

**Ici On Parle Français**  
 Combien vous dois-je ?  
 Comb byan voo dwaj?  
 How much do I owe you?

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

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

**Today's Russian Lesson**  
 Z DRAHST-voee-lee.  
 Hello.

Vol. 1—No. 197

1 Fr.

New York—PARIS—London

1 Fr.

Friday, Feb. 9, 1945

# Canadians Strike in North

## Soviets Widen Bridgeheads

### Foe Admits Reds Gain Near Stettin

Violent fighting was raging at scattered places along the west bank of the Oder River, 30 miles east of Berlin, yesterday as Marshal Gregory Zhukov poured thousands of men and guns across the river barrier to open the frontal assault on the German capital, Moscow dispatches said last night.

German News Agency reported that Zhukov had launched a powerful offensive on a 56-mile front between Frankfurt and Kuestrin after succeeding in widening his bridgeheads at four places. Official Soviet dispatches still have not confirmed the week-old German reports that Zhukov had crossed the Oder in this area.

Moscow radio last night said that the Oder Line "had been pierced" and that Berlin was in "panic" after the last barrier before the Reich capital had "crumbled."

#### Berlin Exodus Reported

Associated Press from Moscow, quoting a Red airman who flew over Berlin on Wednesday, said a great exodus of civilians was streaming southwest from the capital, jamming roads for miles and miles.

Heavy fighting was reported raging for Fuerstenberg, important rail junction on the river's west bank, as the Red Army fought to gain a wide strip of land on both sides of the river where heavy armored forces could be massed to throw the "knockout blow."

#### 10 Miles From Stettin

The northern prong of Zhukov's First White Russian Army also opened a "big push" toward Stettin, in an effort to cut off north-eastern Germany and Danzig from the Reich. German reports last night said that forward elements of the Red Army had reached a point within ten miles of Stettin.

In East Prussia, Red Army troops, pressing the offensive toward Koenigsberg, reached strongly-defended fortified positions on the Pasmer River. Pasmallen, enemy (Continued on Page 8)



The Red Army presses deeper into the Reich, spanning the Oder River at a score of places along a winding 300-mile front.

## Secrecy Cloaks Big 3 Talks; Victory Phase Believed Over

The meeting of the Big Three somewhere in the Black Sea area continued yesterday in utmost secrecy.

Dispatches from Allied capitals, quoting "informed sources," asserted that the first phase of the conference, dealing with the grand strategy for the defeat of Germany, is over. But no further official announcements were made on the progress of the talks.

The conferees and their staffs are believed now to be taking up the problems of post-war peace in Europe.

President Roosevelt is believed to have told the conferees, according to a United Press dispatch from New York, that the U.S. prefers not to participate in an ultimate long-term policing of Germany. It is understood, the UP said, that this task will be assigned to Great Britain and Russia, with possible assistance from France.

The U.S., according to the report, would participate in the post-war occupation, but only for a limited time.

There was also no further news of the plane crash on Feb. 1 in which ten members of Prime Minister Churchill's staff were killed while en route to the parley. Five (Continued on Page 8)

China Pipeline Is Being Laid

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (ANS).—A 2,000-mile lend-lease pipeline is being burrowed into the interior of China to power the Allied air attacks on Japan, Leo T. Crowley, foreign economics administrator, has disclosed.

Crowley told the House Foreign Affairs Committee, while advocating a one-year extension of lend-lease, that the pipeline "will increase manifold the 15,000 tons per month that once moved over the old Burma Road."

He said, the line will enable the United Nations to "mount new and greater offensives from China."

## Artillery, Air Assault Blasts Path in Holland For Start of Offensive

The Allied offensive on the Western Front exploded yesterday as British and Canadian troops of the First Canadian Army attacked in Holland.

Waves of 1,500 planes and an 11-hour artillery barrage smashed at German defenses to pave the way for Allied infantry, flamethrowers and tanks which started moving eastward at 1030 yesterday.

The attack was made on a five-mile front southeast of Nijmegen at the northern tip of the Western Front, between the Maas and Rhine Rivers. This sector had been quiet for months.

## Nazi Rail Lines Are Pounded By 9th Planes

Allied tactical air forces yesterday launched a mass assault against German rail lines up and down the Western Front, from the Siegfried Line to the Rhine.

The Ninth AF, co-ordinating with 12th Army Group offensives, hurled 947 Thunderbolts, Mustangs and Lightnings, plus 500 medium bombers against the Nazi rail system and other targets.

At the southern extremity of the front the First TAC AF smeared marshalling yards at Offenburg and Mulheim and ripped one span of the Neuenberg Bridge, last rail link over the Rhine to Germans battling in the Sixth Army Group sector.

The 29th TAC operated on the Cologne plain, the Ninth TAC between Mayen and Cologne and the 19th along the Luxembourg border. They wrecked or battered 1,230 rail cars and 52 locomotives. Tracks were torn in 126 places.

## Army, Navy Casualties Now Total 764,584

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (ANS).—American combat casualties since the beginning of the war have reached 764,584, the Army and Navy disclosed today.

The Army's losses are 676,796. The Navy's 87,788. This represented an overall increase of 27,242 since last week.

The breakdown of Army casualties follows: killed, 130,266; wounded, 396,176; missing, 91,476, and prisoners, 58,878.

Forward troops reached the western edges of the Reichswald, a forest east of the Maas, and were fighting into the Siegfried Line's outer defenses.

At latest reports, they had taken several hundred prisoners and had made gains.

#### Careful Preparation

The assault was carefully prepared. More than 100 miles of roads had been constructed or repaired to move up supplies and munitions. Ground, however, was becoming boggy from the beginning of a thaw.

A preliminary attack was made by 700 bombers of Bomber Command which plastered the Nazi communications centers of Cleve and Goch. These are east of the Reichswald.

One thousand Mitchells, Bostons and fighter-bombers of Second TAF and 500 Marauders and Invaders of the 9th AF pummeled German troops, dropping their bombs through cloud within 1,000 yards of Canadian lines.

Cloud conditions forced bombers in some cases to make five bomb runs.

#### 3rd Army Repels Nazis

Canadian Army artillery announced the re-opening of the offensive at 0500 hours yesterday. It roared continuously until 1600, after infantry and armor began to move into German positions.

Nazi forces, bracing along the German border between Prum and Echternach, threw six counter-attacks at U.S. Third Army forces battling slowly into Germany along a concave front of 35 miles. Third Army men smashed all assaults and pressed eastward into the Reich, but their advances were reported being slowed by mounting enemy resistance. It was the second day of Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's four-division attack.

Northward, in the battle of the Roer River Valley, U.S. First Army's 78th Inf. Div. moved slowly through heavy minefields northeast of Kesternich and made small but important penetrations in one of the most heavily-defended zones on the Western Front.

The 78th Div.'s 311th Regt., supported by armor, slugged 500 yards into the forest town of Schmidt. Doughs cleared the blasted village of all but a few scattered pockets of resistance. Schmidt was taken by First Army forces in the drive southeast of Aachen early in November. Germans retook it with powerful counter-attacks two days later.

#### Kommerscheid Cleared

Northwest of this village battleground, the 78th Div.'s 309th Regt. cleared Kommerscheid, 1,500 yards from Schmidt. These villages have been centers of Nazi resistance ever since First Army doughs poured southeast of the Aachen breach toward the Roer River headwaters four months ago.

Northeast of Kesternich and north of Schmidt, other American forces who were fighting southward from Bergstein drove to within 800 yards of the Kall River, northeast of Kommerschied. The Kall is a tributary of the Roer.

Four of the counter-attacks hurled (Continued on Page 8)

## Paraguay Joins Allies

ASUNCION, Feb. 8 (AP).—Paraguay today declared war on the Axis.

## One Bunch-of-Joes Picture That's News



On tour at the front, Gen. Eisenhower was asked by a GI if he'd pose for a snapshot. He did. A Signal Corps man also took the snap.

U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo



**This Was America Yesterday:**

**World War II Veterans Take Up Offer of Unemployment Pay**

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.—World War II veterans are taking unemployment pay from Uncle Sam faster than they're taking his education offers, an Associated Press survey shows, with disabled veterans the slowest of all to dip into the basket.

With more than 1,500,000 veterans discharged from the armed forces, 17,000 weekly are drawing unemployment pay from the Veterans Administration. The number has been rising since the program started last September. About \$6,000,000 in unemployment money already has been paid out.

Only 12,589 are back in school—ranging from grammar school to college, at Government expense, although 30,000 have applied. Only 9,359 disabled veterans—from 46,420 listed as eligible—are taking advantage of the Government's rehabilitation program to learn new ways of making a living.



And Kerosene's Rationed, Too.

To file a claim for unemployment pay a veteran must be unemployed or making less than \$23 a week if doing part-time work. He must register and continue to report to the unemployment office, be able to work and be available for suitable work.

WITH the brownout effective over the nation, some downtown districts present a night appearance of old coaching days, and the lantern Mom used to hang out for Pop has appeared again. Broadway is setting an example. One big theater hung out old-fashioned kerosene lamps on the marquee.

IF you went through air raids in London here's your chance to smile patronizingly at benighted Pennsylvanians. In Philadelphia 89 air raid sirens were set off by a short circuit yesterday, and this prompted more than a thousand telephone calls to the electricity company. Typical queries: Has Berlin fallen? Are buzz bombs landing here? Is there an air raid in progress? Had they been Londoners they'd just have galloped into the nearest pub—but who knows, maybe they did.

Doughfeet who used to be tenderfeet, or made Second Class when the ratings came out, will be glad to know this was the 35th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

**Legislator Raps Service Chiefs**

AN example of violent divergence of opinions is the speech of Rep. Dewey Short, of Missouri, who is accusing Service chiefs of trying to cover up their mistakes by demanding passage of the work-or-fight bill.

"Generals and admirals should stay in their places," he said, "to tell you how to win this war. What right have the military to tell business, labor and industry, men qualified by experience, what to do? Industry and labor both oppose this bill."

Equally virulent discussion, but on a more amusing plane, is that coming from Brooklyn these days anent a possible visit of playwright Noel Coward—the man who visited a hospital in North Africa and later made some cracks in his book about Brooklyn patients there.

"He ought to stay away for the duration at least," says Rep. Dickstein, a Brooklyn defender, "and he ought to apologize."

IN New York "a real letdown and a real hangover" were predicted for after the war by Herbert Marks, Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. statistician, addressing delegates at the annual conference of the state tuberculosis and health association.

"We must take into account what it will mean to vast numbers of young men to be suddenly freed of the exacting discipline of military service," he said.

Speakers predicted a general loosening of sex morals, and an increase of venereal disease. Even now, one member said, "Pleasure-mad girls of 14 and 15 accept a diagnosis of syphilis as calmly as they would a bad cold."

ANNOUNCEMENT: The motion picture of Betty Smith's novel, "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn," will have its premiere showing in Manila—for GIs. There is another good movie house—the Palast Am Zoo, in Berlin.

MEMBERS of an Indian tribe at Elbowoods, N.D., have kept faith with their friend, Pvt. Clarence Spotted Wolf, who was killed in Luxembourg on Dec. 21. He left a request that, should he die, "if you have a memorial service I want soldiers to go ahead... I want the cowboys to follow on horseback. I want one of the cowboys to lead one of the wildest of the T over X horses with the saddle and bridle on. I will be riding that horse."

There was a riderless horse in the memorial parade they held for him at Elbowoods.

**To Seek Action On Ward Case AFL Discloses Post-War Aims**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (ANS).—The Justice Department said yesterday that it will petition the Supreme Court "within two or three days" to assume jurisdiction in the Montgomery Ward case.

The move, if successful, would speed a decision on the constitutionality of the government seizure of 16 properties of the merchandising company in Chicago and seven other cities on Dec. 28.

The case, now docketed with the U.S. Court of Appeals, went against the government in a Chicago district court. The seizure had been made because of Montgomery Ward's refusal to comply with a War Labor Board directive. Judge Phillip P. Sullivan said, in handing down his decision against the government, the store was not a war production plant and therefore not subject to seizure.

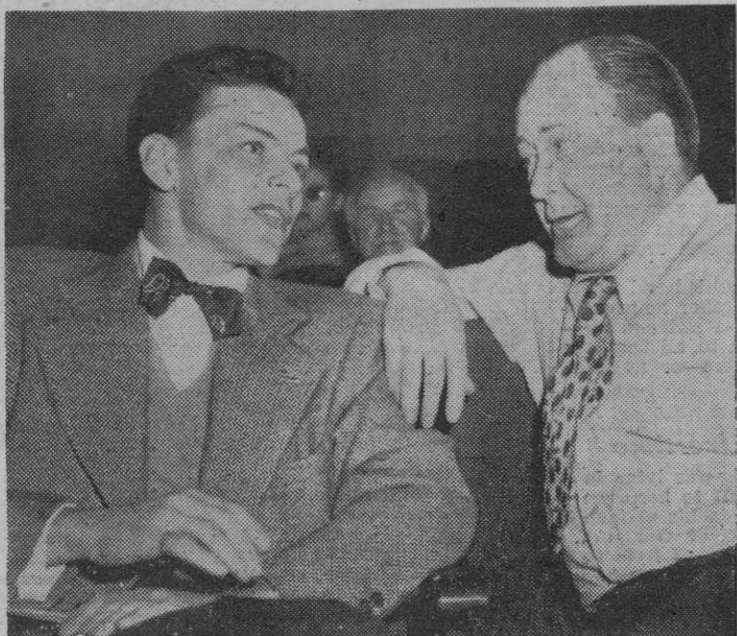
MIAMI, Feb. 8 (ANS).—A program to head off a "real and alarming" threat of depression after the war was proposed today by the AFL's executive council.

The council called for mobilization of government, labor, industry and agriculture on basically agreed-upon principles, and the universal acceptance by industry of free collective bargaining to promote industrial peace.

Immediate congressional adoption of a conversion program was asked by the labor body, which called for increased governmental loans to small businesses, intelligent disposal of surplus government property, and the modernization of the unemployment compensation law so that "temporary and fluctuating post-war unemployment will not cause major depression or plunge government into WPA experiments."

**Senators Fear Work Slump**

The Voice and the Volume



The Voice and the Volume recently met at an NBC studio. Frankie Sinatra, who sings soft and sweet, and John Charles Thomas, who sings wide and deep, get together and compare notes for the first time.

**'Big 3' Accord Stirs Concern About Letdown**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (ANS).—Members of the Senate Military Committee today expressed fears that the nation's manpower problem might grow worse as a result of the White House statement announcing the Big Three agreement on military operations "in the final phase of the war against Nazi Germany."

Chairman Elmer D. Thomas (D-Utah) said he feared that the implications which might be read into the announcement "may have a disastrous effect" by causing war workers to feel that they might as well start hunting peace-time jobs.

"If it is the final phase," said Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney (D-Wyo.), "it will mean that in 60 or 90 days, requirements for artillery, ammunition and munitions of all kinds will be entirely different from what they are now. Guerrilla fighting does not require the same heavy equipment as full-scale war."

**McNutt Testified**

Yesterday the committee heard War Manpower Commissioner Paul V. McNutt give a tempered endorsement of the national service—"work or jail"—legislation that the committee is considering. But senators who had questioned McNutt at a closed hearing said he had expressed confidence that the current manpower problem could be handled by the existing volunteer system.

On the record, McNutt renewed his recommendation for a limited national service bill amended to place overall control of the program in James F. Byrnes' Office of War Mobilization. To enact the bill in the form in which it was passed by the House, with Selective Service in charge, would hurt rather than help the war effort, McNutt said.

His recommendation, McNutt asserted, "was not based upon any conclusion that our manpower program has failed, but upon recognition of the fact that at this crucial period of the war we must be sure that there will be no failure in our mobilization effort."

Before McNutt's prepared statement was made public, however, Sen. Albert B. Chandler (D-Ky.) told reporters that "he definitely said that by voluntary methods he could supply the manpower needed in the present shortage without this bill."

"He would not forecast, however, whether he could meet future needs without legislation," Chandler said.

Chandler, who opposes the bill, said that he "had reason to believe that our manpower situation was better on Jan. 1 of this year than it ever has been in history."

**Navy Attitude Stated**

Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal had told the committee earlier that the Navy wanted a limited national service bill enacted to keep the momentum of the war going and bring victory quicker. He told reporters later that V-E-Day would only "sharpen up" the need for manpower controls, in the Navy's estimation.

"Our requirements for the Pacific war won't go down," he said, emphasizing that West Coast Navy yards, currently suffering from a labor shortage, must be placed and kept in peak condition to handle any quick calls for repair work.

Thomas said that both Forrestal and Assistant Secretary Ralph A. Bard had stated their belief that mere passage of the bill would spur recruitment of needed labor and that the enforcement features of the bill would seldom have to be used.

In a supporting memorandum the Navy said that discussions of the bill had increased employment applications at Navy yards—as much as 100 per cent at Portsmouth and Norfolk.

The Navy declared that the manpower shortage "is here today," and that it had delayed the building of needed ships.

**Army Hospitals in U.S. Increase Bed Capacity**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (ANS).—The Army announced yesterday that the bed capacity of its general and convalescent hospitals will be increased by 70,000. Sick and wounded soldiers are being returned from overseas at the rate of 30,000 a month, an increase of approximately 21,000 a month over the first six months of 1944.

**Interlochen Head Of Music to Fight Union Blacklisting**

BENTON HARBOR, Mich., Feb. 8 (ANS).—Dr. Joseph E. Maddy, head of the National Music Camp for high school students at Interlochen, Mich., said he would contest blacklisting of the school by the American Federation of Musicians.

In a letter to four radio networks, Leo Cluesman, union secretary, said the Camp had been placed on the "unfair list" at the international executive board meeting Jan. 19.

Maddy claims the ban came as a result of the three-year feud between himself and James C. Petrillo, union president, when the union forced a high school orchestra which Maddy was directing off a radio program by affixing a work.

Maddy recently published a pamphlet in favor of the Vandenberg bill, recently passed in the Senate, which would make it illegal to interfere with concerts such as those at Interlochen.

Maddy said Petrillo "may be president of the union, but I have been a member of it for 30 years longer than he has and I've got a right to voice my opinions. I hope he'll find that out in court."

**FBI Agent Says Sabotage Plans**

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (ANS).—An FBI agent testified yesterday that William Curtis Colepaugh, 26, an American citizen on military trial as a German spy, told him that he came to this country by submarine to get information to be sent to Berlin by radio.

Colepaugh and Erich Gimpel, a 35-year-old German-born electrical engineer, are accused of entering the United States on the night of Nov. 29, 1944, at Hancock Point, Me.

FBI witness William O. McCue, of Richmond Hill, N. Y., said Colepaugh told him that he went to Germany a year ago and was trained in Berlin at various schools in radio operation, sabotage, the use of explosives, photography and microphotography.

Papers included parts of a document by Forrest Polley, of Ellsworth, Me., a taxi driver, who identified Colepaugh as one of the two men he picked up in his taxi shortly after midnight last Nov. 30.

**Parcels on Way To Yank PWs**

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (ANS).—Seven million prisoner-of-war packages are in Europe ready for distribution to Americans held by the Germans, Red Cross chairman Basil O'Connor said today.

This is the largest reserve ever built up in Europe, O'Connor told a press conference. He added that the Red Cross had shipped to Europe enough clothing for 100,000 prisoners, and that no reduction in the organization's activities could be expected for at least a year after the war.

**Vets' Discharge Button Remains Unchanged**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8.—The Army, Navy and Veterans Administration, after "thorough study," has decided to retain the present design of the veterans' discharge button, the War Department announced yesterday.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and some Congressmen had suggested a change, declaring that the button was not sufficiently distinctive.

**Death Sentence Is Changed For GI Who Refused to Drill**

CAMP ROBERTS, Calif., Feb. 8 (ANS).—A general court martial, ordered to reconsider the death penalty it imposed on Pvt. Henry Weber for refusing to obey his officers' order to drill, rescinded the sentence yesterday.

Weber, who was a shipyard worker in Vancouver, Wash., before his induction, received a new sentence... life imprisonment at hard labor and dishonorable discharge from the Army.

In Portland, Ore., Weber's wife

declared that life imprisonment for her husband was "still outrageous." She said she was "more determined than ever in fighting for justice" for him.

Yesterday Weber told a reporter that he was "willing to do anything to get the war over, as long as I do not have to kill others."

He said he had requested transfer to non-combatant duty three or four days before his refusal to drill. "I have a revolutionary mind," said Weber.







Quip by a gal on the home front. "Uncle Sam is no woman—but he can sure take your man away from you."

If a GI had written that song hit about "Would you like to swing on a star—or would you rather be a fish, etc.," we bet at least one chorus would have read "or would you rather be a wolf."

Advance dope on the flag race. It looks like the Reds will win the pennant before the season starts.

Note on the "resistance" movement. When a dainty little French girl tried to kiss Sgt. Paul Lobel of Massachusetts, he resisted. Whereupon she pulled him from his jeep, breaking some of his ribs.

This week's fable (and we're not taking sides on the matter): While en route to the ETO, two returning air crew boys of the Eighth AF observed two men from the Ninth AF fall overboard and



land smack in a school of sharks. The captain of the boat was about to give them up for lost, but the Eighth AF guys persuaded him to stop and pick them up. Their argument was: "Those guys have 'the Ninth Air Force' printed on their shirts—not even a shark would swallow that!"

Cause for divorce? A Wisconsin woman has sued for divorce on the grounds that her hubby shot her instead of a bear during the hunting season.

The little Moron just dropped in and sez he knows a second loopy who was "promoted through corrosion."

Remember the days when a gal looked first at the automobile, then at the guy. Now they just look at the guy, they say.

Afterthought. A young woman is as strong as her weakest moment. J. C. W.

### RADIO AFN AEF

(583 Kc. — 514 M.)

TODAY	
1200-News	1830-Music We Love
1215-Orchestra	1901-Command Performance
1300-Dance Band	1930-Kate Smith
1330-Saludos Amigos	2000-World News
1400-News	2005-U.K. News
1415-Silvester Orch.	2010-Canada News
1445-The Old Songs	2015-Rhythm
1500-Music	2030-Moonlight Serenade
1530-Combat Diary	2100-News
1545-On the Record	2105-Sing Show
1630-Music Time	2115-Swing Sextet
1700-News	2130-Thompson Orch.
1715-On the Spot	2200-U.S. News
1730-London Column	2207-Mildred Bailey
1745-Rhythm Music	2230-Romance
1800-News	2300-News
1805-Mark Map	
1810-Sports	
1815-Going to Town	
TOMORROW	
0601-Rise and Shine	0900-News
0700-News	0930-Canada Orch.
0715-Summary	1000-Morning After
0720-Rise and Shine	1030-Music
0800-Combat Diary	1100-U.S. News
0815-Personal Album	1105-Duffie Bag
0830-Music	1145-Piano Parade

### Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

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

#### FOUND

RING inscribed "Love-Irma to Mickey. 14 Feb. 43." Chap. C. H. McCutcheon.

PHOTOS, some inscribed "Trip to Benning, June 44." T/Sgt. Harold Lowe.

#### FOR SALE

THREE harmonicas, chromatic non-solo —Pfc Norman W. Sullivan.

FOR SALE: Model B Exakta, Tessa 2.8, with 12 rolls film; T/Sgt. Walter Rosenzweig.

#### WANTED

CLIP for 7.65mm. Mauser. Pfc Walter R. Eck.

#### APOs WANTED

PFC Abran S. Montoya, 38439984; Rafael Luis Nieva, Puerto Rico; Pvt. John Price, Smithville, Mo.; Pvt. Charles Perce, Streator, Ill.; Sgt. Ted Podbielski, Schenectady; Loretta Perkins, Parillon, N.Y.; Dammon Phipps, Coalmont, Tenn.; Flora Virginia Pittman; James Robinson, York, Pa.; Francis Ronde, Washua, Iowa; Lawrence Statman, St. Paul, Minn.

ERNEST Grunwald; Bertram E. Hartzell; Eugene Jones, Washington, Ind.; Pfc. Molan Coll, Stockton, Ala.; S/Sgt. James P. Kratin; Pvt. Leverne Johnston, Chicago; Pfc Raymond A. Legg, Hudson, N.Y.; Pvt. Woodrow Wilson Mugraner; Sgt. Mike Pulsoni, Punxsutawney, Pa.; Pfc Vernon Rase, St. Louis; Pvt. Burton W. Stacy; S/Sgt. Williams Sparks, Shelbyville, Ind.; T/Sgt. Thomas P. Shiekan.

### 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 King Features Syndicate

By Chic Young



### Jane

By Courtesy of The London Daily Mirror

By Norman Pett



# Air, Artillery Develop Technique to Reduce Foe's Front-Line Flak

By Bud Hutton  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

American artillerymen and airmen have perfected a technique for the reduction of enemy anti-aircraft fire against U.S. bombers attacking in direct support of the ground forces.

The technique involves artillery fire against all plotted German flak positions within range every time the bombers or fighter-bombers make an attack on targets directly ahead of the infantry. By carefully plotted timing, the artillery harasses Nazi flak gunners during the bomber's most vulnerable moments—the time during which they cease evasive action and fly an unchanged course on the bomb run.

The technique, which such flak experts as Maj. Gen. Sam Anderson's Ninth Bomber Command described as "probably the most effective counter-measure against flak within range limits," was evolved as an answer to the Nazi tactics of reinforcing vulnerable targets near the lines with heavy anti-aircraft gun concentrations. It is effective thousands of yards from the American artillery positions.

### Originated at Cherbourg

The technique was originated at Cherbourg and Brest, early in the continental campaign, when air liaison officers called on artillery fire against German flak positions in the besieged cities which were zeroed-in on attacking bombers and fighter-bombers.

After research on firing data and flight times—the original idea is credited to 1/Lt. Willard Wicker, of Denver, by Col. Emery Bellonby, of Cincinnati, flak officer at Ninth Bomber Command—a standard operating procedure for counter-battery fire on German flak was put into effect on Nov. 16 in the Euskirchen area, when Ninth Air Force planes attacked German strong points ahead of the ground forces.

Under the setup, which forms the closest liaison to date between air and artillery, targets to be attacked and the times involved are provided artillery battalions by the tactical air command of the area involved. With the Yank gunners alerted and firing data already figured out, the leader of the attacking air formation radios a ground control station ten or 15 minutes before the infantrymen can see the planes go overhead.

### Pin Down German Gunners

On a careful timetable, American 105 and 155mm weapons in the area then lay down fire on all enemy areas known to contain flak batteries. German gunners, pinned down by the fire, have been unable to greet the bombers and fighters with an intense fire as once hammered the aircraft as soon as they settled down to a bombing run.

The frail Cub observation planes of the artillery provide the final measure of air-ground lend-lease by hovering over the lines during the bombing attack and correcting the counter-battery fire and spotting previously uncharted flak positions from the muzzle blasts.

### Timely Gag

## 1945 Knights In Old Armor

WITH THE 103rd DIV.—Two 103rd Inf. Div. soldiers, sweating out an artillery barrage in an OP they had established in a medieval castle, discovered two old suits of armor, including helmets equipped with face visors.

"We put them on first for a joke," Cpl. Walter Cass, Salem,



Mass., said, "but when the shells started coming in we decided the gag was timely."

"I don't know whether they would have stopped anything or not," said Pfc Russel L. Benham, of Lansing, Mich., "but that armor seemed like a hell of a big improvement over our own epidermis at the moment."

# Attack In North Is Launched By Canadians

(Continued from Page 1)

against Third Army men came at points along a 20-mile portion of the front from a point six miles north of Prum to a point eight miles northeast of Clerf in Luxembourg. These were reported in company strength, supported by tanks. They were broken up after stiff fighting.

Two more enemy attacks were thrown back at the southern segment of the Third Army's attack arc by Fifth Inf. Div. men a mile and one-half north of Echternach. Northwest of Prum, Third Army infantry pushed eastward a mile to capture Wascheid and Obermehlen. Patrols entered the Prum Forest beyond Wascheid. They penetrated to within two miles of the Nazi communications center, which was reported heavily fortified.

Other infantry drove southeast of captured Brandscheid for a mile and three-quarters, while to the south of them 90th Div. doughs captured Hollnich, a half mile southeast of Habscheid. The 90th men kept on going another half mile beyond Hollnich, where they were meeting fairly stiff resistance.

Other Third Army forces were moving east of the Our and Sauer Rivers between Dasburg, ten miles north of Vianden, and Echternach. Up to last night, their crossings of the Rivers Our and Sauer had not been expanded into bridgeheads.

Seventeenth Airborne Forces entered Dasburg in Germany, across the frontier from Luxembourg. Doughs of the 80th Div. cleared Wallendorf, five miles southeast of Vianden at the junction of the Our and Sauer Rivers.

### Nazi Raiders Thwarted

In northern Alsace, U.S. Seventh Army forces exchanged raids with the enemy. Germans sent a platoon toward American positions south of Bitche in the Hardt Mountains, but the Nazi raiders were driven off northeast of Lemberg, a mountain town.

U.S. forces raided the town of Kindwiller, did some damage and came back with prisoners. Eastward in the Rhine Valley, U.S. troops drove the enemy out of several strongpoints northwest of Oberhoffen.

South of Strasbourg, the Colmar pocket, which bulged into Allied territory since the capture of Strasbourg and liberation of Alsace, was virtually no more. Only a thin bulge remained along the Rhine. Westward in the Vosges Mountains, Allied forces were mopping up the last enemy pockets.

Allied troops drove nine miles south of captured Neuf-Brisach, and took the village of Nambshelm, six miles southeast of the medieval town. French forces forged a second crossing of the Rhine-Rhone canal east of Ensisheim.

## Gen. Arnold in Hospital For Rest from Overwork

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (ANS).—Illness induced by overwork has sent Gen. H. H. Arnold, Army Forces Commander, to the Air Force Convalescent Hospital for a month's rest, the War Department disclosed yesterday.

Maj. Gen. David N. W. Grant, Air Surgeon, said that Gen. Arnold's illness is not serious and that he is recuperating satisfactorily.

## 826 Await Repatriation To Western Hemisphere

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8 (ANS).—The State Department announced that 826 civilian citizens of Western Hemisphere countries, including many U.S. nationals, had arrived in Switzerland through exchange arrangements with Germany.

## Do MPs Have Icy Hearts? This One Has



Coldest MP in Italy as well as the biggest is this giant snowman, built by GIs on a highway near Monghidoro.

# 9,000,000 Letters To ETO Delayed En Route From U.S.

By Arthur White  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

Enemy action and accidents slowed delivery of about 9,000,000 pieces of mail sent from the U.S. in December, Brig. Gen. R. B. Lovett, ETO Adjutant General, revealed yesterday. However, some 90,000,000 other pieces, sent during the same period, were delivered within a month.

## Secrecy Cloaks 'Big 3' Parley

(Continued from Page 1)

others were missing and believed dead and five more were injured.

A United Press story from Cairo cited a report that Russian, British and U.S. military leaders began their discussions six days ago. The reunion of Prime Minister Churchill, President Roosevelt and Marshal Stalin is believed to have taken place on Monday, following Stalin's arrival at the meeting place Sunday night, the UP reported.

According to this report, some of the greatest military figures of the war, including American five-star generals, British field marshals and Russian military leaders of high rank are spending long hours of discussion in an atmosphere of cordiality. Troops are reported guarding a wide area surrounding the scene of the conference.

### Others Preceded Stalin

Before Marshal Stalin's arrival, according to the UP report, most of the Soviet officials had arrived. Allied leaders were said to have been quartered in comfortable hotels in a town which earlier in this war, according to the UP, teemed with German troops. One of the most striking features of the conference, it was said, is the care the Russians are taking to insure the security of the Allied leaders.

News of the meeting, the Associated Press reported from Moscow, was the biggest topic in Russia yesterday. The AP correspondent reported that the Russians were impressed with President Roosevelt's daring in traveling such a long distance. The Russians were reported to be greatly pleased with this gesture and hailed it as an act of considerable friendliness.

In London, Reuter said it had been authorized to give official denial to a report that President Roosevelt had declined an invitation to be King George's guest at Buckingham Palace after conclusion of the conference. It said the locale of the conference apparently made it impossible for him to visit England at this time, but that it was a "foregone conclusion" that the President would visit the King when and if circumstances permit.

## Draft Board Balks At Inducting Farmers

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Feb. 8 (ANS).—State Selective Service Director James T. Johnson Jr. said Local Board No. Three, in rural Houston County, had resigned rather than induct 40 young farmers.

Johnson declared the board had granted too many farm deferments and said a new board had been named.

"At present," Lovett said, "irregularity of deliveries is the normal situation. Only about half the letters sent airmail can come by air, the rest travel by boat. Moreover, wartime transatlantic shipping is uncertain, even though the mail comes by the fastest convoys."

Lovett cited these recent holdups as typical of those slowing ETO mail:

A ship carrying about 4,500,000 letters, mailed between Dec. 4-14, left New York originally about Dec. 16, but was forced to put back twice because of mechanical trouble. It is expected here shortly.

Another 4,500,000 letters left New York Dec. 29 but were delayed by enemy action. They now have arrived.

Lovett said that a dispatch of 65,053 pounds of ordinary mail, and 128,824 pounds of air mail—approximately nine and a half million letters—mailed from Jan. 6-15, now is being delivered to ETO APOs. An additional batch of 10,000,000 letters, mailed from Jan. 12-22, is expected soon.

He also said that at present more than 30,000 soldiers are changing their addresses daily and that their mail, once here, has to catch up with them. "To assure speedier mail delivery," he pointed out, "they should notify all their correspondents as soon as they get a permanent address, and see to it that their last APO is notified to forward their mail."

## East Front . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

stronghold on the west bank, fell to the Third White Russian Army.

Battling west from a 59-mile-wide bridgehead south of Breslau, Marshal Ivan Koniev's First Ukrainian Army last night was 20 miles beyond the Oder River, aiming north toward the Breslau-Berlin highway.

Koniev's troops yesterday captured a score of German towns of the river's west bank.

In Budapest, Red Army troops continued operations for the liquidation of the encircled German garrison in the western part of the town. More than 3,500 German prisoners were taken yesterday.

## Flood Menace Is Seen In U.S. February Thaw

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (ANS).—A February thaw, which meteorologists here predicted would encompass the whole northern part of the nation within 48 hours, set in today throughout the northern Rocky Mountain area. The thaw carried a menace of floods in eastern Pennsylvania. A warm, dry wind on the east slope of the Rockies sent the mercury zooming to 51 at Denver and 45 in Montana.

# Japs Cleared From Northern Half of Manila

MANILA, Feb. 8.—American troops killed off the last Japanese resistance in northern Manila today and looted a heavy artillery barrage on surviving enemy forces holed up in the southern half of the Philippines capital.

Vanguards of the U.S. 11th Airborne Div. were cutting their way slowly into the Japanese rear from the south, but the main American forces were stalled temporarily along the northern bank of the Pasig River, which bisects Manila.

Some Yanks had crossed to the southern bank of the river, but destruction of four Pasig bridges by the Japanese delayed any crossing in strength.

The U.S. airborne units driving into the Japanese rear were five and a half miles south of the Pasig. They were held up by a stiff scrap around Nichols Airfield, at suburban Pasag, near Manila Bay.

### Japs Blast Home

Japanese demolition squads were roaming through the southern half of Manila, dynamiting and burning homes and waterfront installations. In the northern half, they had devastated a square mile of the Escolta business district.

The enemy was throwing artillery and mortar fire across the Pasig into northern Manila. At Santo Tomas University, Japanese fire wounded American soldiers and some of the civilian internees who had been held by the Japanese at the university.

MacArthur announced today that the Japanese had suffered approximately 48,000 casualties in the Luzon campaign. American casualties total 7,076, including 1,609 killed.

MacArthur also reported air attacks against Japanese targets outside the Philippines—including shipping in the Sakishima Islands and objectives on Formosa.

### Nimitz Headquarters Moved

The transfer of personnel and equipment of Fleet Admiral Nimitz's command to advanced headquarters in the Western Pacific has been effected without incident, the Navy announced.

Advanced headquarters reported yesterday that rocket-firing Marine bombers had swept the Bonin and Volcano Islands area, hitting two Japanese vessels, while other bombers attacked Chichi and Oototo Islands.

Aleutian-based Liberators attacked Shimushu Island, in the Kuriles.

In Wednesday's India-based Superfortress attacks on Thailand and French Indo-China, the targets were a railroad bridge near Bangkok and military installations at Saigon.

## Bottled Oxygen



Here's the new "bail out bottle" used by pilots forced to jump at high altitudes. With the streamer oxygen bottle, fliers can bail out as high as 40,000 feet with the assurance that their oxygen supply will last until they reach ground. The bottle fits right into the regular oxygen masks.