

**This Was America Last Week:**

**Old Ghosts of Prohibition Days Flapping Sheets on Broadway**

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—The shade of Izzy Einstein, great Prohibition sleuth, haunted Broadway's browned-out recesses this week and Papa groped under old pans in the pantry for copper gadgets and remnants of his homebrew equipment despite Mayor LaGuardia's statement that New York night clubs need not heed Mobilization Chief James F. Byrnes' curfew order, for the time being, at least. While many pessimists feared Prohibition might be next, friends of Byrnes pointed out that he is not averse to Bourbon and fun himself, and but a few days ago he referred to vodka as being "like green corn likker."

Chances for Prohibition were more a matter for discussion than real concern, with political observers fairly confident that the Noble Snafu won't be with us again for a long time, anyway.

**A Carnival of Sorts**

FROM north, south, east and west came a flood of ripe and mellow—overripe and overmellow—news stories this week. Bathtub mysteries in Chicago and New Orleans, possibly connected, with two women dead by mysterious causes... Evangelist accusing preacher of Great Lover stuff... 13-year-old child bride of the Ozarks moves in with her old man and the kids, mostly classmates... and a host of assorted rapes, murders, seductions and high-jinks. It was a carnival for the editors—the sensation sheets—and for once the fair name of Hollywood stayed fair.

All this might be filed under P for Pornography, and you may reasonably wonder why it's repeated here. Well, the idea is to get out of Washington, D.C., occasionally and show what America is reading about, some of the things the guys and gals in drug stores and corner groceries and mid-town bars are talking about... it's a healthy, colorful, and sometimes wicked country we've got back here, working hard, playing hard and having a hell of a time generally.

Even the weather was typically American this week. Six southern states had flood alarms as violent storms and high winds lashed rivers to danger levels, but toward the week-end the weather took a turn for the better... Alaska has experienced an influenza and pneumonia epidemic around the Port Barrow district... Illinois is suffering a water shortage, and, of course, the experts predict the state is slowly going dry, becoming one grand dustbowl. Generally speaking, this has been one of the roughest winters on record, particularly in the East—a good one to miss if you had to miss any.

FREEZING of the best quality potatoes caught Denver off guard, as top grades were taken for the services... and another shortage became shorter in Richmond, Va., with theft of 10,000 packs of cigarettes from the American Theater Wing.

**It's True What They Say About Indiana It Seems**

THE truth about Indiana, suspected by all Hoosiers, came to light in Congress. They say there's politics out there. Those who say it are Sen. Joseph Ball (R-Minn.), and Sen. Homer Ferguson (R-Mich.). They voted against an investigation, and make no accusations concerning the last election, but declare Indiana's election laws are "almost an invitation to fraud." Now you can watch the papers for angry denials from Indiana.

On the radio front—Radar will soon have to be used to find some of the old favorites. Jack Benny has slipped down to eighth place, and Hit Parade doesn't show in the top 15 any more. Bob Hope, Fibber McGee and Molly still lead, with the Lux Radio Theater hitting No. 3 spot. Bing Crosby's new policy of more singing and less chatter holds him fourth.

The records show only one change in listings this week, Harry James' number, "I'm Beginning to See the Light," coming up to tenth place.

Here are three new records expected to please: Tommy Dorsey's "I Should Care"; Crosby's "Let's Take the Long Way Home"; and Johnny Mercer-Jo Stafford's "I'm Gonna See My Baby."

BOB HOPE'S Princess and the Pirate is breaking house records at the New York Astor, and a British picture, "Mister Emmanuel," is now running in its eighth week. "Here Come the Coeds" is Abbott and Costello's latest, with some new gags.

THE magazines, as usual, are covering global warfronts. Life enlarges on the epic story of the Rangers' rescue of Americans on Luzon, and in the Saturday Evening Post Richard Tregaskis, who has seen Pacific fronts, likens street fighting in Europe to jungle warfare. Time delves into the problem of "How are wives and sweethearts of servicemen meeting the cruel test of war?" and finds the results generally reassuring Collier's has an article on "Berlin—City of Fear."

**Evangelist Names Minister, 55, As Father of Her Unborn Child**

KANSAS CITY, Kan., Feb. 24.—A 38-year-old woman evangelist testified in City Court today that a 55-year-old retired Methodist minister is the father of her unborn child.

The evangelist, Gladys Beard, said the preacher, the Rev. Lawrence I. Goodrich, whom she called "The Boy Scout," told her she would have a "painless physician" after they learned she was pregnant last July.

In court today, however, Mr.

Goodrich said laboratory tests proved the child wasn't his, and that anyway he is married.

Miss Beard, who wants no criminal charges preferred but insists that the preacher be made liable for support of the child when it is born, said she met Goodrich on Good Friday in 1941, while running for a street car.

"The Boy Scout" kissed her 20 months later, she said, and it was then she began calling him pet names.

**New Angle in Diapers Business**

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 24 (ANS).—A three-cornered twist to the Four Freedoms was presented today when George Garland, of the Institute of Diaper Services, declared, "Diapers are one of the things our boys are fighting for."

Garland was trying to wangle more cotton triangles and an increase of ten percent in the production allotment.

**'Less Worry' If He's in 1A**

LEHIGHTON, Pa., Feb. 24 (ANS). Mrs. Russell McFarland said today it would be less worry for her to have Marcus, 18, her ninth son, classified 1-A "in service with his eight brothers than to put up with criticism that is coming to me." Draft board officials have ordered a physical exam for Marcus on March 2.

**Coach Cautions Class to Concentrate on Plays**



Lucille Hecker, 26, whose regular job is teaching health education at the Bronx Vocational School, runs over a play on the blackboard with members of the school's basketball team, which she has been coaching for the past two months. Miss Hecker is the only woman basketball coach for a male team in New York, and as far as she knows, the only one in the country.

**LaGuardia Tells N.Y. Clubs To Ignore Curfew Order**

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (UP).—Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia today handed a reprieve to New York's night club men by telling them to ignore War Mobilization Chief James F. Byrnes' midnight curfew order "until I issue an official statement." Byrnes' order is to go into effect Monday.

LaGuardia, who had conferred earlier in the week with Byrnes, said the curfew order was not yet clear to him in application to the city.

"I promise nothing will be expected of night club owners without ample notice," the Mayor said. Night club proprietors interpreted the statement to mean that the Mayor might allow them at least two or three weeks to comply with the curfew.

LaGuardia, it was reported, does not welcome the probable wave of mass unemployment that would result in the entertainment field, and the loss of nearly \$4,000,000 in taxes which the city collects annually.

Acting on the Mayor's statement, at least four night clubs rescinded dismissal notices to 452 employees.

**Army Can't Convince Mother Son Is Dead —He Insists He's Alive**

**Navy Awards Contracts For 4 New Flat-Tops**

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Feb. 24 (ANS).—Award of contracts for two new 45,000-ton aircraft-carriers by the Navy Department was announced by the Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Co. The ships will bring to four the number of 45,000-ton flat-tops to be built at the yard.

Two already are under construction and one, the Midway, is to be launched in March.

Norfolk Navy Yard was advised yesterday that the Navy has awarded contracts there for two 27,500-ton carriers of the Essex class.

VINCENNES, Ind., Feb. 24 (ANS).—The War Department tried to convince Mrs. Vera Deem her son was dead, despite her personal assurance from the boy that he was still alive.

Seven weeks ago they sent her insurance papers to sign concerning the death of her son, Cpl. Jesse A. Sanders, 19, on Dec. 27. She had a letter from him dated Dec. 25 and written from Fort George Meade, Md., and when she got in touch with him he assured her he was alive. So she sent the papers back.

Last week, Washington sent her a posthumous Purple Heart. That, too, went back.

She believes the correspondence refers to another Jesse Sanders.

**Spies for Reich May Be Aboard Gripsholm**

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (UP).—At least four German spies, including one woman and a former high-ranking German Army officer, probably are aboard the exchange liner Gripsholm, which arrived Wednesday with 1,209 American soldiers, civilians and refugees from Germany, the New York World Telegram reported.

According to information given the FBI long before the Gripsholm completed her trip, there were four persons aboard who were believed sent to the U.S. to spy for the Reich. There was also a possibility that a search would disclose other suspected spies, including several women.

The paper said the prolonged FBI interrogation of passengers was reminiscent of that in 1942 when the FBI found Herbert Karl Friedrich Bahr posing as a Jewish refugee on the exchange ship Drottningholm. He was sentenced to 30 years' imprisonment.

**Detroit Plant Hit by Strike**

DETROIT, Feb. 24—Nearly all production at the huge Dodge plant of the Chrysler Corp. was halted today when 11,400 workers went out on strike in protest of the discharge of eight fellow employees.

The company said the eight were fired because they refused to meet production rates while the spokesman for the UAW union said the company was creating a "speedup" and seeking to cause trouble.

Union President Mike Novak said the men will stay out until the Army takes over or the War Investigating Committee, headed by Sen. James M. Meade (D-N.Y.) "looks into the whole Chrysler setup."

The plant was producing parts for Superfortresses, rockets and other war weapons.

**Hunt Escaped Convict In Bathtub Slaying**

CHICAGO, Feb. 24 (AP).—Police hunted an escaped convict today in the hotel bathtub death of Mrs. Blanche Zimmerman, 38, part-time telephone operator, Feb. 17.

Walter Storms, chief of detectives, identified the man as Joseph Medley, 43, alias J. H. Gardner, who escaped from Southern Michigan Prison, Nov. 27. He checked with New Orleans police in an attempt to link Mrs. Zimmerman's death with that of Mrs. Laura Fischer, who was found dead in a hotel bathtub in New Orleans on Christmas Eve.

**Film Writer Cremated**

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 24 (ANS).—Tess Slesinger Davis, movie scenarist, was cremated yesterday at Forest Lawn Cemetery. With her husband, Frank, she wrote the screen plays for "The Good Earth" and "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." Mrs. Davis, who was 39, was a native of New York and graduate of Columbia School of Journalism. She died Wednesday at her home in Uplands, Cal.

**Of Red Wine and Red Lights**

**France Puritanical? Never, Says Maury**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (AP).—Maury Maverick, friend of plain talk, rose yesterday to defend France against allegations of Puritanism. He has nothing against Puritanism—he just objects to reports from Paris that France is heading toward post-war Puritan-like sobriety, when, he says, the damper on Gallic fun is the result of real privation, cold and hunger.

He was commenting on a Feb. 13 dispatch by Associated Press Correspondent Robert C. Wilson, from Paris, describing the government's anti-alcohol campaign, closing of Paris night clubs, suppression of legalized prostitution in the Department of Savoy and overhauling of juvenile courts.

Maverick said: "Red wine is scarce because of transportation and high cost, not because De Gaulle is a spoilsport. The red lights have been doused in many areas of prostitution partly be-

cause medical inspection and other controls broke down after liberation, partly because the girls aroused public ire by consorting with the Germans."

He continued: "When France gets organized I think you can confidently expect a little sin. The only reason for closing Paris night clubs was because they didn't have electricity, coal or heat. I was there at the time. They did it exactly for the same reason we are putting midnight curfews on night clubs in this country."

"It is imperative that the Allied governments get more food and coal into the French cities we have liberated and left in worse misery than the Germans brought."

"A French baby can't drink liberty. The French people are trying to get milk for their babies right now and letting other things go."



# One More River Was Crossed

**Eve of Attack:** *Some Stared into Darkness, Others Kidded, And Crawford Told About His 40 Bucks*

By Ralph G. Martin  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH NINTH ARMY AT THE ROER, Feb. 24.—The hayloft was filled with the stink of dirty, sweating feet, but nobody seemed to notice it. The men of the squad were stretched in the straw, packed close together. Most of them were talking in low whispers, some were sleeping, a few were just lying still, smoking cigarettes, staring at the darkness.

In a couple of hours this first squad of the first platoon of Able Company of the First Bn. would 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. Ross is the squad's BAR man. This was his first action.

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

Everybody in the squad had written letters that day. That was partly because there was nothing 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 a popular magazine, and it had made the rounds, everybody reading every word in it, before it was put in the squad's toilet paper supply.

## Only Crawford Could Play Poker

"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. He's the assistant bazooka man.

"I've got 40 bucks in my shirt pocket," continued Crawford, "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 to my memory."

"Well, just don't walk in front of me," bawled out Pvt. Harry Hosier, of Pennshanken, 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.

"That Crawford is the sweet-tooth, peanut-cluster kid of the squad," said Hosier. "When he's not talking about poker, he's describing all kinds of food that we haven't got."

The ack-ack guns opened up suddenly, loudly, just as they had been doing off and on all night long. Occasionally, you could hear the irregular, unmistakable hum of a Jerry plane, somewhere close. They all pretended they didn't notice it.

## Crawling Bug Diverts Attention

In the conversation lull, Pfc Thomas Halloran, of Cleveland, said wistfully, "I wish I had some more of those cookies." That day, Halloran had received a package of candy and cookies which was promptly split up among the whole squad, like always.

"Why don't you chew on those bedroom slippers?" Bentler said, and everybody got hysterical again. Halloran had asked for the bedroom slippers when he was stationed back in London and they had just arrived.

"I don't know what the hell to do with them," said Halloran.

Several of the boys suggested where he could stick them. Then Harding walked in.

Sgt. Herbert Harding, of Washington, D.C., was in charge of the first squad two years ago and had been with it ever since. He was busted to private before coming overseas and he was the first squad man hit, suffering shrapnel wounds in both legs and a bad concussion.

He came back only a week ago and they made him sergeant and put him in charge of the same squad again. He's 39 years old.

"Every guy in the old squad is gone," he said softly. "But this river won't be so tough. Hope we have lots of artillery preparation, though."

# The Crossing:

*Silent Doughs Splashed Into Cologne Battle And Put End to Long Days of Waiting*

By Ernest Leiser  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH NINTH ARMY, Feb. 23 (Delayed).—There wasn't a sound as they filed down the road to the Roer, except for the slogging of their feet in the mud. A couple of half-hearted jokes were cut short. When one of them said, "I should have stood in bed," nobody laughed. They weren't feeling very funny.

They were the doughs of Co. C—Capt. "Poncho" Lozano's boys—and they were heading toward the river to cross on the first wave of assault boats, to spearhead the Roer crossing in their sector today and grab a toehold on the bog across the water.

## Silence Almost Unbroken

They trudged along in silence under the bright-as-day moon. At first, the only noises were the occasional thump of artillery, or the rumble of a two-and-a-half-ton truck down the road.

Then, halfway toward the river, the pre-assault artillery saturation began. It sounded like an earthquake and looked like the Fourth of July. Nobody looked around much to admire it, though. You had to keep your eyes pretty well on the holes in the road.

They came to the swampy flats along the flooded river bed and headed across, toward the assault boats. The engineers had crawled down the slope with them under cover of the barrage and had them all ready. Slowly, steadily, silhouetted against the moon and perfect targets from across the Roer, they went for the boats.

# On Far Shore:

*The Motorboats Failed, But Sixty Reached East Bank... To Wait... And Wait for Help*

By Bud Hutton and Andy Rooney  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writers

WITH FIRST ARMY ON THE ROER, Feb. 24.—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 Co. A. 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.

## Some Got Away

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

In the CP, Maj. Lou Dughi, 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 the fog. The engineers went out into the mortars and the 88s and began to build a foot bridge. 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. Men trickled in through the night to a brick-walled factory on the enemy shore, until there were 60. "What happened to the rest who started across and never got there, we couldn't tell," T/Sgt. Charles Scabery, of Cantril, Iowa, said.

## Boats Swing Downstream

The engineer crews hopped in the boats and untied the straining ropes. The racing current looked and felt more than six miles an hour, and, as they pushed off shore, the assault boats veered downstream.

Trees, almost submerged by the swollen waters, snagged the boats as they rushed downstream, turning some around, entangling others, and capsizing still others. Over-zealous rowing turned more boats over, and the water was full of soldiers struggling to make shore. Life-preservers helped, but some of them couldn't make it anyhow.

Most of them did. The boats banged into each other and then against the far shore. The engineers leaped out and tied them, and the infantrymen followed, groping and struggling up the crumbling banks, ducking fire, pausing to help their buddies up, and then rushing across the soggy flats to the high ground.

They had done it—done what they had been waiting to do since December. The Roer had been crossed and the drive to the East was on.

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

But there were 60 men over there. 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 Carpioux and Scabery. They said, "We haven't got any communication, 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."

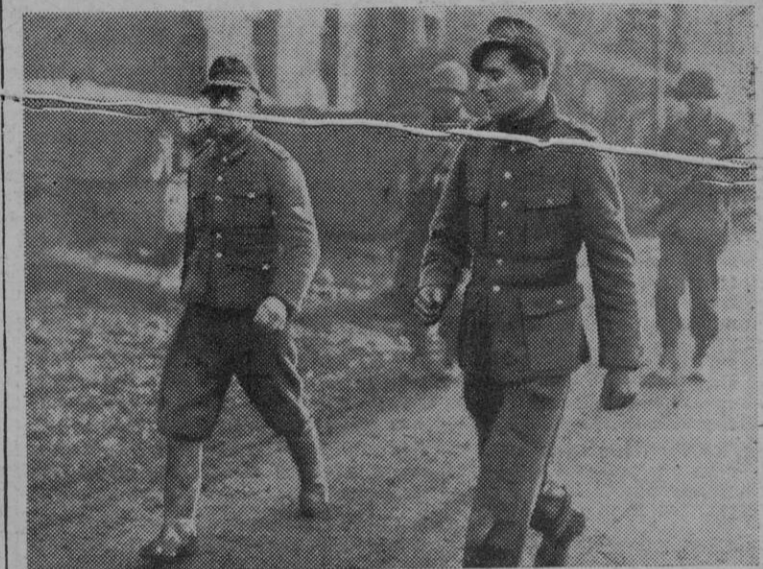
Someone talked over the phone to regiment, and they said so-and-so was on its objective, and the outfit's two units up the line were in the big town. The CP was quiet a minute and everybody was picturing the precise situation maps up and down the Roer, showing neat grease-pencil marks that told how the Big Push was going eastward into the Reich.

Then they went back to getting help to the 60.

## The Last Supper Before the Jump-off



Less than an hour before zero hour these doughs of the Ninth Army had hot chow. They hit the east bank of the river carrying two K-rations in their kits.



The first Germans captured by the Ninth are marched toward the rear lines less than four hours after the jump-off.



Stars and Stripes Photos by Riordan  
Mine-detecting engineers march toward the Roer where they got plenty of business locating enemy mines on the west bank.

# Ike Tells Drive Objective

(Continued from Page 1)

as close and as intimate as was necessary to meet the situation at a particular moment. The Russians have furnished me with all the information I've needed to know, and they've done it willingly and cheerfully."

Agreeing with a report that the Germans would fight in mountain hideouts after organized fighting had ended, the general said he believed that the enemy would go underground after its mountain posts were destroyed.

Although German strength and morale is extremely low, there has been no apparent sign of united efforts to overthrow the Nazi government, he said.

He pointed out that in the last few days Allied planes got back into the war when skies cleared sufficiently for high-altitude bombing and added:

"I can conceive no worse headache than the Germans are now having with their communications at a time when their forces are stretched and they have such an urgent need to move troops."

He said that as early as last November, he and Lt. Gen. Bradley, 12th Army Group commander, talked over the possibility of a German counter-offensive in the Ardennes. They knew, he continued, that as long as the Germans held a segment of the Siegfried Line in the sector, the possibility was present.

When Von Rundstedt struck, Eisenhower said, the counter-offensive was within a few miles of where Gen. Bradley estimated.

"I wasn't nearly as frightened during the action as when I saw the newspapers from the United States a few weeks later," he told correspondents.



## Front Aflame In Bird's Eye View of Roer

By a Stars and Stripes Staff Writer  
 WITH NINTH ARMY, Feb. 23 (Delayed).—Ranging over the Ninth Army front yesterday in a cub piloted by Capt. Norris Gee, of Knoxville, Iowa, the observer had little indication that a river assault was in the offing. The Roer valley, though pockmarked from autumn battles, was deceptively peaceful. And even the river itself, though swollen in spots, seemed sluggish. No activity at all was observed on the German side, and only the normal vehicular movement was evident along the front of the Ninth.

Today, the same area, from the same vantage point, looked entirely different. Flames were spurting from towns shattered by pre-assault artillery, and in the battle zone clouds of smoke sent by U.S. artillery shells obscured the action and blanketed the ground. The terrain rising from the German approaches to the river was like a giant sieve, with every field pattered with shell craters and every road battered.

### Assault Boats Capsize

On the river itself, even the current was plainly observable with capsized assault boats swirling downstream, water eddying around wrecked "alligator" AM-tracks, and remnants of unsuccessful efforts at bridging the Roer lying on the muddy banks.

However, by mid-afternoon, completed bridges at strategic sites all along the front were visible, carrying traffic across and up to the troops driving eastward. Capt. Gee swooped down on one bridge and pointed out some westbound traffic—a column of Nazi prisoners, hands above heads, being led across the river toward the U.S. pre-assault positions.

## U.S. Sketches Pan-Am. Peace

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 24 (AP).—The United States will introduce at the Inter-American Conference a proposal that the Pan-American Union be strengthened and be given the power to apply sanctions to keep peace in this hemisphere, Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius told reporters today.

Stettinius said the proposal represented careful thought by the United States and would give practical effect to co-operation among countries in the hemisphere. He suggested that the organization be strengthened so that it could "play a vital role in the international security organization" planned by the United Nations.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (ANS).—All peace-loving nations look to the American republics to lead the way to world peace and better economic life, President Roosevelt declared yesterday in a message read to delegates at the Inter-American Conference in Mexico City.

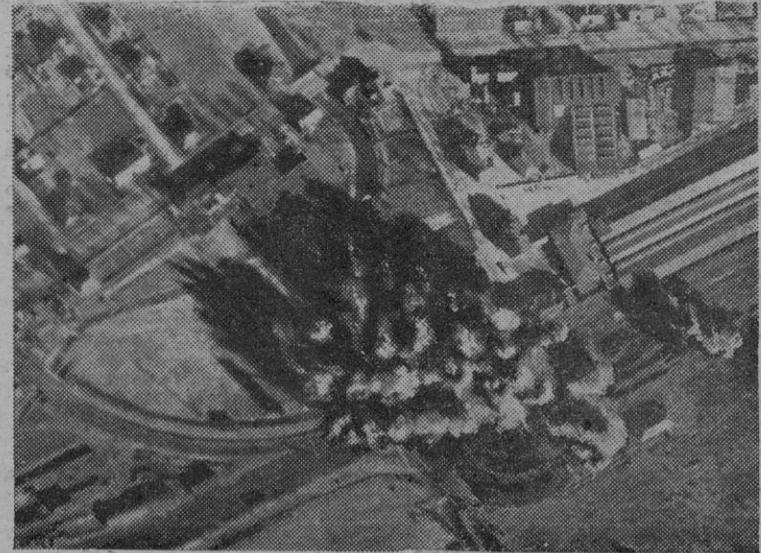
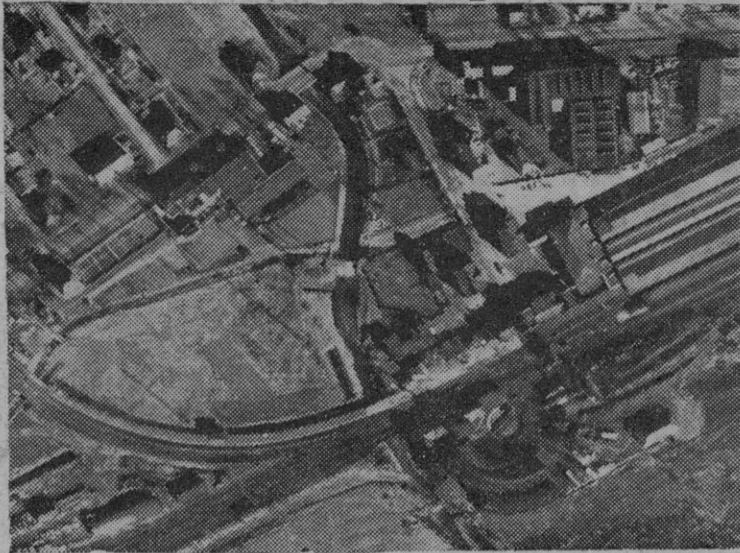
## FDR, Churchill Hail Red Army

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (ANS).—President Roosevelt congratulated Marshal Stalin yesterday on the twenty-seventh anniversary of the Red Army and said that the decisions reached at the Crimea Conference "will hasten victory and the establishment of a firm foundation for lasting peace."

The President's message was released by the State Department. It did not give Mr. Roosevelt's present whereabouts. The last official announcement placed him in Algiers and said that was his last stopping place on the way home.

LONDON, Feb. 24 (AP).—Prime Minister Churchill said in a message to Marshal Stalin that the Red Army, celebrating its anniversary on the "threshold of final victory," had sealed the doom of German militarism.

## U.S. Aerial Spade-work Yields a Crop of Ruin



The marshalling yard at Kreutzell, Germany (left)—important junction for trains moving supplies and equipment into Cologne—was one of the 80 targets blasted Thursday by the USAAF before the First and Ninth Armies jumped off on their offensive. This is the same marshalling yard minutes after Marauders of the Ninth Bombarment Division dropped their loads (right). The vital rail link was "temporarily put out of commission," the Ninth Air Force announced. Supplies, ready for loading, can be observed piled along the roadbeds.

## Hitler Asserts German Plight Can't Be Worse

LONDON, Feb. 24 (AP).—Germany has taken such a "terrible" beating that there is "no greater terror in store for us," Adolf Hitler told the Nazi old guard today in a speech commemorating the founding of the Nazi Party 25 years ago. The speech was read over the German radio by an aide at Munich.

Hitler's admission of the effect of Allied blows was coupled with an appeal, often reiterated, for every man, woman and child in the Reich to fight to the end or be annihilated.

His "only answer" to the Allied offensives was: "Every last ounce of strength must be thrown into the battle with utmost fanaticism and stubborn steadfastness."

Hitler predicted that the turning point of the war would come this year, but he did not explain how. Stressing his personal willingness to share the hardships being borne by the Germans, he expressed regret that his retreat at Berchtesgaden was not destroyed in the recent air raid there. He said: "Whatever I can call my own is no more valuable than what belongs to my people."

Hitler threatened a new purge against all Germans who showed cowardice or who sought to sabotage the Reich's war effort.

### Hog Island Ships Back

HQ., ANTWERP PORT TC.—After a quarter century of retirement, the famed Hog Islanders, supply ships of World War I, are again hauling supplies between the U.S. and Europe. They are used to free the newer Liberty ships for Pacific duty.

### Waiting for H-Hour:

## 'We'll Take Care of Them Toot Sweet'

By a Stars and Stripes Staff Writer  
 WITH NINTH ARMY, Feb. 24. Up at No. 1 Long Tom of Charlie Battery of a FA Battalion, you could see over the river.

"See that town right over there," said the chief of section, Sgt. Robert Harris, Scribner, N.C. "We're gonna flatten it like a pancake tonight. When our doggies walk in, they won't have a place to sit down."

Then he pointed to something invisible, right next to the town. "Those are rocket gun positions there. We're gonna take care of them toot sweet, too."

The sergeant explained that he had all the co-ordinates of every enemy gun position that he was going to shoot at, that he had all the ammo he needed to fire all night long.

"I've got itchy fingers," he said. T/4 Ernest Passaguluppi, Tappanoch, Va., the section mechanic, came in to report on his final checkup.

## U.S. Planes And Artillery Roar A Chorus of Death for Duren

By John B. McDermott  
 United Press Writer

FRONTLINE OP OVERLOOKING DUREN, Feb. 24.—Duren was a grotesquely beautiful city late this afternoon as American planes and artillery turned it into billowing geysers of living death. Duren was in the process of being pulverized.

Roaring dive-bombers swooped out of the overcast, dropping "eggs" on the blazing city. It reminded me of trout-fishing days back in Vermont, when I used to lie beside a brook watching fish darting at bait. Bombers are like that—they go through the hazy clouds and are darting like trout. From every part of Duren there rose huge billows of black or white smoke as bombs or shells hit the target.

I watched one plane diving towards what appeared to be a heavily-fortified Duren military barracks. Then it burst into flames, plummeting to earth. Whether it was a Jerry plane or one of ours I am not sure. There are few Jerry planes playing tag with Americans in the clouds.

For a moment there was a lull in the artillery around me. But only a moment. Then, like violent claps of thunder, it resumed rumbling steadily for almost three minutes. Conversation was impossible.

At first I could not see its effect. Then huge puffs of smoke rose up around the Duren barracks.

Directly over Duren you could see two of the loneliest and perhaps

the bravest men in the world. They were American pilots in piper cubs, seemingly at chimney-top height directing artillery fire. Those tiny planes are like angels in no-man's-land. They are living charmed lives. Shells were kissing their wings as they pounded into Duren. Pfc Harry Bordoff, of New Rochelle, N.Y., said, "Another German city is being wiped out—it will be just like Aachen when we get finished."

### Largest Rail Battalion Runs Le Havre Division

HQ., SECOND MILITARY RY. SERVICE.—The 746th Ry. Op. Bn., sponsored by the Missouri-Kansas-Texas railroad and the largest of its type in the Army, recently arrived in Europe and is now operating the Havre Div. of the Second MRS.

Its personnel now totals more than 1,200 men, 400 more than a normal-size battalion. There are 24 officers.

## 7th Army Push Is Led by Two New Divisions

By Wade Jones  
 Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH SEVENTH ARMY, Feb. 23 (Delayed).—Two brand new American infantry divisions—the 70th "Trailblazer" and the 63rd "Blood and Fire"—were revealed tonight to be spearheading the Seventh Army drive into Germany south of Saarbrücken.

The 70th, which first went into action on Dec. 26 southeast of Haguenau, is fighting Forbach, just inside the French border six miles southwest of Saarbrücken, and was last reported "in possession of most of the town."

The 63rd, which preceded the Trailblazers into the line by four days, is pressing up both sides of the Saar River north of Sarreguemines after beating off counter-attacks three miles north of the city and just inside the German border. At this point they are only some six miles southeast of the German industrial center of Saarbrücken.

### Four Counterblows Repelled

The Germans, throwing up strong resistance to the two-division thrust which jumped off a week ago, counter-attacked four times last night at a point five miles northeast of Forbach. Although preceded by heavy artillery preparation, the enemy drives were reported beaten off.

The small town of Schoenbach, about three miles north of Sarreguemines on the west bank of the Saar, was occupied by our forces. More than 300 prisoners were taken in the attack in this sector yesterday.

## French General Praised by Devers

Jean de Lattre de Tassigny, Commanding General of the First French Army, has received a congratulatory letter from Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, Sixth Army Group head, for the excellent leadership of the French troops in the reduction of the Colmar pocket.

The message from Gen. Devers read:

"It gives me great pleasure to commend you on the magnificent leadership which you displayed as commander of the First French Army in reducing the Colmar pocket. Beset by snow and extremely cold weather, followed by an unseasonable thaw which placed all streams in flood and covered the Alsatian Plain with water, you directed your troops superbly and in such a way as to destroy at least 80 percent of the 19th German Army with very little loss to your own troops.

"Your name will go down in history as the great liberator of Colmar, and as bringing freedom and peace again to the Alsations."

"My baby is all set," he said. Harris looked at his watch. "Well, it won't be long now," he said.

\* \* \*

### The Captain Predicts

It was the captain's job to worry about the 36 assault boats which would carry the division doggies across the river until the three foot bridges were up. He was Capt. Seymour Deutsch, Baltimore, of a combat engineers outfit. He also had to worry about his six LVTs to carry across AT guns and jeeps and anything else needed. There were also prefabricated wooden bridges to throw across the blown-up culverts on the main road. It was up to another outfit to build the bridges.

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

\* \* \*

### The General Watches

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 because his division CP was located in advance of even his company CPs. He was that kind of a general. He looked at his soldiers for a long time. The general's son had been reported missing in action.

\* \* \*

### The Medic Waits

It was the whole war in a single picture—this ambulance coming back from the river driving past two lines of doggies who were marching toward the assault-boats.

Most of the big guns were already booming. The ack-ack lit up the sky like the Fourth of July. Huge searchlights were probing for planes. T/Sgt. Norman Cellars, Orbisonia, Pa., of Co. B. of a medical battalion, stood in front of a busted building that was to be a collecting station, to watch the war go by.

"I hope we don't have too many customers tonight," he said quietly.



## Behind the Sports Headlines

**L**INCOLN, Neb.—Cy Sherman, veteran Star sports editor who originated the trade mark, "Cornhuskers," as applied to Nebraska University football teams, has received a pen the Governor used to sign the bill designating Nebraska officially as the Cornhusker State.

**LOS ANGELES.**—Eight members of the victorious Trojan Rose Bowl team are now on the way to rougher battles. Seven, including All-America tackle Johnny Ferraro, and Jim Hardy, were commissioned ensigns, and Center Russ Antles, was made a Marine second looney.

**SAN DIEGO, Calif.**—When Pepper Martin took over the San Diego Padres it marked the second Pacific Coast managerial post for the Wild Horse of the Osage, who piloted Sacramento to the title in 1942.

**MIAMI, Fla.**—Tyndall Field annexed the Southeastern AAU basketball title beating Smyrna Air Base, 58-57, in an overtime final.

### OLYMPIC DIVING CHAMP INJURED IN ITALY

**MIAMI, Fla.**—Lt. Col. Marshall Wayne, 1936 Olympic diving champ and twice United States National titlist, returned to the United States with a leg injury suffered when he bailed out of a fighter over Italy a few weeks ago.

**LOS ANGELES.**—Callanan names are going to grace the Southern California athletic rolls for quite awhile to come. Ensign Howard, first of three Trojan stars, is missing in action since the destroyer he was on went down off Leyte; George, star back, the last two years, was just commissioned an ensign at USC; Jim, elected captain for next year, is a member of the Naval ROTC, and now the youngest, Edward, will enroll in March.

**PANAMA.**—Sgt. Terry Moore, former Cardinal outfield star, is doing all right at the diamond sport, though in the Army. Terry's leading the Army league with a .400 batting average and heads the Canal Zone Pro League with .429.

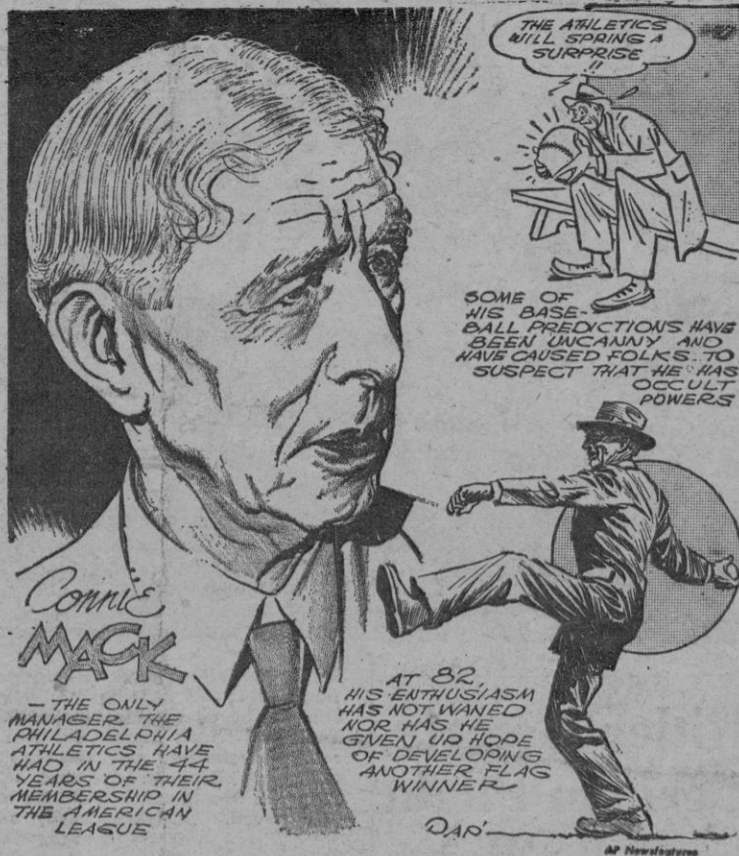
**PASADENA, Calif.**—The 1945 Rose Bowl game has been revealed as the top game of the series that started in 1916, both for dough and for attendance. More than 94,999 fans paid \$342,000 to watch the game.

### CHARLEY BAER TO COACH FOOTBALL AT DETROIT

**DETROIT.**—Charley Baer, assistant football coach at Illinois under Ray Elliot, signed a three-year contract as head grid mentor at Detroit University.

**COLUMBIA, Mo.**—With baseball holding the top sports spot at Missouri University and baseball ready to start training. Coach Chauncey Simpson called the first spring football practice and had 32 answering the summons.

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.**—Dr. R. B. Jackson, of Nashville, was elected president of the new Southern League of Negro ball clubs. The loop is made up of Mobile, Memphis, New Orleans, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Atlanta, Nashville and Asheville, N.C.



## Lamotta Bows To Robinson

**NEW YORK, Feb. 24.**—Ray "Sugar" Robinson, Harlem welterweight, gained a unanimous decision over Jake Lamotta, stocky Bronx middleweight, before 18,000 spectators at Madison Square Garden last night. It was Robinson's third victory over the rugged Italian. Jake defeated "Sugar" two years ago in Detroit for Robinson's only setback in 55 professional fights.

There were no knockdowns and Robinson drew blood when he steamed a left hook into Lamotta's forehead in the first round. The best round was the sixth when Lamotta backed Ray into a corner and whaled away with both hands for ten seconds without a return. Robinson came back immediately and almost took Lamotta's head off with a barrage of left hooks. The gate was \$93,000.

### TC Cagers Triumph

The 442nd Troop Carrier cagers defeated the ATC hoopsters, 54-37 for their 13th win in 15 starts. The TC basketeers led at halftime, 26-22 and were never headed. Wright was high for the 442nd with 15 points.

## McSpaden Top Man in Florida

**PENSACOLA, Fla., Feb. 24.**—Harold "Jug" McSpaden, transplanted Kansan playing out of Sanford, Me., yesterday blistered the course here with an eight-under-par record 64 to take a three-stroke lead in the first round of the Pensacola Open Golf tournament.

McSpaden fired five straight birdies and wound up with six birdies and three pars for a six-under-30 on the first nine and came home in 34, two under par for the leading total.

Sammy Snead, who won the Gulfport Open Monday in a playoff with Byron Nelson, shot a 67 for second. Sgt. Dutch Harrison, Sammy Byrd, Henry Picard and Jimmy Gauntt, Oklahoma City newcomer, had 68s for third, with Byrd missing a two-foot putt on the 18th hole to lose a tie for second, with Nelson.

### Red Sox Lack Foxy Catchers

**BOSTON, Feb. 24.**—The Red Sox front office forwarded 1945 baseball contracts today to its players, but none was addressed to a catcher with big league experience.

## Buckeye Five, Led by Risen, Tops Illinois

**COLUMBUS, Ohio, Feb. 24.**—Ohio State kept within a game of the first-place Iowa team in the red hot Big Ten basketball race by blasting Illinois, 60-44, last night before 3,000 fans. After the advantage had changed hands nine times in the first ten minutes,

### Big Ten Standings

	W	L	Pct.	Pts.	OP
Iowa	8	1	.889	426	362
Ohio State	9	2	.818	547	441
Illinois	7	2	.777	464	396
Purdue	6	6	.500	563	580
Michigan	5	7	.417	507	560
Wisconsin	4	6	.400	436	476
Minnesota	3	7	.300	426	376
Northwestern	3	8	.273	493	488
Indiana	2	8	.200	475	550

the Buckeyes pulled away to a 27-16 halftime lead.

Paul Huston's field goal, three straight swishers by Don Grate, and Arnold Risen's free throw, put Ohio State into a commanding lead and the Illini were hopelessly out of the running from then on.

Risen was tops with seven field goals and five fouls for 19 points, while Jack Burmaster's ten led the losers.

## Cage Probe Cites 'Big 3' Bettors

**NEW YORK, Feb. 24.**—Lewis J. Valentine, Police Commissioner of New York City, testified at open court hearings into the Brooklyn College basketball scandal today and named "The Big Three," who he said controlled gambling in this city. Frank Erickson, one of the country's biggest bookmakers; Frank Costello, slot machine king, and Joe Adonis, Brooklyn racketeer, were named by Valentine, who said nothing could be done about their activities unless the small fry, through whom they operate, are put out of business first.

Valentine revealed that Ned Irish, basketball promoter and acting president of Madison Square Garden, had submitted to him 50 names of gamblers who frequented basketball, hockey and fight programs at the Garden. One of those named was Marty Krompner, former lieutenant of Dutch Schultz, beer baron who was shot to death in a Newark saloon several years ago.

Krompner was shot in a barber's shop the night Schultz was killed and Valentine said, "It's too bad he wasn't killed, too."

## CAGE RESULTS

Arkansas 80, Texas Aggies 21.  
 Baldwin-Wallace 57, Bowling Green 54.  
 Daytona Beach 50, Florida 45.  
 Foster Hosp. 59, Mississippi 54.  
 Florida Aggies 57, Xavier 42.  
 Great Lakes 51, Bunker Hill Naval, 43.  
 High Point 43, Lenoir Rhyne 37.  
 Ohio State 60, Illinois 44.  
 Scranton 50, Bloomsburg Techs. 44.  
 Westminster 89, Juniata 55.  
 William Jewell 59, Drury 41.

Southern Conference Tournament:  
 Duke 76, Maryland 49.  
 William and Mary 54, Citadel 41.  
 North Carolina 38, S. Carolina 26.  
 Duke 59, William and Mary 22.

## Camp Edwards' Brass Tunes in on Willie

**CAMP EDWARDS, Mass., Feb. 24.**—Charles "Whistlin' Willie" Roache, featherweight boxer, is located here as the result of a difference of opinion with Uncle Sam's Army. Both Willie and the Army agree that Willie was inducted quite some time ago, but they differ strongly on the reason Willie has been wandering around in civilian clothes for about a year.

Willie claims he has a medical discharge but, the Army charges Willie with being AWOL 13 months. Willie says he got that discharge, but unhappily cannot produce it. Nor can he recall offhand from which hospital or camp he was discharged.

## Covering GI Sports

Sullivan's Raiders, defending Ninth AF champions, entered the final round of the Ninth AF Service Command basketball tournament yesterday afternoon, defeating the 16th ADG, 33-31, and met the Headquarters cagers, who crushed the First IDG, 54-45, in the semifinal at Japy Gyn, Paris.

The 16th ADG and the First IDG met in the consolation finals.

Raiders	G	F	P	16th ADG	G	F	P
Schlicht, f.	6	3	11	Siegel, f.	3	2	8
Egen, f.	1	0	2	Filipeck, f.	5	1	11
Ross, f.	1	0	2	Mold, c.	3	2	8
Petit, c.	4	1	9	Camper, g.	1	0	2
McKay, g.	3	1	7	Plante, g.	1	0	2
Donalson, g.	1	0	2	Babbett, g.	0	0	0
Totals:	14	5	33	Totals:	13	5	31

9th Hq.	G	F	P	1st I.D.G.	G	F	P
Wilson, f.	3	2	8	Robbins, f.	4	0	8
Comitz, f.	8	5	21	Doss, f.	0	1	1
Risinger, c.	2	3	7	Kattingell, f.	5	8	18
Wekler, g.	5	2	12	Bennett, c.	1	2	4
Wike, g.	0	0	0	Teyro, g.	3	3	9
Gerlach, g.	2	2	6	Kikuski, g.	2	1	5
Blaine, g.	0	0	0				
Totals:	20	14	54	Totals:	15	15	45

Two basketball leagues—the Senior and Varsity—comprise the cage activities of the 11th Port. After several weeks of competition, the loops shape up as follows:

Senior League	W	L	Varsity League	W	L
396th Port.	4	1	11th Pt. Comts	6	0
11th Port.	4	1	179th Hosp.	5	1
508th Port.	4	1	501st Port.	2	2
6th Port.	3	2	38th En. Fireb.	2	2
38th Engr.	3	2	496th Port.	2	2
392nd Port.	1	4	166th Port.	1	4
Medl-Fins	1	4	990th Sig.	1	4
171st Port.	0	5	334th Harb'ert	1	5

**DIJON.**—Six bouts were staged here in the weekly C.A.S. Boxing show under the direction of Special Service. In the main bout Joe Anderson, 175, from Pittsburgh, defeated Jimmie Johnson, 175, also from Pittsburgh, in five rounds.

Results of other bouts:  
 Harvey Welch, Williamstown, N.J., defeated James Harvey, Gainville, Fla.; "Tex" Laurens, Middletown, Ohio, drew with Irwin Brenner, Pittsburgh; Joe Lombardi, New York, drew with Steve Cometti, Chicago; Clinton Perry, Boston, knocked out, first round, Roscoe Fischer, Thomonville, Ga.; Henri Jakobouske defeated James Harvey, both of French Army.

The 3219th QM Serv. Co. recently organized a basketball team and won its first three games. The last victim was 909th Ord. 27-10.

## Checking Possible 'Fix' In New England Bout

**BOSTON, Feb. 24.**—The State Boxing Commission is preparing to inquire into circumstances under which Benny Singleton, of Waterbury, Conn., won the New England lightweight championship one week and lost it the next to a boxer of reputedly minor ability.

Singleton looked like a ball of fire in downing Oscar St. Pierre, of Fall River, Feb. 13, and Gov. Maurice Tobin wonders how come he lost the title last Tuesday to Johnny Cool, of Worcester, an oft-beaten preliminary fighter.

### Walker Cooper Okayed

**ST. LOUIS, Feb. 24.**—Walker Cooper, Cardinals' catcher, was accepted for military service at Jefferson Barracks today and is awaiting the call.

His brother, Mort, ace righthanded batterymate, was rejected for the second time last week and his case is before the War Department for final judgment.

## Accuses Mike Jacobs of Boxing Plot

## Waxman Says Promoter 'Fixed' Decision for Ruffin, Greco Bout

**NEW YORK, Feb. 24.**—Mike Jacobs, boxing promoter at Madison Square Garden and other points, has sued Maurie Waxman for \$500 and, in so doing, has touched off a lovely little stink, which will make interesting reading when intimate details are revealed. Waxman flatly accuses Jacobs, among other things, of foretelling the decision of the second bout between Bobby Ruffin, of whom Waxman has a piece, and Johnny Greco, of Montreal.

### Wanted 12-Rounder

Waxman claims that when he was making arrangements for the fight, he asked that it be 12 rounds, because he doubted Greco's ability to go beyond ten. Jacobs wouldn't go for 12 rounds, Waxman said, and "kept asking me if I wouldn't be satisfied with a draw and a return bout."

That's exactly what transpired, although there were many at the fight who thought Ruffin won. The referee voted for Ruffin, 6 to 4, and the two judges called it a draw, 5 and 5, and 4-4-2.

Waxman charges Jacobs side-



MIKE JACOBS

tracked Ruffin out of a title fight with Juan Zurita, NBA lightweight champ, in Mexico. (Zurita's title is about as good as Mussolini's in New York.) Jacobs, he claims, scotched the proposed fight because Bobby refused to sign a contract making Jacobs his manager.

Jacobs, in making his demand for an exclusive contract on Ruffin's services, according to Wax-

## Indignant Pilot Charges 'Uncle Mike' Sought Ruffin's Contract

man, said he had exclusive rights on Joe Louis and Ray Robinson and that unless a fighter signed such a contract, he would never get a title fight under Jacobs' auspices.

### Lost in Crap Game

Waxman's current legal differences with Jacobs date back about three weeks, following the third Ruffin-Greco fight, which Jacobs allegedly promised Waxman for accepting a draw in the second bout. Waxman blew \$1,800 in a crap game and was a little leary about going home to his wife without the "scratch." He put the bite on Mike for a thousand bucks and Mike demanded Ruffin's contract. After hemming and hawing a while, Jacobs finally gave up \$500 and Waxman borrowed the rest elsewhere.

When Ruffin announced his retirement the other day, Jacobs sent Mushky Jackson out looking for him with a summons.

Mike is known for his shrewdness and acumen, but it looks like this is one time he "shoulda stood in bed."





Quip of the week (by Sgt. Bernard Maxwell): "I hear that the Japs are fighting a Luzon battle."

Scientific note: A hug is energy gone to waist.

Remember this old gag? Two men got off the bus. One had come to town for good. The other was a soldier on furlough.

A little ditty sent in by Lt. F. Wolf, with a lot of thought:

Pierce the line  
Cross the Rhine  
... Peace time.

Sgt. E. V. Burke, of a troop carrier wing, had this to say to his buddies the night before his Paris pass. "Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my stripes I keep."

A T/5 we know over here received the following in a letter from his wife: "Ain't getting any better come home." You punctuate it!

Note to the military experts: Wonder when someone will invent a jet plane that will go as fast as a 100-franc note?

Warning on an air base bulletin board: "To all ETO veterans



—When demobilization starts, don't get caught with your points down.

A soldier writes in demanding the invention of a new secret weapon. He sez he wants a device that will muffle the click of dice so he can get some sleep the first few nights after payday.

Shed a tear in your wine for Pfc H. Briede. After sweating out fruitless mail-calls for three weeks, the first mail he gets is a Christmas card from his draft board—the first message he had received from it in three years.

S/Sgt. Frank Triptree wants us to believe that he received some film from home that took so long getting here that when he took pictures with it everybody "came out" with gray hair.

This little story just reached us via carrier pigeon from Italy. An officer attended confession and the priest remarked, "You are not a very good example to your men." "Oh, that's all right," replied the military man, "I'm a staff officer."

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

J. C. W.



Also AEFP (583 Kc. — 514 M.)

Table with columns for Time, TODAY, and TOMORROW, listing radio programs and their times.

Li'l Abner



Terry and The Pirates



Abbie an' Slat



Dick Tracy



Blondie



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

DISCONTINUED. Demand for cameras and accessories and for chromatic harmonicas far exceeds the supply. To save space and time, no more advertisements stating they are wanted will be run.

Rolleikoin, 35mm. adapter, for Rolleiflex; Lt. Col. J. A. Pongonis. SELL: 35mm. Univex Mercury, film. Pfc Wm. A. Manning. FOR SALE: Agfa Memo; Capt. J. W. Farmer. Argus C2, accessories, 3,500 francs; Pvt. Charles Howard.

Folks at Home Send These GIs Swift News of Sir Stork's Arrival! L. T. Robert J. Bigart, Hampton Bays, N.Y.—Judith Ann, Feb. 8; Lt. Lyman Diercks Antigo, Wis.—boy, Feb. 21; Lt. Murray Dorfman, Richmond Hill, N.Y.—Susan Lee, Feb. 21; Pfc Michael Bade, Brooklyn—Rosanne Frances, Feb. 14; Sgt. Fred Cupo, Brooklyn—Barbara Ann, Jan. 17; 1/Lt. Walter S. Snodell, Chicago—Walter Scott, Feb. 4.

Oliff, Washington—Thomas Luther; 2/Lt. Ross S. Gilchrist, Winthrop, Mass.—David Bruce; Pfc Edwin W. Callison, Florence, S.C.; Sgt. Samuel E. Sample, Jackson, Miss.—Susan Jane; Pfc Frank Bardaro, Ozone Park L.I.—Kathaleen, Feb. 15; S/Sgt. R. V. Deshay, Piscataway, N.J.—Ruth Ann, Feb. 19. SGT. A. E. Anders, Cicero, Ill.—boy. Pfc James W. Alexander, Hugo, Okla.—James; Lt. Eugene C. Leachman, Des Moines—boy, Feb. 9; T/5 Wilbert D. Harlan, San Pablo, Calif.—Nancy Sue, Feb. 20; Lt. Philip Glevin, Champaign, Ill.—Linda Jane, Feb. 16; Cpl. John Schmidt, New York—George Walter, Feb. 17; Pfc Harold Saks, Philadelphia—Mark Phillip, Jan. 31; 1/Lt. James D. Rapp, Castle Rock, Col.—girl, Feb. 14; Lt. Leon F. Burns, Los Angeles—Judith Karen, Feb. 14.



# Yanks Blast Way Inside Old Manila Walled City

MANILA, Feb. 24 (ANS).—Three regiments of U.S. 37th Div. infantrymen fought from building to building inside the ancient Intramuros today, clearing the last Japanese from Manila amid scenes of Nipponese brutality.

Fierce fighting in the closing phase of the three-week battle for the Philippines capital was announced by Gen. MacArthur, who also reported that American troops had invaded a second small island—Biri—to win full control of San Bernardino Strait, between Luzon and Samar Islands, through which supplies may flow to Manila from the U.S.

Half-starved, bayoneted, beaten civilians held by the doomed Japanese garrison inside the centuries-old Intramuros (Walled City) during the two-week American siege were treated at field hospitals, but many noncombatant dead remained amid the rubble.

### Japs Silent on Offer

The Japanese commander in the Walled City had not replied to an American offer that he and his men would be permitted an honorable surrender if civilians held as virtual hostages were released.

Three days of shelling of the 20-foot-thick northeastern wall of the Intramuros came to a thundering climax early yesterday. In one hour, 7,000 shells thudded into the medieval masonry. The wall was breached in two places by this most concentrated artillery action of the Pacific war.

The Third Bn. of the 129th Regt., under Col. John D. Frederick, of Springfield, Ill., entered the Intramuros to engage in hand-to-hand combat with the nearly crazed defenders.

Simultaneously, the Second Bn. of the 146th Regt., under Col. Cecil B. Whitcomb, of Cleveland, moving under a heavy smoke screen, crossed the Pasig River near its mouth in assault boats.

This move caught the Japanese by surprise. The Yanks landed near the wrecked Philippines Mint, crossed a golf course and poured through another breach in the wall.

An hour after the first U.S. troops entered, the first civilians began to trickle out. Soon about 30 civilians were huddled near the wall of Letran University.

By mid-afternoon, most of the U.S. assault troops, including part of the 148th Regt., under Col. Lawrence K. White, of St. Louis, were within the walls.

The Intramuros was successfully stormed, and at small cost to the Yanks.

### Expected Longer Siege

Maj. Gen. Robert S. Beightler, 37th Div. commander, figured it would take two or three days more to clean out an estimated 1,500 Japanese.

The invasion of little Biri Island, at the eastern end of San Bernardino Strait, came on Thursday, the day after other Yanks had landed on Capul Island, at the western end. Only light Japanese opposition was encountered on the islands.

Meanwhile, U.S. bombers attacked airdromes on Mindanao and Borneo, and swept the China Sea, damaging four enemy freighters.

# Singapore Bombed By India Superforts

Singapore, the crossroads for war traffic between Japan and her stolen southern empire, was bombed yesterday by the biggest fleet of Superfortresses ever dispatched from bases in India.

The U.S. 20th AF announcement of the attack indicated that more than 100 Superforts were in action. They blasted Singapore's extensive dock and harbor facilities.

In Burma, Chinese troops crossed the Namtu River and captured the town of Namtu. Other Chinese units wiped out Japanese troops remaining in the hills south of Henswi, near the Burma Road.

### French Nazi Leader Killed

LONDON, Feb. 24.—The German radio announced that Jacques Do-riot, French Nazi leader, had been killed during an Allied air raid in southwestern Germany.

# U.S. Receives Big Push News With Optimism

By Gene Graff

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau NEW YORK, Feb. 24.—The home-front press heralded the Western Front offensive as likely to be the "finishing blow" to Hitler's tottering empire but cautioned the public against too much optimism lest the push fail to crush the Nazis' western line.

For the first time in several weeks, the New York papers broke out in a rash of maps of central Europe showing the distance between the forward Russian lines and those of the Americans.

The general reaction was summed up by Ernest Crown in the newspaper PM. He quoted a Ninth Army soldier as saying: "Ivan, here we come!" The soldier had just surged across the Roer with his unit.

The PM headline read: "American Armies Punch Into Rhineland In Final Drive to Finish Off Germany."

"The thinkers" in Washington expressed the general belief that the American drive is certain to carry the First and Ninth to the Rhine in rapid fashion; but they added that it will be necessary for them to halt and reorganize before crossing that wide river in sufficient strength to finish the plunge to Berlin.

### Serve Editorial Warnings

Editorials in New York papers cautioned the people against getting the idea that the European War is over now. "That production still must continue just the same".... "There'll be plenty of lives lost before Hitler says 'Uncle'.... "There's always the Pacific war still going on."

Enthusiasm over Gen. Eisenhower's late winter push was dampened by the announcements of Marine casualties on tiny Iwo Island in the Pacific, where more than 5,000 Americans have been knocked out of the war.

Nevertheless, New York newspapers appeared optimistic in their headlines: "Berlin Shudders As Climactic Fighting Towards Berlin Is Launched".... "Yanks Jump Off in Big Push For Berlin".... "Yanks Launch Final Assault on Berlin."

# New Cabinet Formed By Dutch Government

LONDON, Feb. 24 (UP).—The Netherlands Government announced yesterday the formation of a new cabinet under Premier Pieter S. Gerbrandy. The highly-organized Dutch resistance movement, which continued to fight against the Nazis during the years of occupation, is strongly represented.

# No Better Recommendation Just Say 'Ike Sent Me'

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE, Feb. 24.—Eighteen-year-old Herbert Wills, a private in a reinforcement center, is going to see a general about a job:

His search for employment started last September when Patton's troops were knocking the Wehrmacht groggy. Anxious to fight with the Third Army, Herbert made inquiries, but his Niagara Falls draft board was unimpressed. He was only 17.

So Herbert returned the next day, forged his age on a draft registration blank and waited for the Army to catch up with him. It did—three months later—but by that time the youngster was a crack rifleman at Fort Benning. He was also slated for overseas.

Yesterday, Pvt. Wills and Gen. Eisenhower arrived at a reinforcement center. Inspecting the new troops, Ike asked Herbert what outfit he wanted.

"Third Army, sir," said the private. "See George Patton, and tell him I sent you," said the General.

# Long-Distance Joke on Berlin: Phoney War, Soviet Style

MOSCOW, Feb. 24 (AP).—All Moscow is delighted by this story of the Red Army major who talked by telephone with Berlin City Hall.

"Everything is true in this story," said the two brothers, both Soviet playwrights, who wrote it for Izvestia.

"One of our detachments entered a small German town so suddenly that the inhabitants didn't know what happened until they drew the curtains the next morning," said the Izvestia article.

"The surprised German garrison hadn't time to disrupt communications and at the telephone station a girl switchboard operator placed a call to Berlin for one of our officers, Major Sergeiv, who knows German.

"When Berlin answered, he asked for the burgomeister. He was informed that the burgomeister was absent, but his secretary, Herr Salzbach, answered: 'This is the burgomeister's office.'

"Said the major: 'How are things getting along?' "Badly. People say they've come quite close already. How is it with you?"

"Oh, fine. One hour ago the Soviets captured our town."

"Don't joke so foolishly. I'll complain to the burgomeister."

"You're welcome to complain to Hitler himself. This is a Soviet officer. See you soon, Herr Salzbach."

# First and Ninth Drive Ahead, Take Julich, Battle in Duren

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oldsweller, and the Eighth Inf. Div., which had cleared half of Niederau.

The first signs of stiffening resistance came just 19 hours after the offensive began. At 2230 hours last night, the Germans launched the first of six counter-attacks against Ninth Army troops, some with tanks and assault guns. All were repulsed. Army headquarters said.

In the Boslar area, where fighting was fairly heavy, U.S. artillery fire broke up a concentration of enemy forces.

The Schwammanuel Dam, whose blasting by the Germans had turned the Roer River into a 400-foot-wide water barrier in front of the American troops, finally was dry at 6 AM today.

Enemy aircraft also were active in the Linnich area at about 2200 last night.

Besides Julich and Arnoldsweller the following towns were listed as captured up to tonight. By Ninth Army troops—Baal, Korenzig, Broich, Alpenberg, Hottors, Koffern and Dingbuchor. By First Army troops—Birksdorf and Huchem-Stammeln.

Hambach, Selgersdorf, Glimbach, Gevenich, Ruvick, Boslar, Homspech and Oberzier were captured by unidentified troops of these armies.

Up to last midnight Ninth Army troops had captured 1,239 prisoners.

### U.S. Forces Across Artery On 22-Mile Front

As General Eisenhower yesterday declared that the Allied drive was intended "to destroy every German west of the Rhine," doughs of the Ninth and First Armies were driving well across the Linnich-Julich-Duren road on a 22-mile front.

The powerful advance rode over the first enemy counter-attacks which started to come in at 2230 hours Friday—19 hours after the assault began.

Slowness of this reaction on a front where Germans had pre-

dicted an Allied drive for weeks evidenced a surprise element in the timing of the attack and the devastation of supporting air and artillery bombardment.

The Luftwaffe came up to strike at advancing Ninth Army doughs after counter-attacks had failed to stop them. Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson's infantrymen, however, drove three and one-half miles east of the Roer in their farthest penetration of the Cologne Plain. Generally, they were two miles across the Roer along their front.

Meanwhile, it was revealed that Simpson's Ninth is still under the operational command of Field Marshal Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's 21st Army Group. It had been shifted to the 21st Group during the German winter offensive.

In Julich, Ninth forces were confronted by one of the most powerful individual strongpoints American forces have encountered since the Metz forts—the citadel of Julich.

The great structure, a mile and a quarter in circumference, dates back to 1548, when the city of Julich was rebuilt. The stone fortress was constructed along the lines of the impregnable citadel of Antwerp.

Surrounded by a moat 20 feet deep and 70 to 100 feet wide, its walls range up to 120 feet thick. Gateways on the north and south are S-shaped so that shells cannot be fired through them.

First Army troops advancing south of the Ninth gained between one and two miles beyond the river and found resistance increasing. The Roer current in Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges' sector was running 10 to 12 miles per hour—almost double that in the Ninth Army sector to the north.

First Army doughs battled savagely in Duren and in Birkesdorf, a mile and one half to the northwest. Other forces took the towns of Stammeln and Hochem, adjacent towns three miles north of Duren, and Hambach, four miles southeast of Julich.

Meanwhile, U.S. Third Army forces advanced along a 20-mile front to the south and captured 16 more towns in gains up to four miles, Stars and Stripes Correspondent Patrick Mitchell reported from the Saar front.

Men of the 94th Inf. Div. cleared the enemy from the Saar River towns of Serrig and Ockfen and deepened their crossings over the Saar to one mile along a two-mile front.

In the Vianden sector to the north, Mitchell reported, the German salient was reduced with the capture of 12 towns and more than 1,000 prisoners.

Southward, U.S. Seventh Army troops battled for the Saar town of Forbach. At the northern tip of the front, Canadians drove a half circle northwest and west of Calcar as Germans pulled back into the wrecked town.

# Enemy Reports Red Crossing Of Neisse River

German sources reported yesterday that Red Army troops of Marshal Ivan S. Koniev's command had driven in great force across the Neisse River line, guarding the southeastern route to Berlin.

The German radio said that the Russians had established several bridgeheads along the river barrier, which runs from Guben, 65 miles from Berlin, southward to Goerlitz. Moscow dispatches told of fighting at Guben and in the Goerlitz area, on the road to Dresden.

An Associated Press dispatch from Moscow said that Soviet tanks and Tommy-guns had driven into the streets of Guben and Forst, to the south. Both places were declared to be in imminent peril of being cut off.

Other troops of Koniev's First Ukrainian Army had penetrated besieged Breslau, under orders to "tear it to pieces stone by stone" if the defenders obeyed a Nazi command to fight to the last. The Russians took 15 blocks in the southern part of Breslau.

In Poland, Soviet troops, armor and supplies were rolling through newly-liberated Posen toward Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's front on the Oder River, where some Russian forces were less than 35 miles from Berlin.

Completion of the Posen operation removed a detour and shortened Marshal Zhukov's communications to the rear by some 50 miles.

Far to the northeast, Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's forces took several towns south and southwest of Danzig. Fighting continued inside encircled Graudenz, on the east bank of the Vistula.

In East Prussia, Soviet forces repelled attacks by German troops on the Samland Peninsula, north-west of Koenigsberg. Southwest of the city more towns fell to Russian troops.

In Hungary, the Red Army ward-off strong German attacks on the northern bank of the Danube, east of Komarno.

# Marines Break Iwo Stalemate

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a tank-supported Marine attack begun this morning at the southwestern end of the central airfield was making slow progress at noon.

The Japanese are opposing three Marine Divisions with such modern weapons as 1,000-pound rocket mortars, presumably fired from launching platforms. They are using deep pillboxes, linked by tunnels, which were years in building and can be knocked out only by a direct shell hit, flame-throwers or well-placed hand grenades.

The southern airfield on Iwo Jima fell to the Marines on Tuesday. It took from Tuesday to Friday to cover the 700 yards to the central airfield.

### Air War . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

their bombs on the communication center of Driersen, 17 miles northwest of Dusseldorf, and four other centers southwest and west of Cologne.

Fighter bombers of the Ninth flew 1,350 sorties ahead of the attacking American armies, cutting railroads in more than 100 places, and disabling approximately 1,000 railway cars and 51 locomotives. Taking advantage of improving weather in the afternoon, a force of 100 mediums bombed bridges over the Weid and Nette rivers.

Assaults by 15th AF, striking at rail targets in Austria and southern Germany, air blows by the First and Second TACs, and sorties by the RAF brought to more than 4,000 the number of planes in yesterday's attacks.

Thus far 548 German planes have been destroyed in combat during the air offensive.