearly three miles to occupy the Sieg River from the Rhine to Niederpleis, a distance of seven miles. Niederpleis is one mile northeast of Bonn.

The Sieg River enters the Rhine about two miles north of Bonn and runs east to west, forming an excellent defensive flank as First Army forces move out into the open ground east of the Rhine.

In the Saar a second link-up was made by the Seventh and Third (Continued on Page 8)

Reich Pounded Again by 7,000 Allied Planes

For the second time in three days, an estimated 7,000 Allied planes yesterday hit widespread continental targets, including a tank plant in Germany, oil refineries in Austria and a Nazi Gestapo Hq. in Copenhagen.

Eighth AF planes flew a double-header. In the morning 1,100 heavies and 700 P51s attacked nine airfields in northwest Germany and a tank plant at Plauen. Some of the fields were bases for jet-propelled ME262s.

In the afternoon, approximately 100 B24s and the same number of P51s hit an airdrome near Mulheim, between Essen and Duisberg.

Ninth AF fighter-bombers flew 1,383 sorties with seven losses. Eight hundred and twenty-nine railroad cars were destroyed and 816 others damaged. Sixty-eight locomotives were destroyed. Ninth mediums flew 250 planes against road centers, supplies and personnel in the vicinity of Munster, in the Ruhr.

Bad weather held First TAC planes to 500 sorties. No planes were lost.

TAC men dropped through the (Continued on Page 8)

His Toss Was Well Placed

One Grenade Elevates Yank To Mayor of Kaiserslautern

By Pat Mitchell
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THIRD ARMY, Kaiserslautern, March 20 (Delayed).—T/Sgt. Byron Hoover threw one grenade and became mayor of Kaiserslautern and the temporary fuehrer over 45,000 dazed burghers.

Hoover, nimble platoon leader from Chicago, roared down on Kaiserslautern with his 25-man I and R platoon of the 317th Regt., 80th Inf. Div., shortly after infantry riding on Tenth Armd. Div. tanks rolled through the city at 10 AM without meeting determined resistance.

After detaching his men to give the town, which had a pre-war population of over 60,000, a quick frisk, Hoover set up his "Charlie Peter" in the town square and awaited results.

"There was a house down there loaded up with Kraut officers," said S/Sgt. John E. Dougherty, 19, of Dunmore, Pa., Hoover's chief of staff. "The townspeople must have known about it. As soon as Hoover whipped down there and heaved one grenade through the window a German colonel and his staff (Continued on Page 8)



Hold That Line

To all Jeep Jockeys, Truck and Crane Commandos and Tankers: Those telephone wires are important. Each leads to a vital unit that may be assisting you. When one is on the shoulder of the road, treat it with care. If it is overhead at a road crossing, lift it out of the way. At night this is almost impossible, but most of the breaks occur in daytime. Let's start a Save-the-Wires program. All it takes is an uplifted arm or a slow take-off on the shoulders of roads.—Pvt. G. G. K. (wireman) FA.

Building Confidence

Our Battalion CO misplaced his musette bag and made all his battalion officers bring their bags to the office for examination. The trust such a leader must have in the men who are to follow him is questionable. Also questionable is the respect any of the officers may salvage after such an order.—Officer, Inf. Regt.

Seeds of Disunity

The average person rarely realizes just how successful was the German plan to orientate the thinking of the American public in the period between World Wars I and II—orientation which helped to pave the way for the early German victories. Today, again, there are those forces in America and throughout the world, which are contriving, consciously and unconsciously, to the carrying out of the well-established plans of the enemy. Plans which, in the very recent words of a German PW, will "enable Germany yet to achieve a great moral victory in this struggle."

Tribune's Record Speaks for Itself

The unenviable record of the Chicago Tribune speaks for itself. It is not the purpose of this letter to discuss the pros and cons of that record. However the recent publication by the Tribune of a list of men in the U.S. Army with alleged Communist affiliations does interest me, primarily because two of the officers on the list are personal friends of mine. We were in the States together as enlisted men; overseas together for the North African operation as enlisted men; commissioned together in the field; together as officers in the Italian campaign.

Neither is the purpose of this letter to defend the officers in question. Their individual records not only in this war but prior to this war are their defense, if such a defense be needed. They, as American youth, were willing to sacrifice their all for the cause of freedom in the testing-ground war in Spain, at a time when the democracies were still under the influence of the Fascist dope. When the U.S. was attacked, they again left their families and volunteered their services, and right from the beginning have been in the thick of fights in Africa, in Tunisia, in Corsica, in Sicily and now in Italy and Yugoslavia.

Isn't it about time that we Americans became a little more mature in our criticism and evaluation of the evolutionary forces of our time? When will we stop calling "Red" every fellow citizen who is not content to passively desire, but who actively works for a better way of life for America and the world?

That in this critical moment of the world struggle around us the names of heroes should be allowed to be smeared in the pages of one of America's largest newspapers and then to become the subject of Congressional investigation—and all that at a time when these very men are still daily exposing themselves to enemy fire—is more than even the most slap-happy German propaganda agent could have expected in his wildest dreams.

Division—Sole German Hope

Is this the type of post-war harmony and the better world for which men everywhere are giving their very existence? The Tribune should be justly proud of this brazen new contribution to the plans of the enemy to divide the United Nations, division (which is the sole German hope—if not of victory) which will enable her to begin the underground construction of an even "greater Reich." Would it not be more fitting that Congress investigate the Fascist affiliations of the Chicago Tribune?—Capt. Adam F. Levensgood, PWD-SHAEP.

What makes with these Washington boys who are afraid of the Communist taint? Nowhere have I heard a peep out of them anent scanning the officers' rolls for those who may have held, or may still hold, sympathies for Fascist tenets. Instead, there is much fretting lest a man with Leftist affiliations win for himself a position of leadership.—T/4 H. K. M., Sig Ser. Bn.

Marines Always Landing

You state that the Presidential Unit Citation awarded the 101st Airborne Div. was the "first such award in history" ever presented to an entire division.

Just to keep the record straight, the First Marine Div., of which I was a member, was awarded a similar division citation for Guadalcanal and I believe the Third Marine Div. was also cited by the President.

I also noted a remark by a soldier of this splendid airborne division who said: "Sure I'm proud, we got something those Marines ain't got" after they received this well-deserved award, but if you will check you will find that the Marines also have that situation in hand.—Lt. Col. H. W. Fuller, USMCR.

(Perhaps we should have made it clearer that the 101st was the first Army division to receive such an award.—Ed.)

HUBERT by SGT. DICK WINGERT



An Editorial

Hope for the Future

HERE are seven points in a recent speech by Commander Harold E. Stassen, U.S. delegate to the approaching United Nations Conference at San Francisco:

"That as a nation we will join with our present Allies... to build a definite continuing organization of the United Nations of the world, based on justice and law and insured by force. . . .

"That we do not subscribe to the extreme view of nationalistic sovereignty; that we realize that neither this nation nor any other nation can be a law unto itself. . . . and that we are willing to delegate a limited portion of our national sovereignty to our United Nations organization. . . .

"That we consider the future welfare and peace and happiness of the people of



Cmdr. Harold E. Stassen

America is inseparably intertwined with the future welfare and peace and happiness of the world.

"That we will use the enormous productive capacity of America... to con-

tribute to the gradual advancement of the standards of living of the peoples of the world, not as recipients of charity, but as self-respecting men and women. . . .

"That we believe in freedom of information through press and radio and school and forum. . . .

"That those who were aggressors in this war shall be stripped of all means to make war and shall remain so stripped. . . .

"That we are and propose to remain a democracy of free citizens (and) will explain our system to the world but will leave it to the peoples in each nation to decide for themselves their own form of government so long as they do not trample on basic human rights or threaten the peace of the world. . . ."

Things are looking up.

9th Clears Rhineland Cities Of Civilians as a Safeguard

WITH NINTH ARMY ON THE RHINE, March 21 (INS).—Evacuation of German civilians from west-bank Rhineland cities has been completed as military authorities launched a campaign to tighten safety precautions in the entire area.

Pushing household belongings before them, refugees choked key roads leading to the rear in compliance with the order that they leave communities bordering the river.

Simultaneously orders were issued that soldiers should strictly observe regulations requiring them to carry arms at all times and urging them always to travel in pairs.

Although civilian populations have remained passive, the Army is taking no chances that individual fanatics might molest lone soldiers. The necessity for remaining armed and prepared at all times was being stressed.

The main roads running out of Uerdingen were jammed with civilians who used every possible means of conveyance in fleeing from the river-edge cities. Wagons, baby carriages and hand trucks were sprinkled along lines of slowly-moving vehicles.

American guns poured thousands of rounds toward the Rhine as civilians struggled to the rear. Occasionally a German gun answered. But the civilians hugged the roads despite the threat of shells that might land among them at any moment.

New Australian Force

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21 (ANS).—Australia has assigned additional troops—"a splendid striking force"—to Gen. MacArthur for use when "strategically practicable," Australian Army Minister Francis E. Forde disclosed.

Saar Collapse Costs Enemy Coal and Steel

In the mighty sweep of U.S. Third and Seventh Army troops which linked up west of Kaiserslautern Tuesday, Germany lost the coal fields and production center of the encircled Saar Basin, and lost, too, a region which chose in 1935 to place its lot with the Nazi-fied Reich.

Under the terms of the Versailles treaty, the region was placed under a League of Nations commission with the provision that a vote would be held 15 years later. Saar inhabitants had their choice of re-entry into the Reich, union with France or continuance of the League of Nations "guardianship" status.

In January, 1935, a plebiscite of Saar residents, by an overwhelming majority, returned to Germany the 743 square miles of territory, which by 1939 had a population of 863,736.

The economic importance of the Saar lies in its coal fields. Its reserves, about 70 square miles in extent, are estimated at nine billion tons.

In addition to coal, Hitler lost the blast furnaces and steel plants which dominate the Saar River scene from Saarbrücken to Volklingen. Largest of these plants is the Vereinigte Huettenwerke, which made armor plate forgings.

The Saar has been a trade and military thoroughfare since Roman times. German tribes fought there against the Romans, French troops, under Louis XIV and Napoleon, marched through the area and the first engagement of the Franco-Prussian war was fought at Saarbrücken, the leading city.

Allies Warn Civilians, Aliens To Flee 'Death Trap' in Ruhr

SHAEP, March 21.—Proclamations by Gen. Eisenhower urging foreign workers and German civilians in the Ruhr to flee the area and seek shelter elsewhere were broadcast last night.

The proclamations advised that the Ruhr will become a "death trap" since all armament industries in that region must be destroyed. No shelter or refuge within the urban areas enumerated can be considered safe, the message said. Districts mentioned as "combat

areas" were Duisburg, Mulheim, Oberhausen, Essen, Gelsenkirchen, Bottrop, Gladbeck, Reicklingshausen, Wattenscheid, Wanne-Eickel, Herne, Castrop-Rauxel, Bochum, Witten, Dortmund, Lünen and Hagen.

The Supreme Commander urged immediate evacuation, warning civilians: "Your life depends on immediate execution of these orders."

Foreign workers were exhorted to "live for your family and country. Refuse to die working for Germany."

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This Happened in America

President Spurs Study Of a Guaranteed Wage

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, March 21.—Moving in the direction of a better world, President Roosevelt told the War Mobilization Advisory Board to study the entire question of fixing a guaranteed annual wage for American workers.

For many years, the shadow of periodical lay-offs has haunted workers, and organized labor, in particular Philip Murray, head of the CIO, has argued for the guaranteed annual wage.

Swiftly, the board, headed by Max Gardner, took action to carry out FDR's directive. Gardner appointed a sub-committee, composed of Eric Johnston, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., Murray, Albert Gross, head of the National Grange, and Anna Rosenberg, New York State War Manpower Commission chief, "to bring together" studies previously made on the subject.

FDR, when asked about the possibility of government intervention in the mine workers-coal operators deadlock, said it was an iffy question. The mine contract expires March 31.

Guy A. Keister likes the Army so much that, rather than revert to inactive duty as a lieutenant colonel, he took first sergeant's stripes and went to work at Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Ind.

A FOG in New York Bay stranded a Brooklyn-bound ferry, carrying 200 war workers, for three hours in the Narrows. Before a tugboat and two Coast Guard cutters came to the rescue, most of the passengers wished they had remained in Staten Island, and some remarked they should have stood in bed.

A horse and a mule fought a fight to the death on a vacant lot on Victoria St., between Avalon Boulevard and Central Ave., Los Angeles, while several hundred people watched. The horse won.

DR. D. B. Rotman, director of the psychiatric institute of Chicago's Municipal Court, says that the ratio of alcoholic addicts has changed from one female to four or five males in 1931 to one female to two males in 1943.

In 1654, when the first Jews came to New York, the Dutch Church loaned them a loft over a mill for worship. Years later, the Dutch Church was destroyed in a fire, and the Wall Street Synagogue, which had started in the loft, offered a portion of its building to the Dutch until the church was rebuilt. Now the Dutch Church, after holding the title deeds to the land and property since 1628, has symbolized the friendship by turning over the deeds to the synagogue.

Found a home in the Army

the Dutch Church was destroyed in a fire, and the Wall Street Synagogue, which had started in the loft, offered a portion of its building to the Dutch until the church was rebuilt. Now the Dutch Church, after holding the title deeds to the land and property since 1628, has symbolized the friendship by turning over the deeds to the synagogue.

DR. H. H. Bennett, chief of the Bureau of Soil Conservation, told the House Appropriations Committee that he doesn't want to leave the U.S. again. Describing a trip by bomber into Africa on an OWI mission, Dr. Bennett wailed: "I had a lot of trouble over there. I had to fight off cobras, and lions—eight of them—got after me one day... I am completely satisfied if I never leave this country again... Please do not let anybody wean me away from here..."

Out in Moran, Wyo., Mac Morose, a moose, is making travel dangerous on the Elkmoral Highway. Mac stopped two automobiles, but a snow plow threw him for a loss—in a ditch.

SISTER Elizabeth Kenny, creator of the Kenny method for treating infantile paralysis, said she felt the time had come when she could "conscientiously" turn the work of the Elizabeth Kenny Institute in Minneapolis over to her staff. She did not say when she plans to leave or where she will go.

MP Sgt. Jack Edwards hunted two prisoners who cut their way through the double wire of the post stockade at Ft. McClellan, Anniston, Ala. Edwards, after being relieved, went into a barber shop in the main PX and found one of the fugitives getting a shoe shine and the other a shave.

Roosevelt Pledges To Tell U.S. About Food Tomorrow

WASHINGTON, March 21 (ANS).—President Roosevelt said today that with national attention focused on the food situation, he feels that the country should know what is happening and he promised a statement Friday at his press conference.

Congress has moved swiftly toward an investigation. A special Senate subcommittee was formed with Sen. Elmer Thomas (D-Okla.) as chairman.

News from farmers revealed that the planted acreage this year will be almost on a par with that of last year, when it was the highest of the war. Production is expected to be 5 to 10 percent lower, however.

It was learned that an Anglo-American food conference will be held soon to discuss the overall world food shortage and make policy decisions to overcome the mounting crisis.

Nora Won't Divorce Errol, or Even Say If She's Wed to Him

HOLLYWOOD, March 21 (ANS).—Nora Eddington arrived from Mexico City today and said that she was not planning to divorce Errol Flynn.

The red-haired former cigaret girl who took a job at the courthouse cigar stand when Flynn went on trial on charges of statutory rape, so that she could see her hero every day, stepped off a plane with her two-month-old daughter.

Flynn, who arrived here a couple of weeks ago, was home in bed. "I can't meet her," he explained yesterday. "I've got malaria."

"Are you married to him or aren't you?" asked a reporter. "I'm not saying," she said.

The only thing she wanted to talk about was her daughter, born in Mexico City Jan. 10.

OPA Hit on Policy to Vets

VFW Requests Rotation for All After 18 Mos.

WASHINGTON, March 21 (ANS).—The VFW renewed its plea today for rotation or furloughs to provide 30-day leaves in the U.S. for all soldiers having 18 months or more of foreign service.

In a letter to Secretary of War Stimson, Omar B. Ketchum, VFW's national legislative representative, said that he recognized the difficulties, but said he believed there are enough replacements and transportation to grant relief to personnel who have been overseas for three years or more.

The War Department reported that any reply from Stimson would have to be made public by the VFW.

30,000 Returning Monthly

The rotation policy, a department spokesman said, is administered solely by various theater commanders, who determine what and how many soldiers are to be returned.

Without giving a breakdown by theaters, the War Department said about 30,000 troops were returning monthly under rotation and furlough programs.

On rotation they are brought back for furloughs and then reassigned to duty with units in this country, while under the furlough program they return to their organizations overseas after a brief stay here.

Gen. Nobile Restored By Italian Air Force

ROME, March 21 (Reuter).—Maj. Gen. Umberto Nobile, leader of a flight over the North Pole in 1926, has been restored to active rank in the Italian Air Force, from which he was forced to retire after the wreck of the dirigible Italia off Spitsbergen in 1928.

The Fascist regime made Nobile the scapegoat for the disaster which overtook the Italia expedition, which Benito Mussolini wished to publicize as a Fascist aeronautical triumph.

Senate Rings With Hot Words And an Invitation to Fisticuffs

WASHINGTON, March 21 (ANS).—Strained tempers flared in the Senate debate yesterday over confirmation of Aubrey Williams as Rural Electrification Administrator, with Sen. Harlan J. Bushfield (R-SD) issuing a bristling pugilistic challenge to Columnists Drew Pearson and Lowell Mellett.

Bushfield charged that the columnists had joined in a "smear" campaign against opponents of Williams' confirmation, and called Pearson "a liar," and Mellett "a pusillanimous little nincompoop." He said he would be glad to meet both men where he was "not bound by rules and regulations."

One of the "lies" Pearson had published about him, Bushfield said, was that he had introduced a bill to make an appropriation for an Indian named Winnie Left Her Behind. Bushfield also accused Sen. Joseph F. Guffey (D-Penn.) of being a participant in the "smear game."

Pearson later said he would be "glad to suspend the Marquess of Queensberry rules, parliamentary rules and all other rules." He suggested Winnie Left Her Behind be referee.

Other senators exchanged angry remarks during the debate, among them Sen. Kenneth McKellar (D-Tenn.), who shouted, "Rotten, rotten," at Sen. Allen J. Ellender (D-La.) at one point. Ellender was contending that senators who voted for the National Youth Administration could be proved Communists by the same sort of argument opponents were using to try to pin the Communist label on Williams.

Sen. Scott W. Lucas (D-Ill.) angrily declared that he understood the Republicans got together after losing the fight against the confirmation of Henry A. Wallace as Commerce Department Secretary, and decided that "here is a good chance to square things up by beating Williams."

Red Dood It



Comedian Red Skelton, private in the Army, and his new wife, 23-year-old film starlet Georgia Maureen Davis, who were married in Beverly Hills, Calif. It was her first appearance at the altar, and his second.

Mississippi Flood At Eight-Year-High

MEMPHIS, March 21 (ANS).—Spring rains forced the Mississippi River to an eight-year high today and threatened to prolong the flood battles in Arkansas and West Tennessee.

The Mississippi reached 38 feet, four above flood stage, yesterday, and the Weather Bureau said the rivers would continue to rise slowly for a few days.

Many Sue But Few Win

CHICAGO, March 21 (ANS).—The City of Chicago was sued by thousands for personal injuries in 1944, but Corporation Counsel Barnett Hodes said that of \$5,000,000 sought only \$300,000 was paid.

Legion Leader Charges Curb Of Opportunity

WASHINGTON, March 21 (ANS).—Edward N. Scheiberling, national commander of the American Legion, charged today that the OPA was barring veterans from major economic opportunity and permitting them to become "only potato chip friers" or "pop-corn stand concessionnaires."

The OPA yesterday announced some relaxation of restrictions to permit veterans to go into business to handle certain rationed foods. This action, Scheiberling said, did not begin to meet the problem of restrictive regulations which are keeping doorways to business opportunities closed to veterans.

The attitude of the OPA freezes the sales, service and distribution structure of America—a field in which 40 percent of the post-war jobs must be found, Scheiberling declared.

He said that he made public a letter to Price Administrator Chester Bowles in which he attacked the price regulations as limiting business and economic opportunity to those in the business on a certain date in the past.

A \$25,000,000 farms-for-veterans program provided controversy today as the House opened debate on the annual Agriculture Department appropriation bill.

The proposal would earmark \$25,000,000 for farm-tenant purchase loans to be made available to war veterans. It was written into the \$833,801,932 departmental supply bill yesterday, by the House Appropriations Committee.

The controversy was centered not on the merits of the program, but on the committee's action. Some members felt that the committee had invaded the jurisdiction of legislative committees.

Trolley Casanova Pleads Insanity

SAN FRANCISCO, March 21.—Rotund and bespectacled Francis H. Van Wie, 58-year-old streetcar conductor who, police say, married 12 times without benefit of divorces, went on trial on an indictment containing three counts of bigamy.

Van Wie has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity and his attorney questioned prospective jurors on the subject, nine of whom had been tentatively picked.

Van Wie's attorney stressed what he termed the difference between medical and legal insanity. He defined legal sanity as "knowledge of nature and quality of act—an awareness of right and wrong."

The Uniforms Are 'Snappier,' Too Doughs Gayer Than 'Steady' British, Says Yank's UK Wife in New York

NEW YORK, March 21 (ANS).—The virtues of American soldiers were enthusiastically described yesterday by Jane Davison, 23, wife of Lt. Ralph W. Davison, Jr., who thinks the Americans are gay and carefree in contrast to "serious and steady" British Tommies.

Jane married the American officer, a native of Springfield, Ill., in Britain last year. She claims that Americans wear "snappier" uniforms and also have more money. She was interviewed by the New York Herald Tribune at LaGuardia Field, where she arrived with six other British wives of American soldiers.

While Jane was praising American men, she turned to the other brides for confirmation. They had nothing to add, but they nodded in agreement.

The women included Mrs. Phyllis Rickel, 20, wife of Sgt. Robert Lee Rickel, Tucson, Ariz.; Mrs. Freda Roman, 19, wife of Lt. Charles Roman, Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. Iris Labaire, 21, wife of Pfc Albert Labaire, Shrewsbury, Mass.; Mrs. Maureen Charest, 20, wife of Sgt. Ralph Charest, Diamond Hill Road, R.I.; Mrs. Marie Palastine, 23, wife of Cpl. William Palastine, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.; and Mrs. Muriel Schatz, 23, wife of Pvt. William Schatz, Madison, Ill.



New Season Brings Out Those Diamond Urges



Two French spectators peer in puzzled fashion at their first American ball game.



Hundreds of Parisians saw their first baseball game yesterday in the Bois de Boulogne, where Com Z troops opened the ball season. A mixed U.S.-French crowd watches action at home plate.

Spring Warms Land—And Hearts Feel It, Too

In Paris, Streets Show the Season

SPRING came to France yesterday in a burst of sunlight, sudden pranks by school kids, sidewalk cafes spilling over with furloughing combat men and frolicking mademoiselles—and the drone of bombers flying to the front.

Farmers working in the fields found themselves daydreaming, and in scattered cities, villages and isolated depots, soldiers tossed baseballs and took a swat or two. In many a town, the smell of freshly-laid asphalt and of paint tickled the nostrils, along with the smell of grass one-grab high, and the scent of flowers.

In Paris, numerous gendarmes abandoned their capes, and horses drawing beer-wagons shied violently at nothing at all. At the Seine, several Wacs and a group of armored men on leave gazed wistfully at the fishermen, while soldiers browsed dreamily through the bookstalls.

Three laborers in blue denim hampered pleasantly at signboards off the Place Chassaingne Goyon, and a group of MPs in the square sadly predicted that they would have their hands full checking on unbuttoned blouses and bare-headed soldiers.

The MPs said that there were back beer places—a customary sign of the vernal equinox—in Paris, but quickly warned that these were off-limits. Spring, they said, would have to be hailed without back beer.

Oise Section Puts Up Combat Men on Pass

Accommodations for billeting and feeding more than 1,000 combat troops traveling on pass between Paris and the front have been established in the Oise section. Five hotels, a large dormitory and a former French restaurant, operated under the supervision of the 197th General Hospital, will provide combat troops with hot showers and beds with sheets.

While in U.S.—Cherry Blossoms

WASHINGTON, March 21 (ANS).—Cherry trees were in full flower in the capital today, and with the arrival of spring various citizens talked enthusiastically about the weather and looked forward to big-league baseball.

Residents of the Middle Atlantic states and those in the states south of that region enjoyed balmy temperatures and clear skies, and perhaps in Atlanta or Birmingham, a mint julep or two.

New Englanders got spring showers, and rain drenched the upper Ohio Valley. There was no spring weather in the lower lake region, where the mercury dropped to freezing and below.

Temperatures were below normal in the northern states, but the lower Mississippi Valley, and the Pacific Coast states, while recording normal temperatures of from 45 to 50 degrees, were soaked by spring rains.

Truck Unit That Hauled To Russia Now in ETO

Fourteen truck companies which for 20 months hauled supplies to Russia through Iran are now in this theater transporting supplies to Allied armies on the Rhine.

Originally known as the "Aid to Russia Mission," the unit is now known as the 516th Truck Group and is commanded by Lt. Col. Clarence D. McGowan, of Seminary, Miss.

The outfit operates a fleet of more than 500 ten-ton "Diesel" trucks. Five of the companies are made up entirely of volunteers from the American Trucking Associations. Of the other nine companies, four are composed of Negroes.

Cotton Destroyed by Fire

TOULON, March 21 (AP).—Several thousand newly-imported bales of cotton were destroyed in a military arsenal here today by a raging fire which caused damages estimated at approximately 50 million francs.

General Ducks Bombs, Takes Pillbox Crew

By Howard Byrne

WITH 103rd INF. DIV. Germany, March 21.—When American fighter-bombers swooped to work over a town in the Siegfried Line, Maj. Gen. Anthony C. McAuliffe, CG of the 103rd, hit the dirt with the rest of them, but came up with 14 prisoners and one of the first pillboxes taken by his division.

McAuliffe, hero of Bastogne, was visiting a forward area of his 41st Regt. below Nieder Schlettenbach when he was forced to hit the dirt. When the planes passed, Capt. Ted Starret, of Belfast, Me., nudged the general and said:

"Don't look now, sir, but there's a pillbox."

White Flag Appears

McAuliffe calmly brushed off his clothes and sauntered over with his party to investigate. When the general's party was almost close enough to the bunker to strike matches on it, a stick appeared with a white flag on the end.

Fourteen Nazis walked out of the pillbox to surrender. They were taken into custody by the general's party, which included Maj. Robert L. Crouse, of Tracy City, Tenn.; Sgt. Everett O'Laughlin, of Ottumwa, Iowa, and Pfc Paul Lehman, of Baraboo, Wis.

Now the 103rd boys are arguing whether the Germans were stunned by the bombs or by Gen. McAuliffe.

Nightmare of an Anniversary

16 Cross Rhine on Patrol — Two Return

By Ernest Leiser

URDINGEN ON THE RHINE, March 21.—There were 16 of them when they crossed the Rhine here to probe the German outpost line on the east bank. Twenty-six nightmare hours later two returned. They were on a night patrol, one of many which had been searching out the Nazi river-edge defenses and had almost reached the far bank when the Germans heard their coming and daylighted the sky with flares.

"There wasn't anything to do except jump under the water and stay there," recalled Pfc Mario Di Leonardo, of Providence, R.I., one of the pair who made it back. "They always said that bullets won't do much harm if you're a foot under water. The system worked."

They worked for Di Leonardo and for his buddy, Pfc Edward Smith, of Crossville, Tenn. They don't know, though, how it worked for the 14 others—because they never saw them again. They tried to make their way back to the American side, but

they couldn't stay there forever and now was as good a time as any to make a break. They sneaked from the barge and crept down to a wrecked railway bridge. There they found a boat and rowed to a spot where they could crawl up and scramble back to their own side.

"When we were stopped by an artillery officer, one of our own, I could have kissed him," Di Leonardo said. "By the way," he added, "yesterday was my first wedding anniversary. What a hell of a way to spend a wedding anniversary!"

U.S. Seeks Reich Setup Permitting Reparation But Blocking New War

WASHINGTON, March 21 (AP).—U.S. officials are reaching an agreement on a plan for German reparations which would leave the Reich with a functioning, balanced economy, it was learned today.

A Fraternizer, And a Penalty One War Late

By Andy Rooney
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
NEIDER BREISIG, March 21.—William Beck's story is a sad one. He is paying his fraternization penalty one war late.

Born in Louisville, Ky., William Beck was found in his little house here when the Ninth Regt. of the Second Div. entered this German town.

During the last war, he was an American soldier and a proud man in the Army of Occupation under Maj. Gen. Henry Allen. During his time off, he fell in love with a German girl, married her and took his German bride with him when he went back to the States to be discharged at Ft. Slocum.

In time, his wife's health failed and she yearned for the land and waters of the Rhineland. With their little boy and their little girl, born while Beck worked at the Louisville postoffice, the couple returned to Germany.

Return a 'Blunder'
"I made a big blunder coming over, I know now," William Beck, who is 54 years old, says sadly. "My wife and my three children are here; this is their home and I cannot go back now. I have had much unhappiness."

"I cannot say the Germans treated me bad," he says. "I have my American papers still and I have papers from the Swiss government. I didn't bother any one and paid my taxes and they left me alone."

When the Americans first entered the town, the Becks were in their cellar. "An American soldier came down our stairs and told us to get out," William Beck says. "Oh, well, German soldiers did a lot worse, but well . . . I guess this fellow had been drinking a little. I showed him my American papers and he threw them down and told me to get out. Me and my family went into the church with all the others."

Has No Complaint
"We aren't complaining. I was glad the Americans came and I'm glad we're alive."

William Beck knows of at least five other Americans within a few miles of Neider Breisig who were U.S. soldiers in the last war. Beck first served with the Fourth Cav. in Honolulu and spent eight years in the Army. He was brought up in the German Protestant Orphan's Home in Louisville. His oldest daughter and his son 18, were born in the States. His youngest daughter, 13, was born in Germany.

A Tank-Slot View

End of Two Japs On Aggression Trail

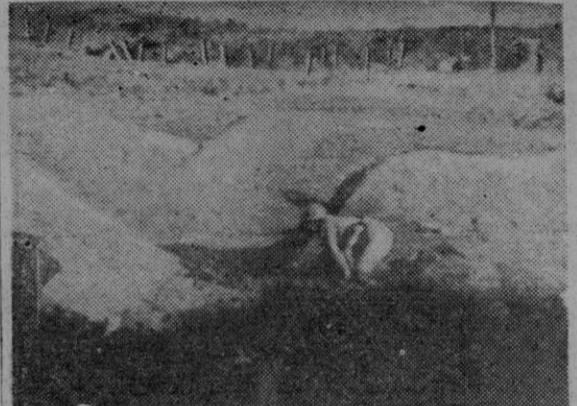
A Marine Corps motion-picture photographer snapped the last moments of two Japanese soldiers at Iwo Jima from the front slot of the Marine tank which wiped them out. Iwo Jima was the Marines' toughest fight.



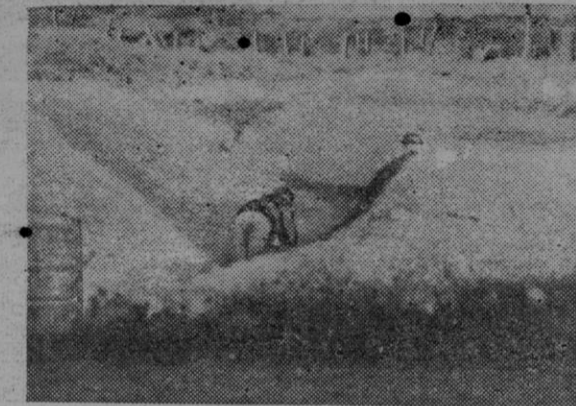
Two Japs crawl toward a gully.



One Jap turns into the gully.



One enters gully; other waits.



One starts around corner.



Tank fires, one Jap disappears.



Tank fires, gets second Jap.

Lily Pons Will Sing At the Paris Opera

Lily Pons, Metropolitan Opera and radio star, will entertain Allied troops in special concerts under the auspices of USO Camp Shows at the Paris Opera Saturday and Sunday nights. She has recently been appearing before First Army troops. Accompanying her will be Andre Kostelanetz and the U.S. Army band.

Fifteen percent of the tickets have been allocated to officers, according to Maj. Barre-Hill, Seine Section entertainment officer. Half of the rest will go to troops on leave from forward areas and half will be divided among British, French, Canadian and Com Z personnel.

Pershing and Tiger Tanks: A Preliminary Comparison

NEW YORK, March 21.—Hanson Baldwin, N.Y. Times military writer, asserts that the new T26 Gen. Pershing tank "answered many of the criticisms leveled at the Sherman by our tankers for the last two years," but it is not clear that the Pershing "will be a match for the German Panther Mark V, much less for the heavy Tiger Royal and King Tiger Royal Mark VI tanks."

Baldwin gave the following comparison: Weapon—Pershing 90mm; Tiger Royal and King Tiger Royal 88mm.

Weight of projectile—Pershing, about 24 pounds; Tiger Royal and King Tiger Royal about 21. Muzzle velocity of projectile—88mm probably has 200 to 400 feet per second more velocity than the Pershing 90.

Number of shells carried—Almost twice as many in Tiger as in Pershing. Armor—Pershing's maximum thickness about half or less than that in Tiger.

Speed—Maximum speed of both about the same. Maneuverability—Tiger has track-locking device that may enable it to spin about more quickly than the Pershing.

Radius of action—About the same for both. Baldwin concludes that the proof of the Pershing must be in combat, and not until combat lessons are learned will an accurate comparison be possible.

Yanks Expand Hold on Panay, Reach Capital

MANILA, March 21 (ANS).—American troops fought their way into the burning city of Iloilo, capital of Panay, as they expanded their hold today on that central Philippine island.

Gen. MacArthur, announcing that troops of Maj. Gen. Rall Brush's 40th Div. had reached the outskirts of the city, reported heavy fires in the area. The Americans also captured Iloilo airdrome and a bridge over the Iloilo River, at the eastern approach to the capital.

Another 40th Div. column drove 25 miles northward from Sunday's invasion beachhead at Tigbauan to overrun the coastal plain inland from Iloilo and join forces with strong guerrilla units.

On northern Luzon, other guerrillas wiped out a Japanese garrison at San Fernando and seized that Lingaven Gulf port. San Fernando is the most important port north of Manila and is the northern terminus of the Manila railroad.

In southern Luzon, U.S. troops captured San Jose hill and the western slopes of Mt. Macolod, southeast of Lake Taal.

The invasion of southwestern Mindanao island also progressed. The U.S. 41st Div. repulsed a Japanese counter-attack near San Roque and expanded positions in that area. Other 41st Div. troops occupied Isabela town.

U.S. heavy bombers struck Formosa with 106 tons of bombs, and bombers on the South China Sea blockage patrol destroyed or damaged five small Japanese freighters and a 10,000-ton oil tanker.

Joe's One Grenade Makes Him Mayor

(Continued from Page 1) walked out and surrendered. From then on the natives knew that us, Intelligence and Reconnaissance boys, were in charge."

In Kaiserslautern center square, Hoover stood in front of the Chase National Bank and surveyed his catch—one colonel, four majors, five captains, 10 assorted lieutenants, 20 noncoms and 60 privates. Hastily-fashioned white surrender flags drooped dejectedly from second-floor windows and the 20 noncoms stood in ragged ranks with their backs to the 30-foot-high stone statue glorifying Wehrmacht might.

Across the town square, several hundred women and children, the fraus, frauleins and Kinder of the Jerry prisoners bunched together and wept noisily.

Pvt. Nick Banyas of Bridgeport, Conn., sat on a jeep hood watching his prisoners and their parted families. He addressed his platoon mates, "Us plucky lads have gone and raised quite a rumpus in this burg, ain't we? And all with one tiny hand grenade. Mv what a pity."

Kaiserslautern itself, which served as a pivot point for a 46-mile advance in 24 hours by Tenth Armd. Div. tanks, showed graphically the results of almost four years of Allied air pounding.

The depot area in Kaiserslautern, the largest city within the Saar salient and the junction of two autobahns and rail lines running westward from Mannheim to Saarbrücken was pitted with bomb craters.

The city's cathedral, bounded on the west by Strasse SI in honor of the Hitler police who had sacked Christian churches and synagogues during Germany's pogrom era, was unscathed outwardly except for blown-out windows. Its clock was one minute slow.

Hunger-crazed horses, with bits of harness dangling, roamed the roadsides. Dead horses, some gory in their traces, were stiff in the final sculpture of death.

German stragglers occasionally stopped to butcher one of the dead horses, cutting into the haunches for stringy horse steak. Platoon Sergeant Hoover sighed and said, "We got places to go. Who wants to be mayor of Kaiserslautern? Here are the keys of this joint."

Toronto Clips Montreal, 1-0, In Cup Semis

MONTREAL, March 21.—Center Ted Kennedy drilled a shot between Goalie Bill Durnan's ankles with 22 seconds left in the game to give Toronto a 1-0 upset victory over the Montreal Canadiens in their first Stanley Cup hockey playoff game here last night.

Kennedy picked up the puck near the right boards inside Montreal's blue line as the Canadiens were about to carry it out and golfed it through while Durnan's vision was obscured by a maze of players.

Before Kennedy's one-man excursion down the ice, the game was dull as both teams concentrated on defense. Maurice Richard, scoring leader of the Canadiens, muffed the only scoring chance when his shot went awry after he grabbed a pass from Elmer Lach midway in the second period.

Bruins Top Wings, 4-3, On First Period Splurge

DETROIT, March 21.—The Boston Bruins racked up three goals in the first period and went on to surprise the Detroit Red Wings, 4-3, here last night in their semi-final opener. It was the Bruins' first victory on Detroit ice since Dec. 28 1943.

The game was marked with a free-for-all brawl after the final whistle and police had to break it up after two minutes of fighting.

Bill Cowley opened the scoring at 6:30 of the first period on a pass from Billy Jennings, and Bill Cupolo hit another at ten minutes, assisted by Ken Smith. Herbie Cain followed with the third at 14:04 on a pass from Cowley.

The second frame was scoreless. Earl Seibert finally broke through to count for the Red Wings early in the third period, but Jack McGill followed with the eventual winner for the Bruins, being assisted by Ken Smith and Cupolo. Joe Carveth and Eddie Bruneteau later contributed consolation goals to Detroit's cause.

Buffalo, Hershey Win

CLEVELAND, March 21.—The Buffalo Bisons trounced the Cleveland Barons, 4-1, and the Hershey Bears turned back the Indianapolis Capitals, 3-1, last night as the Governors Cup playoffs of the American Hockey League got under way.

The Bisons netted three shots within 61 seconds in the first period to clinch their decision, while Hershey led throughout after Norm Calladine and Art Stobel rammed home goals in the first period.

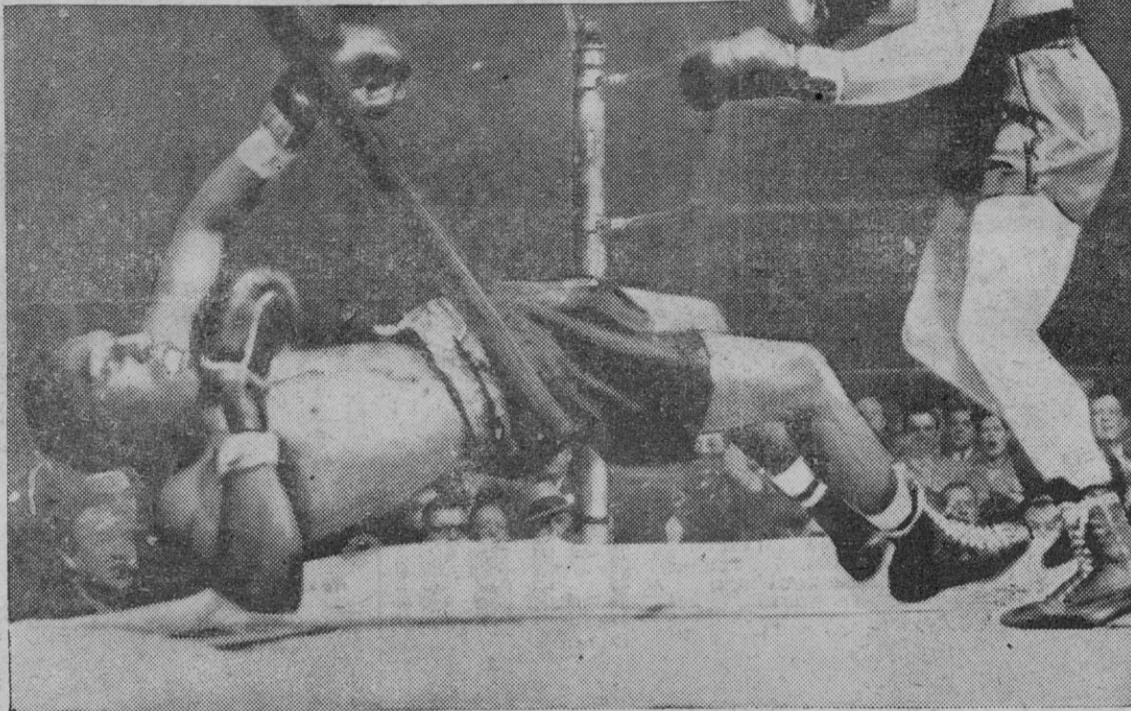
Wrestler Killed in Crash

ST. LOUIS, March 21.—Eddie Campbell, 28-year-old wrestler, was killed and George (Kayo) Koverly was injured seriously when their automobile crashed into a bridge on U.S. Highway 61, near here.

Humpty Dumpty Sat on a Wall....

This sudden trip to the floor hurt ringside gamblers almost as much as it did Billy Arnold, young Negro welterweight from Philadelphia, because the dusky battler ruled as 6-1 betting favorite over Rocky Graziano, Bronx bruiser, when they traded haymakers in Madison Square Garden. But Arnold never recovered from this sharp clout to the chin and was counted out at 1:54 of the third round to cause the season's biggest upset in the Eighth Avenue arena. Graziano came back brilliantly to win, having taken a trip to the floor personally in the first round. A crowd of 12,000 fans was present.

International News Photo



Once Over Lightly

By Gene Graff

Stars and Stripes Sports Editor

AMONG hundreds of questions popped since the writer's return from the States, the wartime status of baseball has been asked about most frequently. "Will there be baseball at home this summer?" apparently is the concern of every serviceman who has enough time and interest to think about sports.

Disregarding all the "green lights" unofficially bestowed on baseball by government authorities, the summer pastime is confronted by a bumpy road. There no longer is any doubt about the season opening and running its usual 154-game course. But the caliber of play is likely to make even high school coaches shudder before September rolls around.

BECAUSE of Washington's reluctance to clarify its manpower demands on baseball, owners and players are woefully in the dark. In many instances, star players refuse to quit war jobs and head for training camp because they realize special pains are being made to draft prominent athletes. A few were nabbed by the armed forces when draft officials re-examined records of 4Fs, while still others, who want to play, are sitting tight and sweating out the government.

Garrulous Branch Rickey, boss of the Brooklyn Dodgers, isn't baseball's most accurate spokesman by a long shot. But he hit the bullseye smack in the center last week when he said, "Baseball doesn't expect any special favors from draft boards. All we ask is some official word so we'll know how to plan our operations this year." At present, however, your guess is as good as your buddy's where the future of baseball is concerned.

SHORT SHOTS: Two days before Larry Pearlstein, Brooklyn College cager who admitted taking a bribe from gamblers, told the district attorney he never had been enrolled in the school, he received a letter from the school president, "expelling" him for "conduct unbecoming one of our students." Best quote from the gambling episode, incidentally, also belongs to Pearlstein. "When they told me I hadn't passed my entrance exam," he said, "I walked over to the gym to say goodbye to the coach and the players. Before I could say anything, they handed me a uniform and told me to get on the floor. So I didn't bother to tell them anything."

Cage fans at home are predicting that De Paul will win the Invitation tourney and NYU will sweep through the NCAA. Jack McCracken, who is leading the Ambrose Jellymakers, of Denver, toward the AAU basketball crown, is competing in the event for the 15th time. So is Dick Smith, of the Wichita Cessnas. Add home-front weeping: Weekend golfers are paying as high as \$4 for golf balls. There's strong support in the States for a plan to send major leaguers to the ETO for an exhibition series after the World Series—if the European war is over by October. And you can forget about rumors that the World Series won't be played. It will go on as usual.

Snead, Nelson Meet In Second Golf Playoff

CHARLOTTE, N.C., March 21.—Byron Nelson and Sammy Snead shot identical 69s yesterday in their 18-hole playoff for first place in the \$10,000 Charlotte Open golf tournament. Both golfers declined a "sudden-death" playoff and chose to play 18 holes today for the \$2,000 first prize money.

Keltner Accepted by Navy

MILWAUKEE, March 21.—Ken Keltner, Cleveland Indians third baseman, was accepted for naval service at the induction center here. Keltner came here for a physical after leaving his war plant job for the Tribe's Lafayette, Ind., training camp.

Jacobs Predicts 7-Million Gate

NEW YORK, March 21.—Fight fans who say the post-war Joe Louis-Billy Conn heavyweight championship bout might draw a \$1,000,000 gate are "talking about small peanuts," Uncle Mike Jacobs, fight czar, declared today.



Mike Jacobs

"We'll come closer to \$7,000,000 on that one," Jacobs said as his rare set of self-disengaging bridgework jumped around in his mouth. "The actual fight crowd should pay about \$2,000,000 and the remainder will come from selling television rights."

The current record for gate receipts at a boxing match is \$2,658,660, contributed by 104,943 fans who witnessed the second Dempsey-Tunney battle in Chicago, Sept. 22, 1927.

Cardinals Favored to Repeat In Bid for 4th NL Pennant

(This is the first in a series on major league prospects for 1945.)

ST. LOUIS, March 21.—The World Champion St. Louis Cardinals are being plagued by the weatherman and unless he relents so the players can enjoy some sunshine at their Cairo, Ill., camp, President Sam Breadon will transport his team back to St. Louis for the remainder of their spring conditioning.

Sporting News Honors Mikan

ST. LOUIS, March 21.—George Mikan, six-foot nine-inch De Paul University center, was chosen for the second straight year on The Sporting News' All-America college basketball team.

Wyndol Gray of Bowling Green and Howard Dallmar of Pennsylvania were named at forwards, on the team; Mikan, center, and Arnold Ferrin of Utah and Bob Kurland, seven-foot Oklahoma Aggies' star, at guards.

CAGE RESULTS

National AAU Tournament
San Francisco AC 66, Billings (Mont.) 41.
Ft. Wayne Noose 62, Camp Claiborne 50.
Modesto Jr. College 69, Cleveland Allman Transfers 47.

Peoria Diesel 63, Pratt-Whitney (KC) 39
20th Century-Fox 74, Mitchell Pontiacs 21.
Ft. Warren 76, Bushnell Hospital 44.

Pro Tournament
Dow Chemical 61, Cleveland Transfers 46.
Pittsburgh Raiders 53, Newark Fire Extinguishers 50.

Cochrane's Son, 20, Killed in ETO Action

LAKE FOREST, Ill., March 21.—Mrs. Gordon S. Cochrane, wife of Lt. Cmdr. Mickey Cochrane, ex-manager of the Detroit Tigers, today was notified by the War Department that their son, Pvt. Gordon, Jr., 20, was killed in action Feb. 25 in Holland.

Two other big league managers who lost their sons in action recently are Billy Southworth, of the World Champion St. Louis Cardinals, and Jimmy Wilson, ex-Philly and Cub pilot, now coach of the Cincinnati Reds.



Sam Breadon

Breadon has plenty of cause for alarm because if his Redbirds can't repeat in the National League race this season they'll join the New York Giants and Yankees as the only clubs to win four years in a row. But a swimming team would be more at home in Cotter Field these days—the outfield is covered by four feet of water.

Southworth has other serious problems. He must find capable athletes to replace Stan Musial, who is in the Navy, and Johnny Hopp and Walker Cooper, both service-bound. Although "Mister Shortstop" Marty Marion has not put in an appearance, the Cards have a first-class infield with First Baseman Ray Sanders, Second Baseman Emil Verban and Third Baseman George "Whitey" Kurovski in the fold. In addition, Al Schoendienst, released from the Army, is available to spell Marion if the brilliant shortstop gets nabbed by Uncle Sam.

Mort Cooper, classified 4-F once again, tops the group of moundsmen. Max Lanier, veteran southpaw, Blix Donnelly, Stan Partenheimer, Jack Creel, Ken Burkhart and Henry Koch are others unlimbering their wings in camp.

Barring further manpower demands on the club, the Cardinals loom as a walk-in once again in the National League whirl.

(Tomorrow: Chicago White Sox)



Max Lanier

Covering GI Sports

RHEIMS.—Oise Section's basketball team won the Rheims regional championship, defeating First Prov. QM., 39-35. Cpl. Murray Evans, Davenport, Okla., led Oise with 13 points.

OISE	PROV. QM.
Evans, f..... 6 1 13	Bracy, f..... 2 0 4
Huckman, f. 3 1 7	Edwards, c..... 3 0 6
Passuale, c... 1 2 4	McGill, g..... 2 4 8
Toskins, g.... 2 1 5	Creigler, g..... 1 0 2
Ianley, g.... 4 2 10	Adams, g..... 3 0 6

Totals...16 7 39 Totals...15 5 35

The Mobile Repair Squadron humbled 31st Transport Wing All-Stars, 44-26, last night at the Japy Gym, Paris, to capture the 302nd Transport Wing basketball championship in a two-day tourney. The Service Squadron took the consolation title by clipping the HQ cagers, 53-26.

CHERBOURG.—A capacity crowd of 2,500 GIs saw a nine-bout card

here between a Port team and a squad of leather swingers from an infantry unit. Two bouts failed to go the distance. Ernest Knight, 130, Harrisburg, Pa., TKO'd Pat Spillane, 131, New York, in the third round, and John Stevens 180, Brooklyn, TKO'd Wayman Powell, 185, Birmingham, Ala., in the second round.

CHANNEL BASE HQ.—Penn University basketball fans and Channel Base Hq. soldiers have something in common, a player named Dallmar. Penn's All-America V12 Trainee Howard Dallmar and Sgt. Richard Dallmar, sparkplug in the CBS basketball team's record of 21 victories out of 23 games, are cousins. Dick sparked the Hamilton (Ohio) prep team to two straight state titles in basketball. Sgt. Dallmar, playing center, has averaged 15 points per game in GI competition.

PUP TENT POETS

Return in Spring

Now,
I'll be returned in some torrent
There
Or be swinging on a rushing wind
A footstep under your fine stride
Even on your window sill
In every crevice that we know
When Spring comes over there
Where
We hand in hand, by pool, did
consecrate,
Or speaking silently with eyes
Before death
Came stabbing backs and
Bled the yellow sand
Oh, yes, touch the willow
Or
Hear the ocean leap and roar
Our sentimental value
Is blotted out and dies
But I'll be there
Stare vacantly
Into the skies.

—Sarge D. Sterling.

Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

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

FOR SALE

TRANSFORMER reducing current from
230 to 110 volts, \$4.50.—T/Sgt. Charles
F. Corbit.

FOUND

PHOTOS: Four, including one of wedding
of Signorina Nancy Ann Dormi and
LT. JUSTIN DI IANNI at St. Clare
Church, Bronx.

PHOTOFILE containing photo marked
"JEANNE MARIA, AGE 6 WKS."
another "19 MONTHS, THE RUNT" and
other family photos.—Pvt. Joseph Keller

DEAD PILOT'S DOG

Father of Lt. Thomas R. Sheehy, Air
Corps pilot, killed May, 1944, wants
information on Shetland Collie dog left at
English air base, November, 1943. Name
on collar "TOGGLE SWITCH."

Births

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

PVT. Herbert W. Lawrence, Detroit—
Linda Diane, Feb. 8; Pfc William
Richter, Chicago—Bill, Feb. 15; Cpl. Leonard
Eustace Bagnell, Norfolk, Va.—Auro-
ra Cecilia, Nov. 11; Lt. William A.
McCampbell, Clarksburg, Calif.—boy, March
17; Pvt. John W. Knasak, Buffalo, N.Y.—
boy, Feb. 12; Pfc Earl F. McConnell,
Ocean Park, Calif.—Trudy Lee, Dec. 22.

PFC Gerard A. Barsalov, Holyoke, Mass.—
Jeannine Marie, Feb. 9; Sgt. Fran-
cis A. McGowan, Boston—girl, Feb. 15;
Cpl. Oscar F. Willi, Battle Creek, Mich.—
Carolyn Sue, Feb. 15; Lt. Alan L.
Milne—girl, Jan. 24; Sgt. Michael J. Di-
Grucio, Brooklyn—Robert Michael, Jan.
23; Lt. Charles E. Heaton, Madison, Ind.—
Virginia Carolyn, Dec. 24; Pfc Sam Gu-
berman, Brooklyn—boy, Dec. 8.

MSGT James P. Kraus, Rochester, N.
Y.—James Peter, March 18; Sgt.
Sherwood Lamirand, Mahtistigue, Mich.—
Sharon Lee, March 17; Cpl. Joseph P.
Skalka, Bronx—Barbara Mildred, March
15; Pfc J. P. Cosgrove, Chicago—John P.,
March 16; T/S Solomon Pearceberg, Brook-
lyn—Roberta Lea, March 3; Cpl. Arthur
P. Silverstein, Bronx—Grace Ann, March
18; Pfc Elmer M. Sedam, Indianapolis—
Theodore Marvin, Feb. 24; Lt. Charles R.
Boots, Oklahoma City—girl, March 19.

AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK

Also AEPP (583 Kc. — 514 M.)

Time	TODAY	TOMORROW
1200-News	1900-Hollywood Music	0555-Station Opening
1215-Spotlight	1930-U.S. Dance Band	0600-Sound Off
1230-Lower Basin St.	2000-World News	0615-Rise and Shine
1301-Thurs.Serenade	2005>Your War today	0700-News
1400-News	2015-Johnny Mercer	0705-Song Parade
1410-AEF Extra	2030-McGee & Molly	0725-French Lesson
1430-Let's Go to Town	2100-News	0730-U.S. Dance Band
1500-Strike Up Band	2105-Radio Theater	0800-Combat Diary
1530-Combat Diary	2200-U.S. Home News	0815-Personal Album
1545-On the Record	2207-Navy Date	1145-Melody Roundup
1630-Amos & Andy	2235-Reminiscing	
1700-News	2300-News	
1715-Canadian Swing	2305-Kay Kyser	
1745-On the Spot	2330-One-Night Stand	
1800-News	2400-News	
1805-Mark Up Map	0015-Night Shift	
1810-U.S. Sports	0200-News Headlines	
1815-GI Supper Club	0205-Sign Off	

News Every Hour on the Hour

Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features

By Al Capp



Terry and The Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate

By Milton Caniff



Abbie an' Slat

By Courtesy of United Features

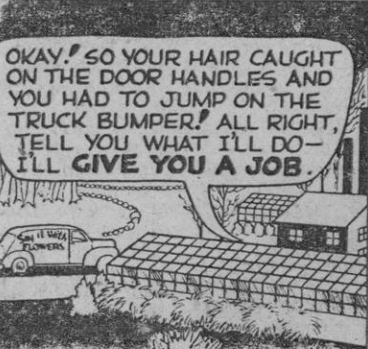
By Raeburn Van Buren



Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune Syndicate Inc.

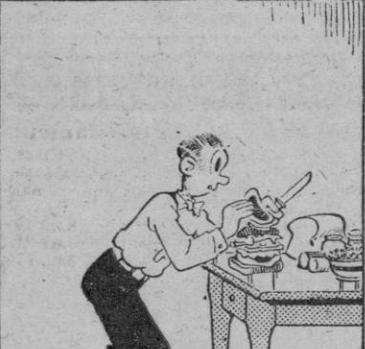
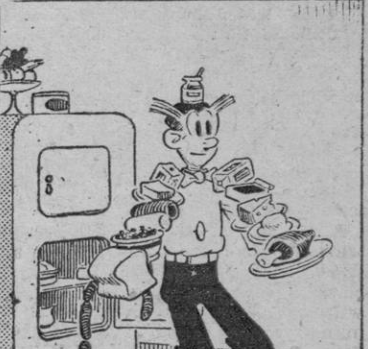
By Chester Gould



Blondie

By Courtesy of Arthur J. Lafave Syndicate

By Chic Young



Jane

By Courtesy of The London Daily Mirror

By Norman Pett



First TAF Wins Praises For Its Saar Role

The effectiveness of the First Tactical Air Force in co-operation with the Third and Seventh Armies in the Saar offensive won commendation yesterday from General Eisenhower, Air Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder, Lt. Gen. Carl Spaatz and Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch.

A commendation from Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters signed by Air Marshal Tedder said:

"The exceptional effort maintained over the last five days by your command has been noted with pleasure by the Supreme Commander. All ranks under your command are deserving of compliment on this fine achievement. As a result, the climax of the present battle will be hastened materially."

General Spaatz declared the work of the First TAF was a "magnificent effort."

Gen. Patch, Seventh Army commander, said: "Every member of my command is extremely grateful for the all-out effort you have carried out, and the troops have benefited greatly from the results obtained."

Vienna Drive On, Say Nazis

German sources reported last night that the Red Army in Hungary has opened an offensive toward Vienna.

The German Overseas News Agency, said that 300,000 Soviet troops, with strong tank support, had opened the battle for the gateway to Vienna, striking along the Danube toward Gyor, 70 miles northwest of Bucharest, and Bratislava, 35 miles east of Vienna.

Marshal Feodor Tolbukhin's forces in Hungary were reported by Berlin to have penetrated to Szekesfsherwar, between Budapest and Lake Balaton. Russian troops also were said to have advanced northwest of Tata, near the Czech border.

In southern Slovakia, Marshal Rodion Malinovsky's troops moved along the Hron River toward a possible union with Tolbukhin.

On the Baltic, the Danzig-Gydnia pocket was split by a Russian drive through to the coast at Zoppot. German loss of dominant heights in that area permitted Soviet guns to rake coastal communications.

Curfew . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

The President said he had not considered that question.

Members of the New York City Council rapped the mayor for the extension, pointing out that it violated the midnight closing bill which LaGuardia had put before them two weeks ago.

LaGuardia had said the extension was for the benefit of thousands of servicemen in New York on furlough who had no place to go after midnight.

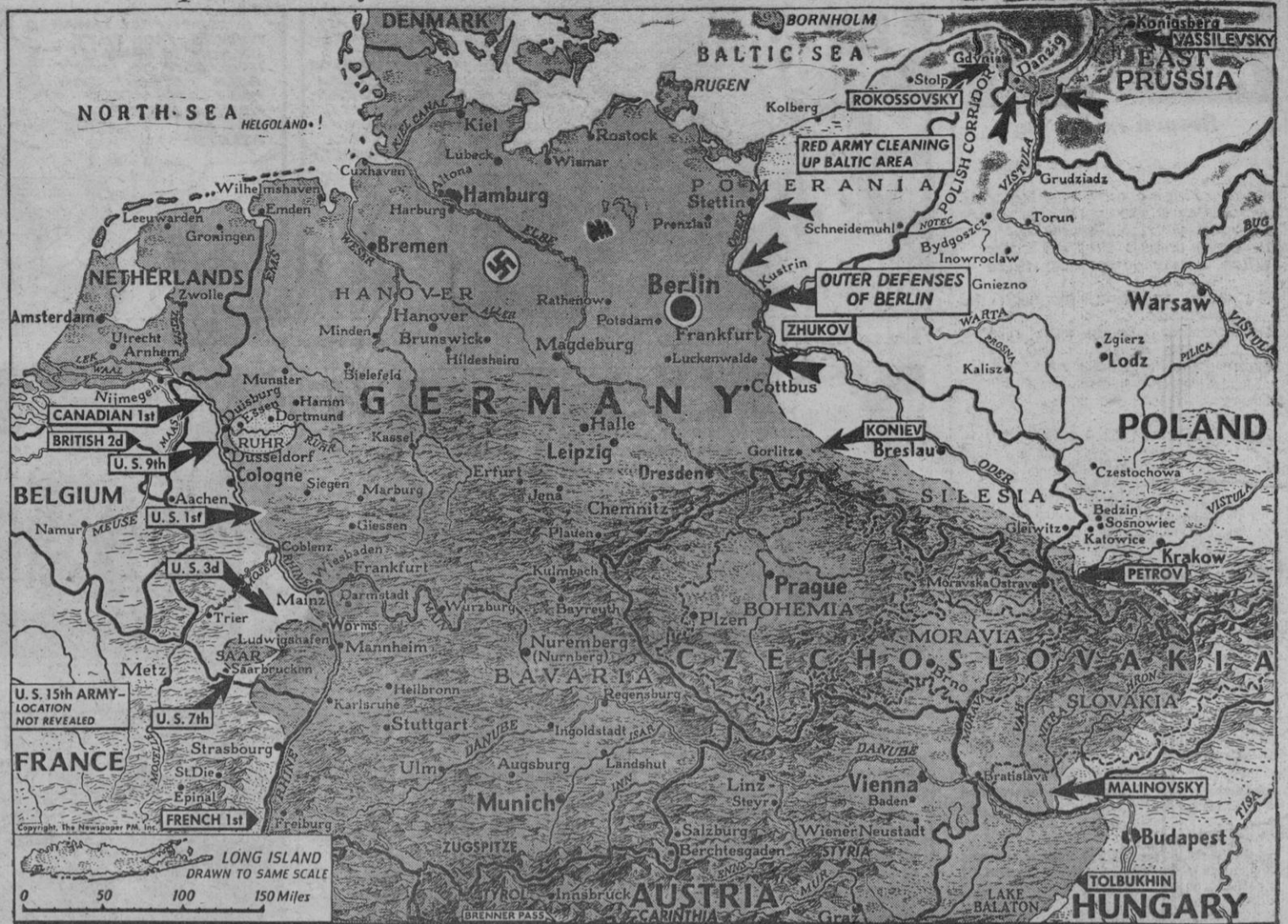
In Washington, the Troika, Ruby Foo's Den and the China Clipper, which had been given permission Monday to remain open after midnight, found the permission withdrawn by the War Manpower Commission.

Sen. A. B. Chandler (D-Ky.) said he doubted that the curfew was saving any electricity. He cited as an example a big hotel, in which a dimly-lighted night club is closed at midnight and "five minutes later lights begin to blaze from 200 rooms upstairs."

Gen. Patch Awarded Cluster to the DSM

WITH THE SEVENTH ARMY, March 21.—Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch, CG of the Seventh Army, yesterday was awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster to the Distinguished Service Medal by Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, Sixth Army Group CG. Gen. Patch was cited for direction of the invasion in southern France and the speedy liberation of large areas of French territory.

'Squeeze Play' Puts Nazis in the Middle on the Griddle



Germany is no longer "behind the front" but "between the fronts," as Nazis themselves have admitted. Allied Armies on the West and

the Red Army on the East hack away more and more of Hitler's "Greater" Reich. Next comes the thrust to the heartland.

17 Jap Warships Are Crippled As 1,000 U.S. Planes Rip Fleet

(Continued from Page 1)
armada. One American warship was damaged seriously and others sustained minor blows, but all ships moved away under their own power. Carrier-plane losses were extremely light.

These first accounts of the most daring naval action of the Pacific war were pieced together today from the preliminary report of Adm. Raymond A. Spruance, of the U.S. Fifth Fleet, and first-hand accounts of pilots given to an Associated Press correspondent with Mitscher's task force.

A Japanese Imperial Headquarters communique, indicating the battle was ending, said today the American Fleet was "escaping" to the south after losing, according to Tokyo claims, two carriers, one battleship, two destroyers and two other unidentified warships. The Japanese said their air force was pursuing Mitscher's task force.

Fliers who swept over Japan's major naval bases and scores of air bases assigned to defend them said their bombs and rockets smashed into:

- A battleship of the Yamato class. [The 45,000-ton Musashi was sunk last October in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in the Philippines and her sister ship, the Yamato, was damaged. They were Japan's two biggest battleships.]
- A battleship converted into a big aircraft carrier.
- Three large aircraft carriers.
- Four small escort type carriers.
- A heavy cruiser.
- A light cruiser.
- Four destroyers.
- A destroyer-escort.
- One submarine.

In addition, six small surface craft, including one oiler, were sunk and seven others, including two oilers and four large cargo ships, probably were sunk.

Carrier planes cratered airfields, attacked airplane factories, destroyed plane hangars, arsenals, oil stores and workshops.

Japanese warships identified by Adm. Nimitz as principal units of the fleet scurried for shelter as the raiders bored in. Mitscher's planes

scored the first telling blow on Japan's Navy since the enemy was routed off Leyte Gulf, with 24 warships sunk, 13 probably sunk and 21 damaged.

The Sunday and Monday toll of more than 575 enemy planes destroyed or damaged in action, extending from Kyushu to Honshu, made a total of 1,400 accounted for over Japan by carrier attacks. Mitscher's carrier arm knocked out 882 in two raids in the Tokyo area last month.

Air . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

clouds on a ten-mile convoy between Landau and Pirmasens, destroying 110 motor vehicles and 30 horse-drawn vans and damaging 120 other vehicles. They were finally asked to desist by ground forces so the enemy could be wiped out on the ground.

RAF Mosquitoes, escorted by Spitfires, went through heavy flak to attack the five-story Gestapo Hq. in Copenhagen. Three runs over the target resulted in complete destruction of the building. One plane was damaged when its wing struck a rooftop.

Retreat From Saar Turns Into Rout

(Continued from Page 1)

Armies at Ottweiler, north of Neunkirchen, a few hours after they had joined 12 miles west of Kaiserslautern. The first contact was made by Maj. Gen. Willard S. Paul's 26th Inf. Div. of the Third Army and Maj. Gen. Robert W. Grow's Sixth Armd. Div. The 26th figured in the second link-up as well.

Patton's forces in the center of the Rhine-Mosel triangle raced through the forest east of Kaiserslautern for the Rhine. Armor and infantry were converging on Ludwigshafen.

Brig. Gen. Charles S. Kilburn's 11th Armd. Div. and Maj. Gen.

1,500,000 Germans Captured in the West

LONDON, March 21 (Reuter).

—One and one-half million German prisoners have been captured since the outbreak of the war by the Allies, excluding prisoners captured by the Red Army, War Minister Sir James Grigg declared yesterday in Commons.

Warweek Staff Writer Shot Down Over Reich

S/Sgt. Paul V. Connors, 29, of Chelsea, Mass., staff writer for Warweek, was shot down over Germany Jan. 28 and is listed as missing in action, his wife was notified by the War Department.

Connors was flying as a gunner on the Eighth AF's third anniversary raid on the Ruhr when his ship was hit by flak and went down. Crewmen in other planes reported that several parachutes opened from the bomber.

A Boston sports writer before entering the Army in Oct., 1942, Connors transferred to Warweek from the 30th Inf. Div. last July. He flew on several missions with the Eighth AF as a combat correspondent.

Faulty Uniform To Bring Arrest

All troops in Paris, whether stationed here or not, will be subject to arrest by MPs if found violating uniform-wearing regulations, the Provost Marshal's office announced yesterday. Violators will be brought immediately before a summary court where fines may be imposed.

Previously MPs merely corrected discrepancies in uniforms on the spot and submitted delinquency reports for later action.

Some of the most frequent violations noted included going without headgear, wearing of non-OD scarves, wearing sweaters as outer garments, wearing wool-knit caps, leather jackets, leather caps and other flying equipment and wearing of combination uniforms such as fatigues with field jacket.

Russia Notifies Turkey It's Letting Treaty Lapse

Russia informed Turkey yesterday that it wished to end their 20-year-old treaty of friendship and neutrality upon its expiration next Dec. 17, although it recognized the value of continued friendly relations.

Neunkirchen was surrounded. Maj. Gen. Robert T. Frederick's 45th Inf. Div. drove into Homburg after enveloping the key rail center by attacks from three sides.

The 103rd Inf. Div. found the going tougher in the central Hardt Mountains, where they knocked out 20 pillboxes manned by Wehrmacht troops.

French troops on the right flank of the Seventh Army crossed the Lauter River and took Berg, a mile and one-half north of Lauterbourg.

Toward the Rhine, the distance between the Third and Seventh Armies was about 35 miles between Freinsheim, on the north, to Berg on the south.