

**Man Spricht Deutsch**  
Sind noch mehr da?  
Sind noch mehr da?  
Are there any more?

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

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

**Ici On Parle Français**  
La route est glissante.  
La route est glissante.  
The road is slippery.

Vol. 1—No. 171

1 Fr.

New York—PARIS—London

1 Fr.

Sunday, Jan. 14, 1945

# 4 Jap Convoys Smashed

## Ist, 3rd Cut Into Salient As Foe Retreats to Ourthe

### Gen. Patton's Army Captures 80,000 Prisoners

German armies continued their biggest retreat since the Battle of France toward the Ourthe River Valley yesterday as Allied forces closed in after them, trudging through the thick snow and bitter cold of the rugged Ardennes.

U.S. First and Third Army troops cut into the Belgian salient from the north and south. British forces pushed south-eastward from Laroche, picking their way past road blocks and through fields sowed with mines.

The Germans have lost 80,000 troops to the U.S. Third Army alone, but have managed to extricate enough of their men and armor to enable them to strike again. AP said unofficial estimates placed Von Rundstedt's total losses at approximately 20 divisions.

Fog, which had shrouded the battlefield for nearly a week, was lifting yesterday and the tactical air forces lashed out at German columns moving eastward.

#### Retreat—Modern Style

United Press front reports quoted an artillery observer who described what he could see of the withdrawal as a "retreat from Moscow—modern style."

"It would be methodical," the observer was quoted as saying, "if not for our cannon, which is tearing out the heart of the enemy."

American guns pounded enemy columns crawling over the snowy hills on the secondary road leading from Champlon toward Houffalize, the UP report said.

U.S. forces tightened the screws on Houffalize, the key communications center toward which Germans were pouring. Americans were seven miles from the town on the north and five miles away on the south.

#### 30th Div. Jumps Off

On the north flank, U.S. First Army's 30th Div. jumped off yesterday along a 12-mile front ranging from Stavelot to Malmédy. At first reports from Stars and Stripes Correspondent Dan Regan, the First had gained more than half a mile.

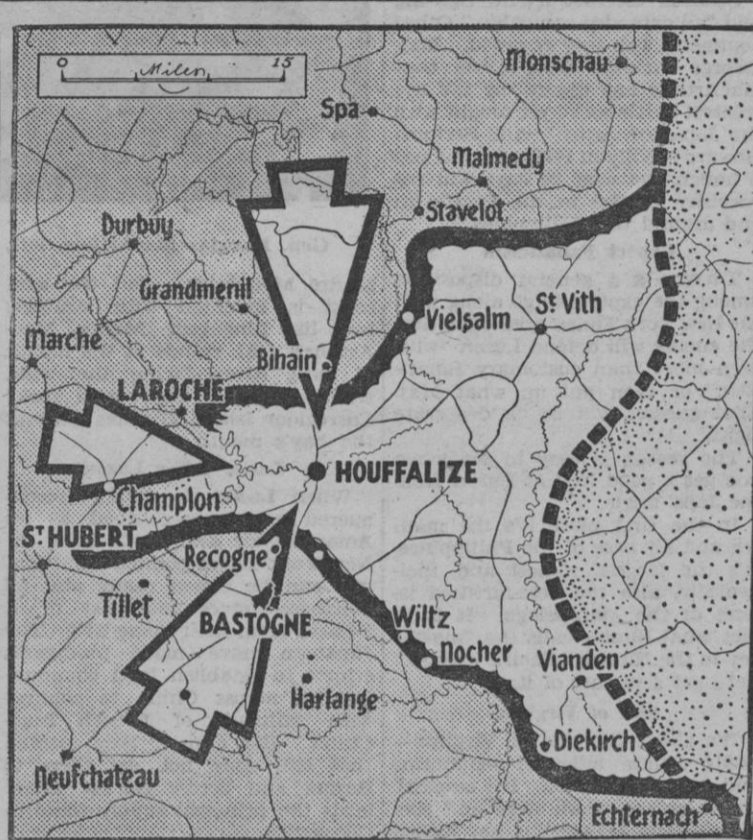
Men of the 517th Infantry Airborne regimental combat team at (Continued on Page 8)

## British Smash Nazi Convoy

LONDON, Jan. 13 (Reuter).—A valuable German convoy carrying vital war supplies was almost destroyed by the British Navy off Norway yesterday, it was officially announced tonight.

The enemy convoy consisted of seven or eight ships, including a large tanker and two minesweepers, and was encountered approaching Egersund harbor, south of Stavanger.

Reports indicate that during the short but brisk gun action which ensued three or four of the enemy ships, including the tanker and one minesweeper, were sunk. The remaining ships were severely damaged, set on fire and left blazing. Some were driven ashore.



Americans converging on Houffalize pushed westward into the collapsed bulge to the Ourthe Valley after retreating Germans.

## Stalin Confirms Winter Drive As Reds Gain 25 Mi. in Poland

Marshal Stalin last night announced smashing successes in the initial phase of the Russian winter offensive in southern Poland which carried Marshal Ivan Konev's First Ukrainian army 25 miles to a point 44 miles west of the Vistula and within 37 miles of Cracow in the first two days, it was reported from London by Reuter.

## Knudsen Proposes Fines and Prison For Work Slackers

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (ANS).—Lt. Gen. William S. Knudsen, Army Production Director, yesterday advocated stiff fines and prison sentences rather than induction into the armed forces, as an enforcement weapon in proposed work-or-fight legislation.

Knudsen told the House Military Affairs Committee it would be bad to put recalcitrants into the Army.

He testified in connection with a bill by Committee Chairman Andrew J. May (D-Ky.) to set up special Army service units for men 18 to 45 who refuse to get or keep essential jobs.

Knudsen said he favored anything that would help meet the labor shortage, but added "let's leave the Army out of it. The service battalions being trained now are being trained to go overseas."

#### Army to Try Saboteurs

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (Reuter).—President Roosevelt has ordered military trial of two German saboteurs captured last month in New York after landing in Maine. The order also applies to future cases against persons entering the United States charged with committing or planning to commit acts of sabotage and espionage.

### Tokyo to Chi to Reich By Air Is Japs' Latest

The Japanese have a new plan for beating the U.S. It was outlined in an article by Dr. Hayashi, a university professor, and broadcast by the Tokyo radio recently to the eager Japanese people.

They are going to shuttle-bomb the U.S. There will be morning and afternoon raids every day by long-range bombers which will fly the Pacific, unload on Chicago or Pittsburgh or somewhere, and then fly on to bases in Germany—at least, that's what Hayashi said.

## Pfc Called It Routine—CO Says Heroism

By Bud Hutton  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH 90th INF. DIV., Jan. 13.—Encircled by German infantry, seared by flamethrowers and once pounded by their own tank destroyer guns, 21 American infantrymen held a Nazi pillbox for 72 hours and then were led to safety by a 20-year-old pfc who commanded—for the time being—a TD section and a mortar platoon.

The pfc—boosted to staff sergeant for his leadership in rescuing the cut-off Yanks—is James R. Pfeleger, of Muncie, Ind. He told how his platoon took the pillbox and held it with captured German guns.

"The pillbox was defended by some 20 Germans," he said. "We killed some of them in taking the position, and at night 11 men held it and ten of us went back for rations and ammo."

#### Put Gun Together

"In the morning, when we returned, the Germans had a solid circle of infantry around the pillbox. We dropped the rations and fought our way inside." But the Germans had provided for the emergency: 12 cans of meat and beans and 15 bags of biscuits.

"More important, though, was the Heinie ammo. The Jerries must have been cleaning one of their machine-guns when we attacked the first day, because parts of it were all over the floor. We only had our small arms. Vic Swanson fixed that."

Swanson, a private from Minneapolis, assembled the Nazi gun. "The first couple of days weren't so bad, except for the hammering from the grenades, some of which burst in the portholes," Pfeleger

(Continued on Page 8)

## 38 Ships Hit As 6th Gains Unchecked

In an assault on four Japanese convoys massing along a 250-mile stretch of the French Indo-China coast, aircraft and warships of Adm. William F. Halsey's Third Fleet have smashed 38 enemy ships heading for the Philippines to help stem the unchecked advance of the Sixth Army invaders on Luzon.

Latest naval reports from the U.S. last night said that the "sea battles off Indo-China were continuing", adding that Adm. Halsey's



Carrier planes sink 25 Jap ships in four convoys off the Indo-China coast on Thursday, after Monday's attack by the same fleet at Formosa, where another 33 ships were sent to the bottom. On Luzon, U.S. troops press inland.

fleet so far had suffered no damage.

Pearl Harbor accounts of Jap losses up to Friday morning said 25 ships were definitely sunk, including a 5,000-ton cruiser, several destroyers and 12 troop transports. Thirteen other vessels were "heavily damaged," the Navy said.

On Monday, Adm. Halsey's fleet attacked Jap bases on Formosa, sinking at least 33 more ships, including two destroyers, and damaging 27 small craft, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz disclosed yesterday in a Pearl Harbor announce-

(Continued on Page 8)

## Snow Falls as Yanks Put Nazi PWs on Ice for Rest of the War



In the midst of a snowstorm, Nazi soldiers, captured during the fighting in northern Belgium by the 82nd Airborne Div., line up on a road while an American M4A3 tank retriever rumbles past.





Only Time Changed

This excerpt from John Galsworthy's "America and Britain" struck me as being very timely and opportune:

The ancestors of the American people sought a new country because they had in them a reverence for the individual conscience; they came from Britain, the first large state in the Christian era to build up the idea of political freedom.

That great and lovable people, the French, with their clear thought and expression and their quick blood, have expressed those ideals more vividly than either of us.

We must look to our two countries to guarantee its strength and activity, and if we English-speaking races quarrel and become disunited, civilization will split up again and go its way to ruin.

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-Pfc Robert March, Oxygen Unit.

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## TO MAKE 'EM DIVE IN '45 Lead with your Lead!

**T**HE Queen of Battle is climbing on the marching fire bandwagon. After riding assault fire long and hard, the footsloggers discovered that by keeping a lot of lead bees buzzing over Jerry's iron bonnet he can be kept hunkered down. Too busy ducking to fire back. Even vaunted toughies of Hitler wilt under this form of infantry advance. Lt. Col. Shaffer J. Farrell, a combat observer with the 7th Corps, said of marching fire and its demoralizing effect during the present German counter-offensive:

"The Panzer Grenadier unit encountered on our front were all young men and were fully equipped with new equipment. Their morale was high but they still wilted when subjected to superior fire."

Former shoe clerks, filling station workers and the medley of other American boys who are kneaded into the infantry were taught in the States to rush forward, hit the dirt, fire a few rounds, then repeat. When the enemy was only fifty to seventy-five yards away the order switched to assault fire. Then it was shoot, keep shooting, until the enemy is close enough for a carving job with the bayonet.

### Used in 1918

Over here the men leading the heart and guts of our army discovered that by dosing the air with lead pellets all the way, from where the attack is launched to the objective, the Nazis fight back. It was a method to reduce our casualties to a pleasing minimum and bulge our Pee Wee camps with prisoners. It was employing in war the aim of all American sports—keep possession of the ball, attack all the time, the best defense is constant, unrelenting attack.

Marching fire is nothing new. It was taught to the fathers of the lads nipping the bulges the common enemy prodded into our lines. In the Argonne Forest the doughboys of World War I routed some of the Kaiser's best by keeping a constant stream of bullets heading toward German lines. The method was considered good enough to be put into the IR in 1920. Then, for some reason, it was shoved into the background and assault fire stressed. The current edition of our infantry was taught to creep like a baby, or crawl like a snake, remembering to keep the tail down, way down. A tough topkick would explain:

"It's damn embarrassing to explain to the gal friend that you got Purple Heart because you got nipped on the butt."

General Patton, "Old Blood and Guts," is a booster of this method of combat. He used it with great success in Africa and Sicily. Before his men hopped the Channel from England to France they were taught marching fire, worked out field problems in this "keep moving and firing" type of warfare.

There is nothing mysterious about marching fire, no hocus pocus, no intricate methods that would take a long time to teach veterans or reinforcements. It means that platoon and company commanders have to see that every man in the attack has three or four extra bandoliers of ammo slung over his shoulder. Then, when the order comes to move on Jerry they fire, walk six or seven paces, fire again, and repeat all the way to the Jerry lines. That it cuts casualties and folds the supermen is supported by the statement made by Colonel Craybill, commanding officer of the 329th Infantry. He says:

"We have proved marching fire to be very effective in closing with the enemy and preventing him from using his light automatic weapons. On one occasion we actually came up to a trench in which the Germans were sitting in the bottom of the trench, and crying because they dared not get up to use their weapons. Our losses were negligible. If we had not used marching fire we would probably have received heavy fire from the trench as we closed in."

### Fire Straight To Front.

His officers have this collective opinion of marching fire:

"Marching fire has saved us casualties by making Jerry keep his head down. When we use it every man begins by firing one full clip of magazine from whatever weapon he is armed with. Company I on one occasion used it against an enemy force which

was dug in 500 yards away behind a stone wall. Our troop had to cross a wide open field. The attack was started by a flare signal. Every man came up and fired a full clip, and then continued to fire as he advanced. We

**By Michael Seaman**  
Warweek Staff Writer

Marching fire and still hunting for deer have a lot in common. Both methods put meat on the table. Instead of being rewarded with a rack to mount, Joe and his MI get Jerries into the PW cage for trophies. In deer hunting Joe of long ago used to sidestep sticks that crackled. That would flush the game out of gun range. In marching fire the doughboy watches for mines.

The Hun hunter pays strict attention to his weapon. He makes sure the muzzle is not clogged with mud, snow or dirt. He has plenty of ammo ready—handy for quick use. When the chips are down, a lot of fire power is the sure formula for success. As in deer hunting, when a quick shot is necessary that shot must be whirling out of the gun pronto. Second shots seldom come. In Jerry hunting—or deer hunting.

did not have a casualty and took 400 prisoners whom we found crouched down in their holes."

It's good in woods as well as open terrain. Not the dense fir forests up Hurlgen way, but the more open kind. A report by the

commanding officer of Co I, 179th Infantry Regiment, is a good pattern for marching fire in woods: It reads:

"When attacking in woods, we issue each rifleman three or four extra bandoliers of ammunition and form a skirmish line at wide intervals. After the supporting fire has been lifted, the men advance, covering the area straight ahead with as much fire as possible. In one instance we were sent in to take an objective which another unit could not take. We used this method, took the objective and had only two wounded men."

Front line observers say that marching fire in woods tends to confuse the Jerries. The fear of the unknown, the eerie b-z-z-w-e-e of bullets ricocheting from trees, and the healthy respect Huns have for our small arms spitting hot lead constantly adds to one theory. That is. Get the enemy without getting hurt.

### Move Fast In Open

The head of the Combat Lessons Branch said his front line observers have talked with outfits that used marching fire at night with outstanding success. Tracers mixed generously with ordinary ammo are damn good for us but snafu for Jerry psychological effect. The sight of the tracers cutting a flaming pattern toward Jerry perks our boys' morale better than in-the-flesh appearance of pin-up Chili Williams. And Jerry, seeing a confusing pattern of death streaking his way, ducks and stays ducked until he finds himself looking up into the face of a Joe from Kokomo, or elsewhere, U.S.A.

A pfc, assistant squad leader with the 313th Infantry, has this sage observation to pass on.

"When attacking across open

ground take the best route available and then move fast and keep firing. If brought under fire, mortar or artillery, continue to move forward. Do not freeze, and get as close to Jerry as possible as he seldom shells close to his own men. Continue to fire on the enemy position whether you see it or not. A large volume of fire will keep him in his hole until you get there."

New men sometimes freeze when German mortars get at them. Mortars almost always work backward from the front lines. Depending on the situation, if you move forward they have trouble laying in on you. And by firing all the time the enemy in his foxhole is pinned down by a steady stream of marching fire.

Germans have a healthy respect for the M-1. In shorter ranges, where the attack employing marching fire is launched from three hundred yards or less, the carbine, with its muzzle velocity of 1,900 feet per second, commands as much respect. So do the automatic weapons. Marching fire can make full use of all the portable weapons that our army has. A unit of the 83rd Infantry Division in its training pamphlet stresses that. An extract from that pamphlet states:

"Automatic riflemen and riflemen with bayonets fixed, all taking full advantage of existing cover, advance rapidly toward the enemy. They fire at a rapid rate at areas known or believed to be occupied by hostile personnel."

### No Good for Pillboxes

The unit modestly claims it can out-yell, out-fight, out-shoot and out-bayonet the Jerry. And the claim is premised on marching fire.

Marching fire can't button up a pillbox. Nor is it good for street fighting, where every house is suspect as a hornet's nest of Germans. Those situations call for other tactics.

When the way is straight ahead, over open fields or woods that are not too dense, the combat tip of a muddy youngster who has lived through an inferno of war from Normandy to Germany is well for all doughfeet to remember.

"Some guys freeze when Jerry fires a few times at them with small arms. They freeze and don't return it. A lot of them don't realize what good weapons they got. If somebody is out there and the fire is going over his head, he will duck down and be a lot less aggressive. If you freeze, he'll throw the book at you. Don't forget marching fire. Keep pouring the lead at him. It's a power play with us keeping the ball all the way."



**MARCHING FIRE** means moving steadily ahead, firing a shot every few paces. The two pictures on this page show modern infantry assault, scattered doughboys moving along on road to victory.

U.S. Army Signal Corps Photos





The company filed through the rubble, cobbled streets . . .

# Lesson: Fire and Move

THE cruel, whistling wind of a raw December dawn roared through the wooded canyons clustered about the battered Luxembourg village of Weck. It was murderously cold out there and Pfc Raymond G. Martin, of Pontiac, Michigan—reinforcement rifleman of COL, 317th Infantry Regiment, 80th Division, hunched his shoulders against it as the remnants of the outfit slogged out of the line. Company K had relieved. Martin had just completed—and survived—his first twelve hours of combat. Yesterday he had been a recruit, full of fears and doubts. Fearful of his own ability to remember what he had learned in training back in the States. Doubtful of his ability to become "one of the boys" and to carry his share of the load when the chips were down. Now he "belonged" and he wondered how the hell it all happened. He'd been too busy to figure it out before.

### Mac Showed Him

He grinned a little through frozen lips as he remembered his "buddy" training. That was a terrific idea. The C.O. had been pretty smart assigning each of the new men to team up with one of the fellows who had been in the company for quite a spell. He might not have been alive at this moment if McLain hadn't taken him in hand and taught him combat "know how" and all the tricks of killing Jerries and staying healthy while doing it. McLain had kept pretty close to him all during that first

hectic hour when the Jerries attacked the position. But the best part had been when Mac had taken him around to all the other men in the company and squad, introduced him, made him feel at home, asked him questions about his home and family—and gave him the box-score on the tactical position of the outfit.

### Now He Belonged

It sure was a great feeling to "belong" Martin thought. Made a guy feel like he was part of the team and that the other guys depended on you. You'd have to be an awful stinker to just lay down in a hole and play possum when your buddies might get knocked off on account of it. And anyhow—even back in the States you learned that digging in and not firing was a good way to become a name on an insurance policy.

Martin shivered. It was damned cold.

He thought about those wisenheimers in the reinforcement center in UK. All that BS about to get along with—and how tough combat was—and the hell with the other guy and all that crap.

He felt a little warmer when he thought about Mac and Strzeszowski and the others. He'd kill the louse who said anything against that bunch.

He remembered Strzeszowski telling him that if you kept moving and firing you wouldn't get frightened and panicky. That was right, too. When a fellow did nothing that was when he got scared.

And it had been strange as hell how all those training lessons and maneuvers back in the States had come back to his mind after the first mortar and small-arms fire. He remembered all the thousands of repetitious times his hon-coms and officers back at camp had yowled, "Keep under cover when you can't go forward," and "Watch your squad leader," and "Hit the ground quick. Don't go sightseeing" and "Keep your eyes and ears open."—He'd hated the bastards then—but now it all came back, the stuff he thought he'd forgotten.

### Training Came Back

He wished they'd taught him more about artillery fire back home, though. It was tough as hell to know the sound of Kraut shells and from what direction they were coming. And snipers. You had to keep your eyes open for those slimy characters.

The company filed through the gray dawn and through the rubble, cobbled streets of Weck. Martin grimaced a little as he thought of the racket he had made crawling through the brush up there.

"I'm such a noisy bastard," he said to himself. "Have to watch that next time. Cowboy and Indian stuff—but gotta have it."

They reached the manure smelling stable called home. Mac said, "How you doin', Martin?" "Okay," said Pfc Raymond Martin. "When are the new recruits coming up?"

# Three Men—Three Days of Battle

## Inexperienced and Unsure, These Men Went Into Action

PVT. GLENN C. TOALSON, 28, of St. Louis, Missouri, like many another American soldier, liked to go to the movies when he was a civilian and he generally also believed pretty near everything he read in the newspapers and magazines. In addition, he had a very vivid imagination. As a result, he was just about the most scared guy in the U.S. Army when he arrived as a reinforcement to Co D, 15th Tank Bn. The general picture of war "as she is fought" in the movies and press is that a guy is either a hero or a casualty, thought Pvt Toalson. He didn't care much about being either.

It had just been two days now since Toalson had been in his first combat engagement. What with wondering how he was still alive, working on his gun and doing the million and one other things a tankner has to do, he hadn't had much time to figure out his reactions.

### Everybody is Scared

Now, as he looked back on his first battle and those few hours when his M5 light tank had practically been bracketed by Kraut mortar and artillery fire, things began to come back to him. The things he had done and hadn't done—and what he would and wouldn't do the next time.

Pvt. Toalson's friends and neighbors had put the bee on him March 10, 1944. From that time until September he had sweated out tank tactics at Fort Knox and on November 17 he had stumbled wearily into the Bn. CP of the 15th Tanks. He was brand new to combat—scared as hell—and as lonely as only a "reinforcement" can be.

"I was so damned scared and lonely," Toalson said, "that I guess I got what these mental doctors call a 'superiority complex.'"

"I began to brag to my tankmates about how much I had

learned back in the States and about the Ford Knox maneuvers and about all the tactical situations I had been taught. But all the while I would have given my right arm for some guy to offer advice and say 'hello.' I sure needed a buddy awful bad. "They took it pretty well, though. I guess they'd seen plenty like me before. Most of the time they just smiled dryly and said, 'Yeah, we know. You'll learn.' "When the orders came to move up," Toalson went on. "I was

in your tank needs you and you need them. They know you're scared. They are, too. But they know the score. They'd like to tell you if you'll give them the chance. How about it?"

For Pvt. Toalson's dough that was enough. He went around to each guy, shook hands, came off his high horse—and asked questions. He got the answers. He was on the team—and it was the varsity. They'd gone in the next morning —5 AM—cold, gray, forbidding

Okay for Kentucky. But there were no Krauts there.

He wished the front armor of the M5 was thicker.

That sight picture he'd sweat out and cussed so often. It worked like a dream. Just keep your head—that's all. Keep your head.

Dig in, that was the ticket. Dig in and move when you can. Keep the guns exposed, the rest of the tank under cover. Good idea.

Didn't use many of those pretty formations here like at Knox. We're pretty much on our own. It was wonderful how a guy remembered all those training films and lectures he thought he'd forgotten.

And the guys. . . I got friends now. No Kraut in the world is better than a Yank with a buddy.

### Just Keep Head

He thought of Kline and Wilson and Weinstein. They were his tankmates. He hugged the thought of all of them close. Having these guys with him was just like having three extra inches of armor in front of the tank. Without them he was just another name on a casualty list. And the hell of it was that they felt the same about him. Kline came from Philadelphia and Wilson from Los Angeles and Weinstein from Tucson, Arizona, but in this "tin can" they all came from Main Street, U.S.A. and there wasn't a damn thing wrong with that.

He'd fought a battle and come out of it neither a hero nor a casualty. Just another "Tanker."

Yes Sir! A Tanker, that's me!

Weinstein, the kid who had ridden horses all his life and always thought a tank was to hold water, grinned at him.

He grinned back.

The tank was a far cry from the Walnut Street Shell filling station. Toalson cleaned his 37mm, vigorously.

"That's my baby," he said.

Warweek staff writer JOE WESTON presents on this page the stories of three reinforcements and their first day of combat. They were chosen more or less at random as typical GIs who came into outfits as new men. They lacked the battle experience of the fellows they had been assigned to join. They had the helpless feeling every soldier gets when he realizes, for the first time, that: "this is it."

Each in his own way, these men adjusted themselves to their outfits. Each learned the hard, sharp lessons of actual combat. Other new men will join other outfits—but their experiences will probably be pretty much the same as those of the men whose stories are printed here. Maybe, even, this Warweek page will help to make their adjustment easier. That is what it is intended to do.

trified with fright. All the movies and newspaper stories flashed through my mind until I was dizzy. I knew my stuff all right—but a guy can't stand alone in a fighting tank. You gotta belong.

"My tank commander came along about that time and gave me the best reaming I've gotten since coming into the Army. I guess maybe I owe him my life. He lost his recently.

"Look here, Toalson," he snapped at me. "Get on the ball. Every guy

dawn. Snow blanketed the area. They'd changed up the hill and deflated (exposed) the tank just enough to fire).

Toalson's 37mm, chattered. He remembered what the tank commander told him and kept his eyes open for the Jerry TDs. He spotted one. Fired and fired and fired. He got it. Just like in training. He was cool now.

He grinned when he thought of the TMS which said to stop the tank and check it every hour.



. . . He hugged the ground—the shell didn't even come close

# Lesson: Hit the Earth

ON April 25, 1944, 0800 hours. Mr. Theron D. Thomas, 37 years old, snapped shut the cash register of his Super-Market in Centralia, Illinois, shook hands all around, said good-bye to the help—and took off.

At 1000 hours that same day, Pvt. Theron D. Thomas, United States Army, huddled in the back of a GI truck with twenty other miserable gentlemen—and took off. A few days later a Field Artillery outfit at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, was rapidly transforming a groceryman into an artilleryman.

Pvt. Thomas had a pretty good idea that Uncle Sam hadn't dragged him away from the Crisco cans just to decorate the bleak Oklahoma landscape. So he entered into his training with the prime objective of learning and remembering everything he could. In the grocery business a guy who knew his stuff stayed in the game. The other jokers became casualties to the chain stores. Thomas figured the same thing applied in combat.

### Glad He Asked

Now here was Christmas Day, 1944, and Pvt. Thomas, still almost as green as grass, was cannoneer with an Artillery outfit of the 5th Infantry Division—and he was going into action with his section in just about two minutes.

The past few days since he had arrived at the CP as a reinforcement—that is the name for them now—shot through his mind with lightning-like clarity. He wonder-

ed if he would remember what Pvt. Durbin, an old-timer with the section, told him about the difference between the M7 self-propelled gun he had trained with back in the States and the 105 mm ground gun he had to use up here. He wished they had given him more of that back home. But he was glad that he hadn't been shy and had asked advice of all the guys. They had been swell, too. Durbin and the rest hadn't volunteered any information, but if you asked, they gave it to you straight, with no heroics and no exaggeration. He had liked that.

### Splinters Fly Up

Thomas' mind snapped back to the present in a hell of a hurry. An eerie scream seemed to cut his head to ribbons. He knew it was an incoming shell. But where was it coming from? What was it? Was it near? Was the damn thing going to hit me? Should I duck? What in hell do I do now?

For a split second he froze solid. He stood straight up.

Then a sharp, metallic voice yelled, "Hit the dirt!"

Like a flashlight in a pitch-dark room everything cleared up. All of a sudden he remembered all his training back home. He remembered how they had drilled immediate obedience to orders into him and how they had told him time and time again that shrapnel goes up and not down.

Thomas hit the ground and hugged it. The shell didn't even come close. A few minutes later a beautiful-looking plane scudded across the cloudless sky.

"Wonder if it is one of ours," mused Pvt. Thomas.

An instant later he found out that it wasn't.

The FW190 swooped like a hawk after a swallow—and a fraction of a second later unloaded. The air screamed like a hurt child.

Thomas dived for his hole. He had learned by this time.

That bastard is close—too damn close.

He hit the frozen ground.

"Wish to hell they'd given me more time on aircraft identification back at Sill," he gritted through a mouthful of dirt, or put me on KP when I fell asleep at the lectures."

When he got up the section leader told him to take over the sights. The number three man had been hit. Here was where that rotation training came in handy. He knew every job on the gun—and he didn't have to ask questions.

The hours passed. They sent them out—T.O.T. (Time on Target), that was a new term he'd never heard in the States. And they took the incoming Jerry stuff. The bombs came and Thomas learned to duck without looking. Soon the relief crew came.

### An Artillery Man Now

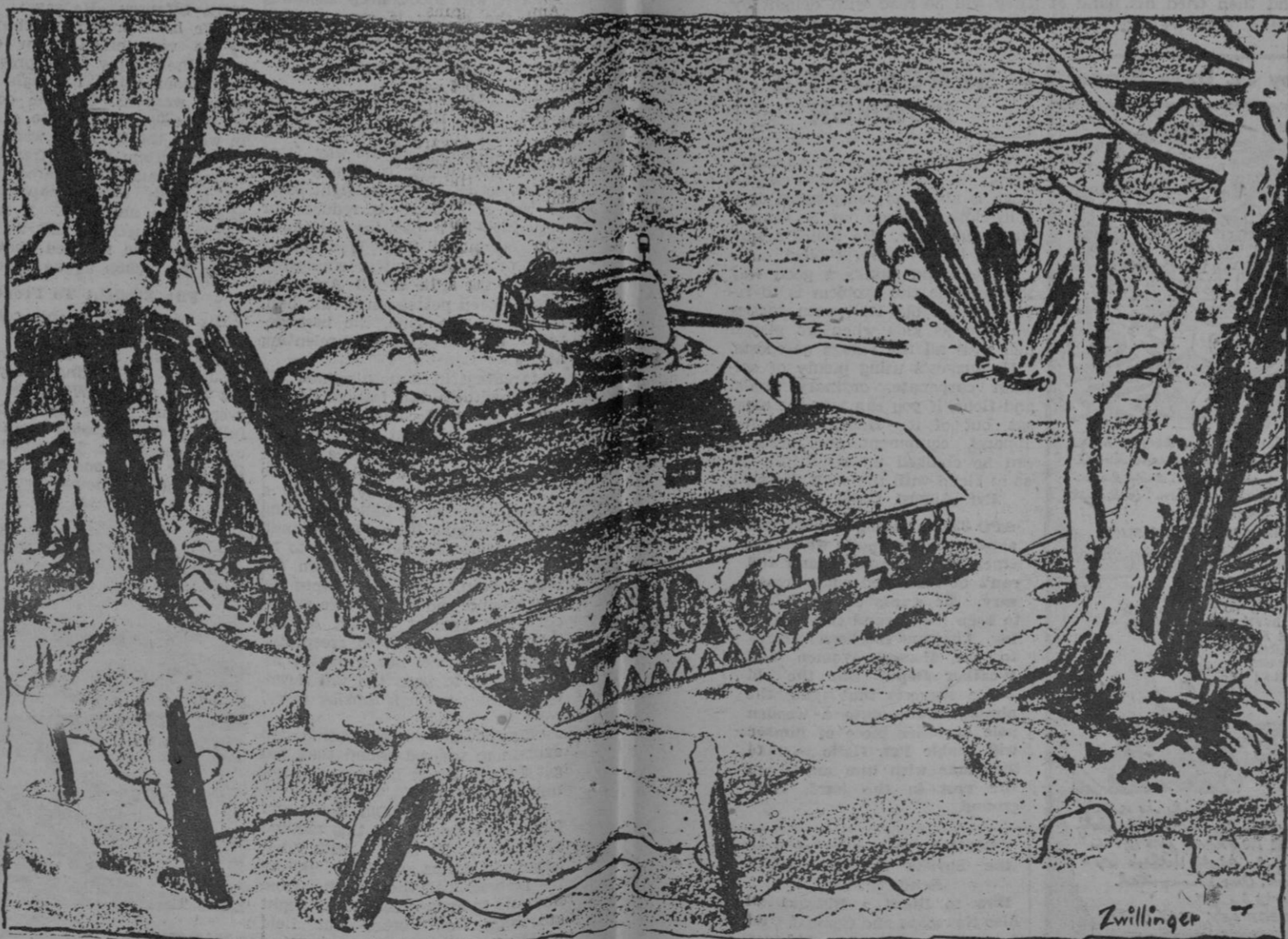
Pvt. Theron D. Thomas—artilleryman—went out of the line.

He'd been scared plenty. But now he was battle-tested. He knew what to do. He knew he was "one of the gang." He knew that he could depend on them and that they could depend on him.

And six months ago, he'd been the owner of a Super-Market.



INFANTRY, riding into battle on tanks is one trick of modern war which we perfected.



His 37mm chattered. He spotted a Jerry TD, fired and fired—and got it.



ARTILLERY backs doughboys with armed fire, forming part of "the big Army team."



● The well-informed soldier is the good soldier—every great commander of this and other wars agrees on that. One of the things the good fighting man should understand is the nature of the foe he fights. Through the character and history of his leaders, the actions of the enemy can sometimes be forecast.

By Ed Wilcox  
Warweek Staff Writer

# FIVE GRAVES TO BERLIN

ERWIN ROMMEL  
1891-1944

KARL VON RUNDSTEDT  
1875-

SIEGFRIED WESTPHAL  
1902-

WALTER MODEL  
1891-

SEPP DIETRICH  
1892-

Last summer, when Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, the "Desert Fox," got a severe case of lead poisoning in France and, subsequently, had his last hole dug for him someplace within the Third Reich, the Volkischer Beobachter and other party newspapers were caught with their bits down. They discovered that they didn't have an obituary on the famous Nazi general which was in type and ready to roll in the late edition.

Hitler and Himmler, who like to lionize and eulogize all over the place at the drop of a German red blood corpuscle, raised hell with the harried editors and reporters and rumor has it that five editors were sent to Dachau, ten more were drafted into the Volkssturm, and a copy boy by the name of Goldfarb, who had been an honorary Aryan, disappeared in a large burlap bag into the dark waters of the Rhine.

We felt sorry for the Nazi newsmen. Writing what Goebbels tells them to write can't be very satisfying. So, to avoid future snafu on obituaries, which should always be held in readiness on German generals whose lives aren't worth a rubber reichsmark, Warweek lends a hand.

Rommel's grave is the first of five graves on the road to Berlin that our armies want to see...here are the other four, with complete obituaries included at no extra cost. If the German editors would like a translation, just tear the tops from three Nazi Party members and mail them to us care of the APO. We will gladly have one of our bomber pilots drop them on your plant along with a few 1,000-pound bombs you are getting regularly every day. If there is any complaint on this service, please let us know. Volkischer Beobachter and party sheets please copy!

**KARL GERT VON RUNDSTEDT**, 70, Commander in Chief of German Armies in Western Europe in 1944. Born in a family which boasts generations of Prussian warlords, Von Rundstedt has been a soldier for 52 years. He first achieved prominence in 1918 when he served as Chief of Staff for Corps on both the Eastern

and Western Fronts. He built a reputation as an expert strategist and has been called the "High Priest of Strategy" by his associates.

Rundstedt retired in 1938 but was recalled a year later to take command of the southern army group in the attack on Poland. He scored great successes in Poland in 1939 and also in France in the 39-day campaign of 1940. Sent to Russia when Germany began the Drang nach Osten, Von Rundstedt was the only Nazi general who fought successful campaigns against the Red Army General Budyenny.

Despite his success in the Russian war, Rundstedt was recalled by Hitler and placed in command of the forces assigned to defend Fortress Europe against the inevitable Allied invasion.

Rundstedt, ailing since the summer of 1944, is tall and spare with thin, hawk-like features. He has been described as being strong, vigorous, decisive, and taciturn. He is devoted to his profession and is not afraid to take a stand against Hitler, whom he considers a "meddling civilian."

Junior officers in Rundstedt's headquarters have long found him difficult in many ways. The general likes to keep late hours drinking hock cup and champagne, followed by German beer. The heavy drinking has no effect on him except to make him cheerful. Junior officers, who must rise at four in



Von Rundstedt.

the morning for duties, however, find it difficult to stand the pace.

Rundstedt is considered an expert on matters pertaining to infantry tactics, fixed defenses and obstacles, and he has written many military books on these subjects.

**VON RUNDSTEDT'S** Chief of Staff, Siegfried Westphal, is considered by Allied leaders as one of the most capable of the German generals operating on the Western Front.

Now 42 years of age, Westphal holds a rank comparable to our two-star general. He received his commission as a 2nd lieutenant in December of 1922 and subsequently worked up and became a member of Rommel's staff in Africa.

Westphal, the Rommel protégé, is the man who planned the successful German retreat in Italy. He is a stern disciplinarian and, so far as is known, is not sympathetic to the Nazi regime.

When he dies, his obituary will be most interesting in his home town of Leipzig, where his father is a post office official.



Dietrich.

Austria, Italy, Switzerland, and Holland. But he didn't do well at that either.

In desperation he joined the German army in 1911, with the ambition of becoming a professional NCO. He fought in World War I and in ten years he had built himself up from a nothing to a nobody. He became a sergeant.

Jumping on the Nazi bandwagon in the early '20s, Dietrich became a member of the "Freikorps Oberland" and held such political spoils-system jobs as a cop in Munich and a parcel packer for the Volkische Beobachter.

In 1928 he joined the SS and became chief of the Munich local. A great rabble rouser, he moved ahead quickly and in 1932 was elected to the Reichstag, later served on Hitler's personal staff, and then became Town Councillor of Berlin. He had a large part in the 1934 purge and since the war commanded SS units in the push against Poland in 1939, France in 1940, Greece in 1941, and finally to Russia, where he led the attack which recaptured Kharkov in 1943.

There they are: four more graves to Berlin. Four more obits for the Kraut newspapermen. We offer them gladly and hope that you will be able to use them very soon. They will be read with delight by decent people all over the world.



Model.

**WALTER MODEL** was born in 1891 in a small village called Genthin, near Magdeburg, Germany. He became a 2nd lieutenant in 1908 and had an excellent record in World War I, winning many decorations.

At the end of the war Model became a member of the "100,000 man army", which became the nucleus of the present Nazi army officer corps. He has served both in Russia and on the Western Front in this war and the Russians list him as being responsible for many atrocities. His present rank is General Field Marshal, which is equivalent to a general of the armies, and holds a large command under Von Rundstedt.

He has been described as "eccentric, wild, and very clever." Model typifies everything a Nazi general is supposed to be. He wears a monocle and has a very disagreeable face. Death should be an improvement on his appearance.

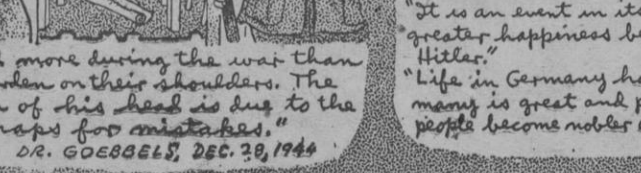
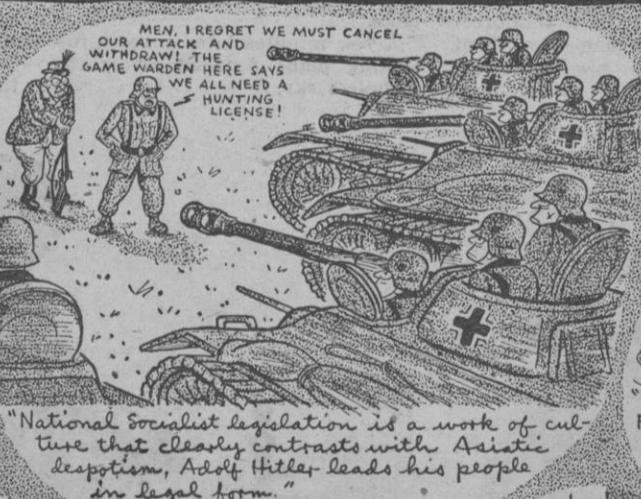
**THE** biggest noise in the SS with the exception of Himmler himself is Sepp Dietrich, an SS Oberstgruppenführer under Rundstedt.

Born May 28, 1892, in Hawangen, Bavaria, Dietrich had little success as a civilian. He attended school for nine years and then quit to become an agricultural laborer. He stuck to the farming for eight years and then tried his hand at bell-hopping in hotels and inns in

GI JERRY

by Lt. Dave Breger

Nazi Guide-Book No. 30



SERGEANT'S CORNER

Sgt. Hildenbrand, 109th AAA Bn., thinks the GI without snow camouflage is about as conspicuous as a fully-clad dame on a Minsky Burlesque stage. He writes a suggestion to solve the problem.

Hildenbrand thinks a good way to overcome the problem is to revert to the old Halloween tactics we used as kids when we played hell with all the village gateposts.

He suggests using plenty of calcium carbonate, ordinary chalk, and flour, if you can talk the mess sgt. out of it. Helmets, wearing apparel, equipment and vehicles can be chalked up beautifully so as to blend with the snow, he says.

Pvt. August Gallo, B. Btry.,

APO 339, is having trouble with artillery aiming posts which get stuck in the frozen ground and can't be recovered when necessary. He wants to know how to keep the ground from freezing. That one has been referred to our Horses, Women and Weather Dept. But the old Sarge suggests that tying the aiming stakes onto a wooden pole or other piece of lumber will enable Pvt. Gallo to take the stake with him and leave the post in the hard, hard ground.

COMING! The story of how the Soviets stopped Hitler! Read "USSR: How to Blunt a Blitzkrieg." Also Newscope and Combat Tips. Army Talks, Sat., Jan. 20, 1945.



# Once Over Lightly

By GI Joe

(Letters on sports will appear in this column from time to time in the future. If you have something on your mind about sports, blow it out in Once Over Lightly.)

JUST about a week before your article on Ty Cobb's all-time All-America baseball team appeared in the Dec. 17 issue of The Stars and Stripes, a bunch of us GIs were discussing ballplayers, which prompted me to ask my dad, Champ Osteen, who served a hitch with the New York Yankees and also the St. Louis Cardinals, for his selection. He was just leaving pro ball about the time Cobb came up, so there are some slight differences. Here's his all-time team: Bill Dickey, c; Lou Gehrig, lb; Larry Lajoie, 2b; Honus Wagner, ss; Jimmy Collins, 3b; Joe Jackson, rf; Ty Cobb, cf; Tris Speaker, lf; Christy Matthewson, p; Rube Wadell, p.—T/Sgt Harry Osteen.

THE decision of our government to disband racing for the remainder of the war is, I believe, very sound. It is regretted that this was not done earlier. On the same day War Mobilization Chief James F. Byrnes, decided to "IG" the nation's draft boards on the status of professional athletes classified 4F. It appears that they have the necessary stamina to participate in the strenuous athletic contests but find themselves short-winded on a three or four-mile Army march. I have always contended that our country should follow the policy of the Russians, who do not permit the enlistment of those engaged directly or indirectly in the entertainment of civilians or the armed forces.

To those who contend excessive drafting of professional ballplayers dooms baseball, I refer them to the 1944 season in which the St. Louis Browns won their first pennant in history.—Pfc Max Stone.

SGT. Paul Berube's article in your Jan. 1 issue concerning "democracy" in service sports rather interested me. Sgt. Berube's friend seemed well qualified for an overseas football team. But any member of the armed forces who has at least lugged the ball in a sandlot game is, or, rather should be, qualified to try out for a service team. I would like to see 20 or 30 players selected from each army, given a couple of weeks practice, then have play-off games for the army championship among teams representing the U.S. First, Third, Seventh and Ninth armies, if the "powers that be" don't think the season is too late. Now that basketball is in season, the same set-up could be conducted. I'm sure basketball players in the Army would welcome the chance to don trunks and shoes again.—Pfc A. Conner.

### Barksdale at Great Lakes

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Jan. 13.—Roger Barksdale, freshman back at Yale last fall, was sworn into the Navy here today. He's now at Great Lakes Training Station.

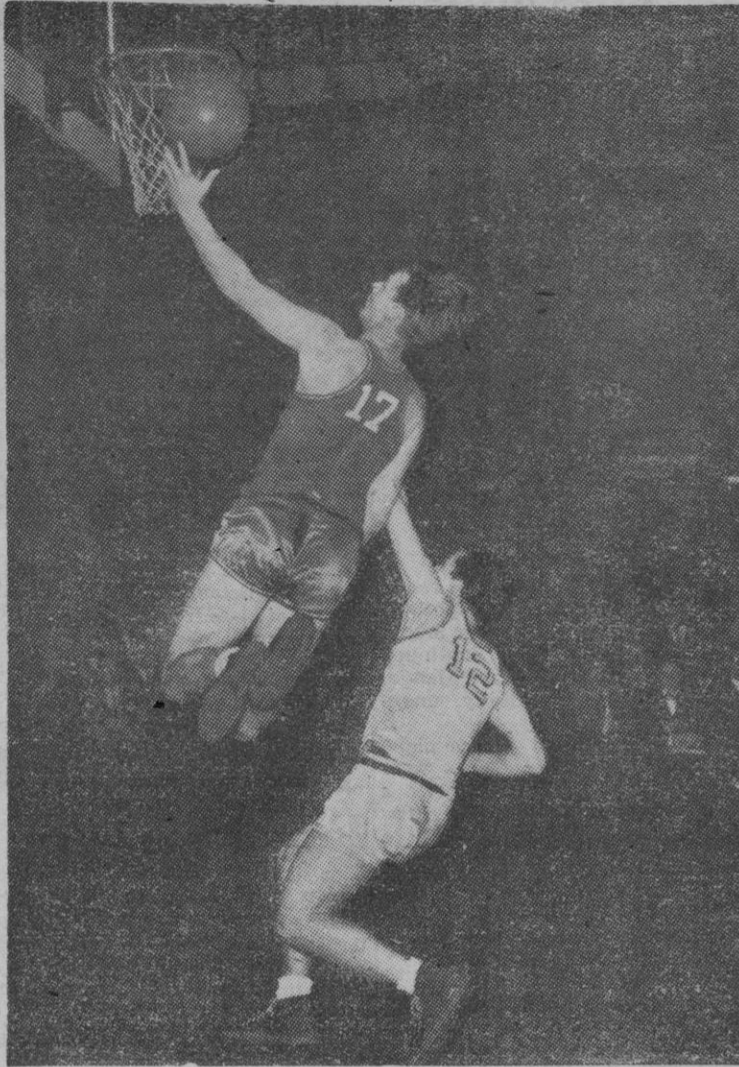
### American Hockey League

St. Louis 3, Indianapolis 2.				
EASTERN DIVISION				
	W	L	T	Pts
Buffalo	18	12	5	41
Hershey	16	13	5	37
Providence	12	17	2	26
WESTERN DIVISION				
Indianapolis	16	10	10	42
Cleveland	16	9	6	38
Pittsburgh	15	16	5	35
St. Louis	6	22	4	16

## CAGE RESULTS

- Arkansas 41, Oklahoma Aggies 38.
- Bishop 48, Texas College 40.
- Catawba 35, North Carolina St. 31.
- Dubuque 45, Central 25.
- Ft. Jackson 56, So. Carolina 46.
- Harvard 55, MIT 46.
- Kansas 48, Nebraska 33.
- Lincoln 50, Howard 42.
- LIU 59, Philadelphia Marines 28.
- Loras 49, Wartburg 30.
- New Mexico Aggies 33, Abilene 29.
- Northwestern 52, Minnesota 33.
- Norfolk Naval 59, North Carolina 22.
- Penn State 57, Carnegie Tech 22.
- Rhode Island 111, Maine 52.
- Rice 70, Southern Methodist 62.
- Richmond 58, William & Mary 37.
- Randolph Macon 56, Union Seminary 33.
- Seymour Johnson Field 52, Greenville (N.C.) Marines 36.
- Tennessee 41, Mississippi State 26.
- Texas Christian 30, Texas Aggies 27.
- Washington College 48, Gallaudet 28.
- Warrensburg Tchrs. 41, Wm. Jewell 25.

### Foul Play in the Garden



Tom Larkin (17) of St. John's leaps high for a two-pointer and is hacked by Dan Markoff (12) of City College during last week's game in Madison Square Garden. Markoff later sank a long shot in the final minute and CCNY won, 42-41, to slap the first defeat of the campaign on the Brooklyn Redmen, who had won six straight.

### Non-Swimmer Makes Big Splash at Duke

DURHAM, N.C., Jan. 13.—When Bob MacKenzie, Navy V12 student from Washington, D.C., reported for Duke's swimming team several weeks ago he could barely swim across the pool.

Since then he has come along so rapidly the clock has caught him churning the 50-yard free style in 25.5.

### Three-way Tie In Phoenix Golf

PHOENIX, Ariz., Jan. 13.—Bob Hamilton, PGA champion; Byron Nelson, of Toledo, and Herman Barron, of White Plains, N.Y., shared the lead after the first round of the Phoenix Open golf tournament yesterday. They had scores of 68, three under par. Nelson blew his chance for the lead when he shot a six on the par 4 ninth hole.

One stroke behind the leaders was Sammy Snead, who beat par although, as he put it, "I hit every tree on the course." Last year's winner, Harold "Jug" McSpaden, of Philadelphia, shot 70.

Barron played the most consistent golf of the three leaders with 15 pars and three birdies. Nelson's bogey on the ninth and Hamilton's on the 11th marred their games. Snead's spectacular recoveries from traps and behind trees provided the big thrill of the opening round.

### Northwestern Routs Gophers

EVANSTON, Ill., Jan. 13.—Northwestern's basketball varsity defeated Minnesota, 52-33, here last night by bottling up Kleggie Hermesen and Wally Rucke, while the Wildcats' Ben Schadler and Max Morris hit the nets for 14 points apiece. Schadler's four straight set shots midway in the first period put Northwestern ahead, 17-7, and the Gophers never threatened thereafter.

Morris, in addition to his scoring, stopped Hermesen with one field goal and two fouls and Rucke made just two points.

### Laney Tutors Tide Cagers

TUSCALOOSA, Ala., Jan. 13.—Malcolm Laney, former Birmingham prep coach, is the new head basketball coach at Alabama University. The Crimson Tide returned to the hardwoods this season after a year's layoff. Maurice Bell, holdover from the 42 team, is the only experienced player on the club.

### Future Hall of Famers

GRIDLEY, Ill., Jan. 13.—The Gridley High School basketball team has a distinct big league flavor this year with Brothers Tyrus Cobb Kaufmann and Rogers Hornsby Kaufmann on the squad. They both play baseball, too.

### Philly Swim Meet

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 13.—North Catholic High School, defending champion, won its 18th straight Catholic League swimming meet by turning back Roman Catholic High, 39-27, in the West Branch YMCA.

### Educator Tells Coaches:

## Veterans to Crowd 'Kids' Out of Post-war Sports

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 13.—The National Collegiate Athletic Association, in joint session with the Football Coaches' Association and the National Physical Education Society, was told today that it must review its standards and guard against professionalism in the post-war world.

### Army Outpoints Navy Again, 267 to 170

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—The Army's the most popular with major league baseball players, if numbers mean anything, military officials revealed here today in a list of diamond athletes in the armed forces.

Major leaguers in khaki total 267 compared to 170 in the Navy. Twenty are in the Coast Guard, eight in the Marines, three in the Maritime Service and three in the Canadian Army.

### Schott Scores 32nd Victory

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—Heavyweight Freddie Schott, of Akron, O., used his 31-pound weight advantage to gain a ten-round decision over Billy Grant, of Orange, N. J., last night in the feature event on the Madison Square Garden card of fights. It was Schott's 32nd straight victory. Schott had Grant in bad shape until the fifth when the Orange heavy staggered him, but from there on Schott was the boss and won every round except the seventh, which he lost on a low blow.

Two other ten-rounders shared the spotlight. Jimmy Doule, a clever boxer from California, made his Garden debut a success before 13,000 fans. He won nine straight rounds against Frankie Terry, of New York's East Side, and had his opponent cut and bleeding at the end.

In the final ten, Phil Terranova, of the Bronx, justified the 2-1 odds on himself by winning easily over Charley Lewis, of Cuba.

### Coast League Bars Sacramento Prexy

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 13.—Harry Ludwig, president of the Sacramento club of the Pacific Coast League, was barred from the league meetings here yesterday and immediately resigned as head of the solons. The directors said Ludwig was barred at the suggestion of Leslie O'Connor, secretary of the late Judge Landis, and member of the three-man commission administering baseball until a new commissioner is chosen.

There was an indication O'Connor was investigating Ludwig's activities in businesses other than baseball.

### Big Ten Seeks 'Lebensraum'

CHICAGO, Jan. 13.—The Western-Conference (Big Ten) athletic directors held a surprise meeting here yesterday, but claimed they did not discuss the matter of a successor to the late Maj. John J. Griffith, former Conference commissioner.

Kenneth "Tub" Wilson, athletic director at Northwestern, said the meeting dealt solely with the selection of office space for Conference headquarters.

Dr. H. C. Willett, of Southern California, said colleges would have a hard problem after the war solving the age differential between newly-enrolled freshmen and returning war veterans. He said unless something is done, these veterans likely will crowd the youngsters completely out of the sports programs.

Dean R. W. Aigler of Michigan Law School urged that colleges whose athletic teams were recruited in whole or part from holders of scholarships should be restricted to competition among themselves.

"If promoters of professional football are wise," Aigler said, "they will scrupulously observe both the letter and the spirit of the National League rule that no player can be signed until his collegiate career is ended."

"But if the new professional leagues now projected are tempted to disregard this self-imposed rule," Aigler continued, "we may find offers being made to boys of comparatively little experience."

Aigler deplored the tendency of a great many colleges to allow their basketball teams to be used as attractions by professional sports promoters. He suggested that colleges refuse to allow their teams to participate in commercially-sponsored games: "Particularly under conditions in which gambling flourishes," he concluded.

### Jockey Permane Revises Story

MIAMI, Fla., Jan. 13.—Bobby Permane, curly-headed jockey, has been getting threats and poison pen letters through the mail ever since the story appeared shortly after the racetrack shutdown quoting him as asking, "what good could I do in a war-plant?" and Bobby wants to apologize.

Permane set some sort of precedent right at the start when he admitted that he'd been quoted 100 percent correctly—but hadn't said enough, and didn't mean those words as they sounded.

The Florida jockey said he had broken his collarbone in a spill a couple of weeks earlier and what he meant to say was that he couldn't do any heavy work until his flipper healed.

Permane has been shown the door no less than three times by his draft board because he's a half-inch under five feet tall, and weighs only 95 pounds.

### Rifenburg of Michigan Gets Caught in Draft

SAGINAW, Mich., Jan. 13.—Dick Rifenburg, 18-year-old freshman athletic star at Michigan University, has been ordered by the local draft board to report at the Detroit Induction Center, Jan. 22nd.

Rifenburg played end on the Wolverine football varsity last fall, but withdrew from school after becoming ineligible for further play. He had enlisted in the Merchant Marine, but when he wasn't notified to report, he returned to Michigan and had made the varsity basketball team as center.

Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features

By Al Capp





This Was America Last Week:

# State Department Slighted In Budget, Columnist Says

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Jan. 13.—During a week in which the President, the Senate and the people have studied more than usual the problems of foreign affairs, Political Columnist Marquis W. Childs thinks the Treasury does not give enough consideration to the State Department. He has browsed through the "Budget of the U.S. Government—for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1946" and has discovered only 20 pages devoted to State Department requests as against 140 pages of Secretary Ickes demands for the Interior Department.

Childs considers that \$75,213,400 allocated to the conduct of foreign affairs is not enough—and he points out that the State Department is also the "Department of Peace."

Peace is more than the subject of gossip. In a magazine article, James F. Byrnes suggests better preparedness for the years ahead. He asks a concrete revision in the procedure of Congress. Byrnes proposes a permanent staff of career men be organized to aid and advise committees on legislation and, that for better information of legislators, members of the cabinet should be allowed to appear in Congress by invitation to answer questions.

## Gallup Says U.S. Favors Reform of Peace Treaties

THAT man Gallup looked the peace situation over and reported that the majority of Americans will accept a major reform in the method of ratifying peace treaties. At present ratification requires a two-thirds vote in the Senate. Gallup says his poll indicates 58 percent are willing to approve ratification by the President and the majority of the whole of Congress. Twenty-two percent support the President and two-thirds of Congress method; and eight percent would approve ratification by the President only.

IN Hollywood, somewhat dull now that there's no more Chaplin-Berry court drama, there was a slight ruffle. Loretta Young came out the winner in a legal tussle to decide who had to buy what. The court held that Loretta and hubby, Col. Tom Lewis, were justified in cancelling an agreement to buy the house of Benjamin "Bugsy" Seigle, sportsman. The battle developed over a dispute as to whether or not Seigle would pay for termite extermination. Bugsy said no. Result: No sale.

Loretta Young

Frances Farmer disappeared again—and was found. The actress turned up in a Reno motion-picture house after she had slipped away from the side of her aunt the day previously. She'd spent the night in a local hotel, she said, but gave no explanation for the disappearance.

DOLLARS (Remember?) are worth talking about today. Money in circulation increased \$33.40 per head in 1944. Treasury says that means \$182.45 to every person. But the way it's distributed makes it look as if there'd been a national crap game.

As of year's end, 208,519 World War II veterans were getting disability pensions, says the Veterans' Administration—about half as many as in World War I.

# First, Third Cut Into Salient; Nazis Retreat Toward Ourthe

(Continued from page 1)

tacked south of Stavelot and gained 1,500 yards, Regan reported.

Below Stavelot, the 424th Inf. Regt. pushed eastwards for gains up to 600 yards, Regan said. He reported the attacking forces met only moderate resistance from infantry and artillery along the entire front and sighted no enemy tanks.

Southeast of Malmedy patrols entered Faymonville, where they ran into a stiff fight. In the Vielsalm area, patrols were running into heavier resistance.

West of Vielsalm, Third Armored and 83d Inf. Divs. moved south of Bihain and beyond Langlir for gains ranging up to a mile and three-quarters.

Second Armored troops took the village of Petite-Tailles, south of a marsh area below the Laroche-Vielsalm road. The marsh presented a considerable obstacle and troops had to skirt it.

East of Laroche, which AP's Wes Gallagher said was taken by U. S.

cavalry attached to the 84th (Rail-splitter) Div., the 4th Cavalry group and 84th units gained up to 1,500 yards due south.

In their advance, they knocked out two enemy tanks.

Southeast of Laroche, British troops moved along the Laroche-Bastogne highway. Beating back a counter-attack, they entered the town of Beaulieu, three and one-half miles south of Laroche.

It was revealed officially yesterday that Canadians of the British Sixth Airborne Div. have been in action in the Ardennes fighting.

The west line of the Allied advance was closing up to the southwest side of the Champlon-Bastogne road.

U.S. Third Army troops cleared the huge, hilly St. Hubert woods, pushed a mile north of Flamierge on the south flank, seized Renaumont and reached La Vacherie on the Ourthe. They also took the villages of Orreux, Fosset, Menil, Tonny and Amberloup.

# 58 Jap Ships Sunk; 65 More Are Damaged

(Continued from Page 1)

ment. This total, together with the China Sea battle losses, brings the complete total to 58 ships sunk and 65 damaged.

As the American fleet defied Japan's continental-based air power by moving the closest to the mainland since the Navy began its offensive last spring, Tokyo Radio reported yesterday that B29s from China or Burma had joined the Indo-China attack. The report said the Superforts blasted Saigon Friday in daylight raids.

## Seize Road Junctions

On Luzon, armor-spearheaded infantry seized two important highway junctions 12 miles inland from San Fabian and continued their advance south toward Manila, cautiously but practically unopposed.

Gen. MacArthur's communique yesterday said the Japs were concentrating artillery and troops among the hills through which the Manaoag-Pozurrubia runs south to Manila. Naval planes, from carriers standing by in Lingayen Gulf, bombed Jap pillboxes Friday.

At Saigon, Adm. Halsey's raiders set off big fires around the Japanese naval base, which is 1,000 miles southwest of Manila and about halfway between Manila and Singapore.

Although the communique made no mention of positions of the convoys attacked, it appeared that two were either caught inside Saigon harbor or in the immediate area. The other two convoys were smashed near Qui-Nhon, 250 miles northeast of Saigon on the eastern coast of Indo-China.

Pouring bombs, rockets and torpedoes on the convoys, at least six fully-loaded troop transports were sunk at Saigon and another six, plus 20 flying boats and seaplanes, at Qui-Nhon.

Also in yesterday's communique Adm. Nimitz confirmed the sinking of Japan's 45,000-ton super-battleship Musahi. He said that there was conclusive evidence to show that the warship blew up and sank as a result of damage inflicted by aircraft attacks last October.

# Byrnes Demands Railroad Curtail Resort Schedules

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13 (ANS).

—Operation of passenger trains to provide seasonal service to resorts, recreational or vacation areas has been forbidden by order of War Mobilizer James F. Byrnes.

Railroads also were directed to discontinue after March 1 any passenger train schedule on which occupancy of seats and space did not average 35 percent during November, 1944.

Office of Defense Transportation which since September, 1942, has forbidden the operation of excursion trains without ODT approval, says the new order will eliminate many branch line schedules and result in "a sizable saving of coal."

## Army Takes Over Plant

CLEVELAND, Jan. 13 (ANS).—The Army took over the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. early today, 16 hours after the start of a wildcat strike. Strikers were ordered to return to work immediately or be discharged.

# Calm But Annoyed!



Calmly, 2nd Lt. Betty J. Davis, of Huntington, W. Va., empties scraps of glass from her shoe after her window was shattered by a German bomb that landed only 30 feet from the evacuation hospital where she is a nurse.

# Heavies Bomb Escape Bridges Across Rhine

Liberators and Fortresses pounded seven vital rail bridges spanning the Rhine in the opening phase of a new aerial offensive aimed at turning the great natural German defense system into a barrier which would seal off the Nazi armies west of the river, according to an Associated Press dispatch last night.

More than 900 Liberators and Fortresses, escorted by more than 400 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, ranged along a 100-mile stretch of the Rhine from Bingen to Karlsruhe. They blasted double and single track bridges at Rudsheim, Worms, Mannheim, Germersheim, Karlsruhe and two at Mainz.

They also smashed at railway yards at Bischoffsheim near Mainz and at Kaiserslautern, meeting no fighter opposition and little acknowledgment.

## Saarbrücken Hit

According to Reuter, every large rail bridge across the Rhine from Karlsruhe to Cologne, with a single exception, now has been subjected to bombing.

In the afternoon RAF Lancasters, accompanied by fighters made a concentrated raid on rail communications at Saarbrücken, Reuter reported.

Ninth Air Force Marauders and Havocs bombed three bridges on supply routes to the dwindling bulge. Invaders and Havocs bombed the bridge spanning the Our River at Steinbrück, approximately 15 miles south of St. Vith, on the Belgian-German border.

A small force of Marauders hit the Simmern rail bridge over the Simmer River 26 miles south of Coblenz. It was on the only open rail route from that city to the battle sector.

## Strike at Rail Targets

Ninth Air Force fighter-bombers flew 785 sorties. The 19th TAC covered the area northeast of Bastogne to Bitburg, hitting rail yards at Trier, Saarbrücken, Karlsruhe and Coblenz.

The fighter-bombers claimed the destruction of 158 railroad cars, 169 armored vehicles and tanks, seven gun positions, seven horse-drawn vehicles and 28 fortified buildings. Rail lines were cut in 40 places. Five fighter-bombers were reported missing.

The first TAF, in its 31st consecutive day of operations, cut railroads at 16 points in the Bitche battle area.

# Pfc's Heroism ...

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continued. "On the second day they really tried to finish us off. Bazooka rockets, AT grenades, flamethrowers and other stuff slammed into the concrete. It was good concrete, though.

Finally, 2/Lt. William B. Field, of Mineral Wells, Tex., the platoon leader, asked for volunteers to slip through the German lines and bring help. Ammo and food were about gone.

Pfleger, who argued that he alone should go, said the job was routine. His battalion commander, Lt. Col. John Mason, of West Los Angeles, said it was heroism.

In the darkness, Pfleger slipped out of the pillbox under Tommy-gun fire cover from S/Sgt. Jim Mullen, of Kansas City.

"I got through a soft spot, I guess," Pfleger said. "I had trouble though when I got to the 90th's lines. The Yanks thought I was a Jerry, and it took ten minutes of cussing to convince them I was all right."

Pfleger organized a combat patrol and went to the rescue of the pillbox platoon, but German reinforcements beat them back. An hour later, with more men, the pfc led another attack, and it also was repulsed. Finally, the battalion commander assigned a section of TDs and an 81mm mortar platoon to the pfc's command.

With a barrage of fire Pfleger pinned down the Germans in an alley to the pillbox, then went in himself with three satchels full of explosives. He gave the men inside the escape route, watched them all to safety, blew up the pillbox, and went back to the 90th's lines.

# Two GIs Jailed For 25 Years

Two 25-year sentences at hard labor were given enlisted men yesterday as courts-martial proceedings were continued against participants in train looting and black market deals.

Sgt. Frank C. Pozzi, of Chicago, testified that Army agents "threatened me with perjury" and that he had signed the confession to escape perjury charges.

Sgt. Walter G. Thorsell, of Portland, Ore., testified he had been "threatened with a rubber hose" but corroborated the charges.

## Life for Selling Gas

Pvt. Level Ealy has been sentenced to life imprisonment on charges of illicit sale of gasoline by a General Court Martial at HQ., Oise Section, Comm. Z. Two MPs and a convicted French black market operator testified that Pvt. Ealy had sold 20 gallons of Army gasoline. The sentence is subject to review.

# Russians ...

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direction, Konev's initial momentum carried him to Chmielnik, 19 miles south of Kielce, and to Wislica, 37 miles northeast of Cracow, on the Nida River.

Reuter said it was obvious Cracow was only the initial aim of Konev's staggering amount of men and material.

Reuter said German spokesmen are unsure whether the main attack is directed against Bratislava or in enlarging the Vistula bridgehead, 120 miles south of Warsaw, or whether the real attack is against East Prussia.

According to Reuter, a German commentator stated, "This morning fighting of great intensity flared up in East Prussia. After the Soviets Friday had carried out attacks between Suwalki and Goldap they went over to an offensive yesterday between Eydtkay and Schlossberg."

Meanwhile, AP dispatches said, Soviet street-fighters seized another 135 blocks of smashed buildings in Budapest.

In reports from Moscow, the AP said failure of the major counter-attacks northwest and west of Budapest apparently had killed the Germans last chance to relieve the Hungarian Nazi garrison in the Hungarian capital.

# Terry And the Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate

By Milton Caniff

