

# Most of Coblenz Cleared

## B29 Raid Razes Vast Kobe Area

GUAM, March 17 (ANS).—Twelve square miles of Kobe were left in flames or reduced to ashes today as more than 300 Superfortresses scorched that greatest of Japanese shipbuilding centers with 2,500 tons of incendiary bombs.

Fires were visible a hundred miles away after the destructive 21st Bomber Command assault, which was second only to the most recent B29 attack on Tokyo, where 17 square miles of the city were left ablaze.

### Follows Osaka and Nagoya

The Kobe assault was part of the Marianas-based bomber command's intensified fire-bomb offensive which in eight days has destroyed five square miles of industrial Osaka and two square miles in the heart of Nagoya, both of which are major Japanese homeland cities.

The combined 36-square-mile area of devastation in the four enemy cities is nearly equal to the combined total area of Albany, N.Y., with 19 square miles, and Jersey City, N.J., with 21 square miles. The blasted area would equal 65 percent of Pittsburgh's 55 square miles.

### Over Kobe For Two Hours

Col. W. H. Blanchard, 21st Bomber Command operations officer, brought back the estimate of damage to Kobe. He flew over Kobe for two hours while the raid was in progress, and reported that even as his observation B29 left the target several square miles already had been reduced to ashes. He said that the overall destruction touched about 75 percent of long, narrow Kobe's total area.

Of one million population, the city extends ten miles along the inland Japanese Sea and is one to three miles wide. Among targets left ablaze were the Mitsubishi plane plant and Kawasaki locomotive plant, both fired by direct hits, along with dock areas.

### MacArthur's Return Seen

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP).—The unofficial Army and Navy Journal predicted that Gen. Douglas MacArthur would come to Washington soon to present his views on future operations against Japan.

## U.S. Forces Drive Prongs Into Saarland



Nazis in Saarland catch blows from north, west and south.

## Antwerp Bares 2 Reich Areas V-Bomb Siege Warned By Ike

ANTWERP, March 17 (UP).—This city—Europe's greatest port—has been subjected to German V-bomb attack intended to wipe it out. Authorities permitted disclosure that the attack started in early October and was maintained until the end of January.

Because of security regulations, details of the assault could not be revealed, but it can be said that Antwerp felt hundreds of the V-bombs. Lord Haw Haw boasted over the German radio: "If we can't take Antwerp city without its port we will make it a port without a city."

British pioneer troops and civilian defense workers, including veterans of the London, Liverpool and Plymouth blitzes, came over to help. Many residents were evacuated as a result of incidents in the city and in surrounding communities, and by January Antwerp was the most blighted city in all Belgium.

Hundreds of houses were destroyed and thousands of others were made uninhabitable, but the vital port remained unaffected and unloading continued.

A warning from Gen. Eisenhower that German civilians and foreign workers in the Frankfurt-on-Main and Mannheim-Ludwigshafen areas soon would be subjected to "merciless bombardment" was read over BBC last night.

"You live in one of the key areas of German war industry," Eisenhower said. "For years factories and workshops, and your railways, roads and waterways have been supplying weapons of conquest. Now they merely delay military collapse."

"Therefore, to prevent further prolongation of a lost war, the whole armament industry of the areas of Frankfurt-on-Main and Mannheim-Ludwigshafen must be subjected to merciless bombardment."

These areas, the message stated, will become death traps. All foreign workers were instructed to take refuge in the countryside.

### Roosevelts Wed 40 Years

WASHINGTON, March 17 (ANS).—The President and Mrs. Roosevelt observed their 40th wedding anniversary today at the White House.

## Patton Driving Deeper Into Saar

American troops returned yesterday to Coblenz, the big German city at the junction of the Rhine and Mosel rivers where in 1923 Yanks of the Army of Occupation lowered the American flag and went home. Yesterday, however, Lt. Gen. Patton's Third Army forces didn't stand for much ceremony. After overcoming faltering resistance on the outskirts, the 87th Inf. Div. cleared nine-tenths of the city by yesterday evening.

## Bitche's Fall Settles Score For 100th Div.

By Howard Byrne  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH 100TH DIV., March 16 (Delayed).—Only one flag flew in Bitche today. It was the American flag over the CP of Easy Company of the 2nd Bn., 398th Regt., which Lt. Col. Harvey C. Weisel, of Allentown, Pa., battalion commander, said was the first unit to enter the town.

The fact that no French flags have been hung from windows yet is not interpreted as a sign of civilian frigidity. The people of Bitche have been bombed and shelled for 17 weeks and are still punchy.

The knockout punch which the 100th Div. landed on Bitche today settled a grudge of three months' standing. The fight for this eastern Alsatian citadel began early in December. For a week following Dec. 14, artillery of the Century Division pounded the Bitche forts. Although even 240mm. shells bounced off the four-foot-thick reinforced concrete forts, 11 of them were taken. The division was forced to take a defensive stand, however, as a result of the Ardennes attack, which caused a regroupment. Before giving the forts back to the Jerries, the Century engineers blew the tunnels.

The capture of Bitche today revealed that the Germans were unable to repair the damage to the powerful Maginot system.

The entry into Coblenz, which had a prewar population of 60,000 and which is known to Americans chiefly as a tourist center and former headquarters of the Inter-Ally Rhineland High Commission following World War I, highlighted a day of smashing offensive action by the Third Army.

### Plunge Through Forest

Maj. Gen. Hugh J. Gaffey's Fourth Armd. Div. raced to positions 25 to 30 miles south of the Mosel River yesterday in the forefront of the Third Army assault into the back of German armies which are battling to hold the Saar against Lt. Gen. Alexander M. Patch's Seventh Army offensive.

Tankers of Fourth Armd.'s Combat Command B, which broke out of the Mosel bridgehead Friday, and drove 15 miles south to Simmern, plunged on ten to 15 miles yesterday through the Soonwald Forest.

As they approached the main railway trunk line of the Saar and threatened to cut communications of the Rhine city of Bingen from the southwest, German rear echelon and administrative elements began to evacuate the Saar.

### Autobahn Grip Widened

On Lt. Gen. Hodges' First Army bridgehead over the Rhine, meanwhile, the 78th Division expanded its hold on the Cologne-Frankfurt autobahn to a width of 1,500 to 2,000 yards. Yanks were fighting house to house in Honningen, which was reported captured but not cleared Friday. They were hindered in their operations by extensive minefields, and the Associated Press said that this was the first time mines had been encountered across the Rhine.

American pilots over the Third Army area saw Nazi convoys stream-

(Continued on Page 8)

## A German Miss in Bridgehead Bomb Attack



A German bomb explodes harmlessly a short distance from the western approaches to the Ludendorff bridge over the Rhine at Remagen.

## 'Twas St. Paddy's Day in Paris

### Faith, and Where Was the Shamrock?

By David A. Gordon  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

'Twas St. Patrick's Day yesterday, and the reporter thought of the lilt of Irish laughter and the singing of the angels as he went out in search of the shamrock. The colleens were stepping gayly on the Champs-Elysees and the soldier lads were having some potheen in the sidewalk cafes.

The sun was feeling poorly, but the fountain at the Place de la Concorde gave a breath of Killarney's lakes. Down at the Avenue Matignon, the coachmen stood in a clump, and their nags waited patiently for the customers. There were no shillelaghs.

"Where are the Irish in Paris?" the reporter asked.

"Je ne sais pas, Monsieur," they shrugged. The reporter walked on, and 'tis true Nature had done herself proud, begorrah, to deck the grass

and trees and leaves in the true color, but not a wisp of a shamrock was there to be seen.

When he reached the Place de la Madeleine, with the grand church raising itself toward heaven, he almost did a Cork jig, because the flower stands were gay in splashes of what he imagined to be red and blue and yellow and orange. Bad cess to them, though, because they had no shamrocks, and this the Saint's day.

An MP, the poor spalpeen, showed his ignorance of the day when the reporter stopped him near Seine Base Headquarters. But the reporter climbed the stairs and, in one office, glory be, he found a pretty little colleen with a ribbon in her hair. He asked her, and she tossed her head and said, "This is a green ribbon I be wearin', for 'tis St. Paddy's day today!"

Then the lass told him the Wacs of Seine Section

(Continued on Page 8)



Stimson's the Boss

We read the statement by Brig. Gen. Hines that approximately 250,000 GIs would be released from the service monthly after the defeat of Germany. In a subsequent issue we find the general's statement wholly contradicted by Sec. of War Henry L. Stimson. How does it happen that there are two schools of thought on this all-important subject?

We, just a handful of the millions of Joes who are sweating out the trip home, find this news to be terribly disconcerting, and above all, certainly not a morale-builder.

We shouldn't be kept in the dark about our future. If these generals don't know what they are talking about, why not keep their views to themselves and out of print. After all, the Joes look to the men in command for their information, and we believe, we above all, should be given the straight dope.—Pvt. S. H. Johnson, 904th F.A. Bn.

Fruit—Handle With Care

Being an old produce man, there is an abuse that goes on that hurts me to the quick. This business of stocking fresh fruit, oranges, apples, etc. top side up. The belly takes the load and by the time the fruit gets to the kitchens the stuff has been mashed and squeezed till half the box is uneatable. It is not entirely the fault of the handlers, being unfamiliar with the handling of the stuff. They don't know or stop to think that it should be stacked on its side, which is firm. In that way the fruit is not damaged.—T/4 Harold Schmidt, T.D. Bn.

Honestly, It IS Simple

We're supposed to be paying premiums on our insurance. I pay on a \$10,000 policy. Most of us have our folks, who are fairly old, as first beneficiary.

If our first beneficiary dies, the second automatically gets the benefits. Did you know that the insurance pays only (and this is an actual case) \$52.80 a month (in this case) for 120 months, or \$6,336!

This is a \$3,664 swindle on a soldier who thought he paid on a \$10,000 policy.

How come such business?—S/Sgt. Inf.

(This has been corrected. A recent amendment to the National Service Life Insurance Act, known as Refund Life Income settlement, enables you to avoid the situation you describe.

The chief change is in the payments under policies where the beneficiary is over thirty years of age. Under the old plan in such cases the first beneficiary received payments, based on the beneficiary's age, for life. If the first beneficiary died before receiving a total of 120 payments the second beneficiary received payments at the same rate until a total of 120 payments had been received. This total might be less than the face value of the policy.

Under the new plan the first beneficiary, if over thirty, will still receive payments for life, although at a slightly reduced rate. If the first beneficiary dies before having received payments amounting to the face value of the policy, the second beneficiary will receive payments until a total equal to the face value of the policy has been paid.

To come within this new plan you must make your request in writing. Even if you do not choose to do so, the first beneficiary may, upon your death, elect to receive payments under this plan.

Suggest you speak to your insurance officer concerning the practicability of making a change at this time.—Ed.)

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Hash Marks

Quip of the week (By T/5 Art Hamilton). "Will the first Russian, to contact the Yanks in Germany say, 'Joe sent me.'"

Daffynition. Bare living: A striptease artist's performance.

We like the comment attributed to Ambrose Bierce: "Here's to woman. Would that we could fall into her arms without falling into her hands."

How to deal with Hitler? (From Kup's Column, by Irv Kuppinet). Asked what he would do with Hitler, Author Sinclair Lewis quipped, "My proposal would be this: Send Hitler to Hollywood and force him to play the lead role in the life of Charlie Chaplin!"

Overheard at sick call (By Cpl. Jack Garber). After examining so many GI wolves, a certain medical officer murmured that he felt like a veterinarian.

Silly Story. After all, the Constitution grants every guy the right



to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, said the Joe as he chased a blonde around the block.

This week's fable (or alibi of the week). Called into his CO's office, the driver of a gasoline truck was asked, "It seems as though you are 8,000 gallons short this month. Can you account for it?" After a slight pause, the Pfc driver replied, "Well, sir, it must be the guys with those cigarette lighters."

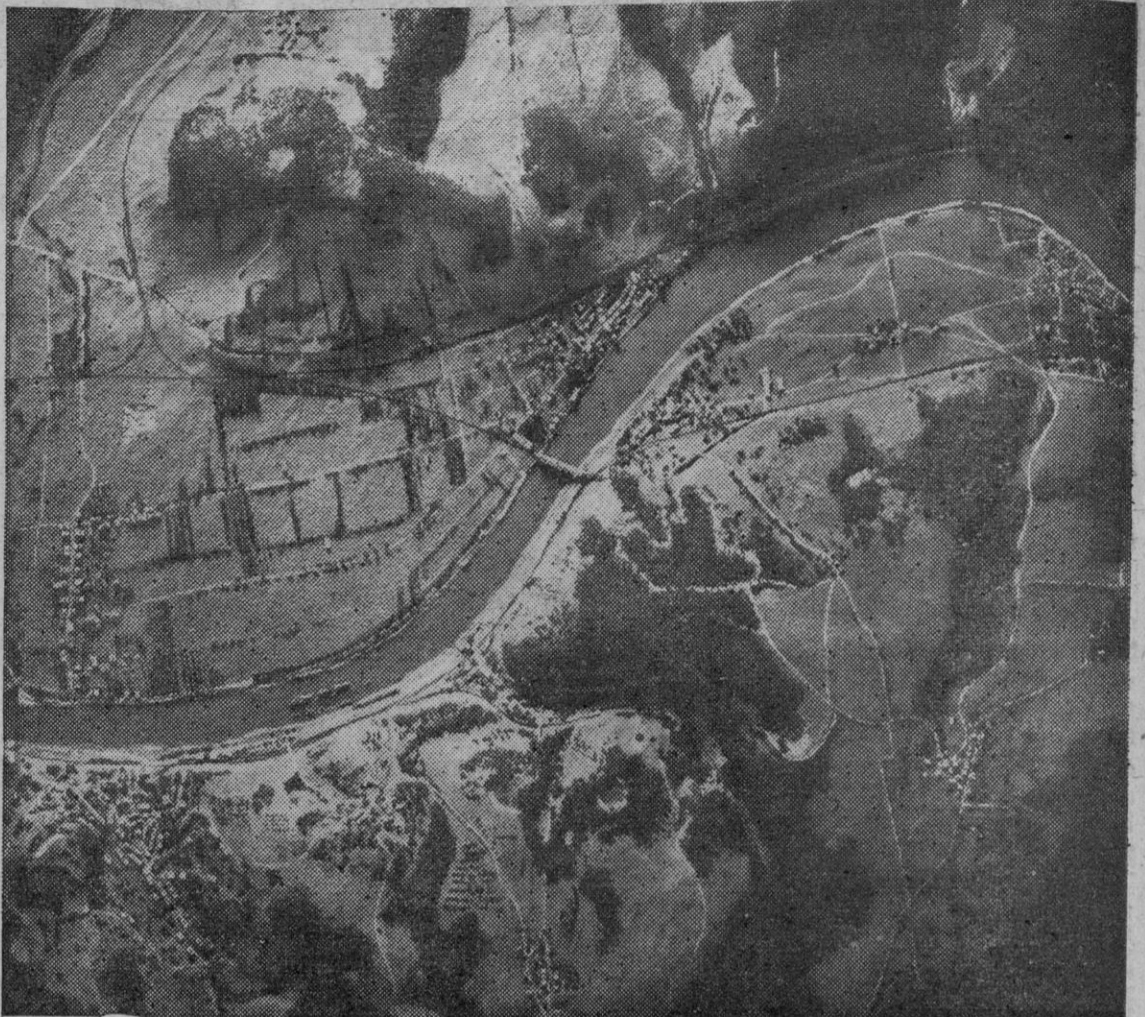
And here's another unsigned verse left in our typewriter.

Say it with flowers,  
Say it with sweets,  
Say it with kisses,  
Say it with eats,  
Say it with jewelry,  
Say it with mink,  
But never, oh never, say it with ink!

Afterthought. Generally speaking, there are now four kinds of wolves. Soldiers, sailors, marines and civilians.

J. C. W.

Model Plan for First Army's Model Crossing of Rhine Against Model



Ninth AF Photo

A vertical view of the Remagen bridgehead area, photographed from a sand table model prepared by Ninth Air Force reconnaissance experts. Photos of the model were given to the First Army by the 67th TAC Recon Gp the day U.S. troops crossed the Ludendorff bridge (right center). The area at lower right constituted the original bridgehead expanse. The model was prepared under the direction of Col. George W. Peck, Detroit.

Engineers Rebuilding Manila

By Frank Robertson International News Service Correspondent

MANILA, March 17. — Reconstruction of Manila to the point where it may be used as a military base and re-establishment of communication and transportation on Luzon is the mammoth engineering task being tackled by General MacArthur's engineers.

In command of the engineers is Maj. Gen. Hugh J. (Pat) Casey,

who was MacArthur's chief engineer in the Philippines in 1941.

Today he has the task of restoring bridges and other installations which he built before the war and destroyed when the Japanese invaded Luzon.

Assisting Casey is Maj. Gen. Leif Sverdrup, who was promoted recently after only eight months in grade as brigadier general.

Restoring water supply to Manila was not a great problem. The dam at Novaliches, with its 12 billion gallons of water, was seized by Seventh Cavalry troopers 15 minutes before 15 tons of Jap dynamite was timed to wreck it. The pipeline has been restored by Casey's engineers. The city's sewerage system is in good shape.

Engineers are working day and night to re-establish port facilities on the north side of the Pasig River. Five of the seven existing piers are easily repairable. Damage to the south harbor facilities is greater.

Manila, with most of its big buildings, industrial installations and fashionable residential districts flattened or burned out, is a building contractor's dreamland, but it will be a long time before the work of restoring civilian Manila can be started.

Casey's plans call for the construction of assembly shops for vehicles and landing craft, and the construction of fighter planes. Adequate simple shelter must be provided for the thousands of Manila residents who have lost their homes, but there can be no attempt to rebuild comfortable houses for many months.

Many here estimate it will be five years before Manila is completely rebuilt.

In Lingayen Gulf, where there is not a single dock, engineers are unloading 25,000 ship tons of supplies and equipment a day, a performance equalled by few well equipped ports in the world.

Casey and his engineers are racing against time. In May the wet season starts, and with the rains the excellent airfields now in use will disappear under water. By May, all-weather fields will have to be completed at the Clark air center, dozens of temporary bridges will have to be replaced by permanent structures, many miles of road will have to be built up and resurfaced.

To anyone knowing anything of the magnificent achievements of the engineers in the southwest Pacific, the result of the race is a foregone conclusion.

Up Front With Mauldin



"Didn't we meet at Cassino?"

Births

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

SHIPFITTER 1/c John W. Lane, Jamaica, N.Y.—Robert Maurice, Feb. 24; Pfc. George Nemzer, Brooklyn—girl, March 10; Cpl. Amos P. Rickard, Florence, Ala.—Irish Diana, March 3; Lt. Millard G. Durham, Mulberry, Ind.—Millard Glenn, March 15; M/Sgt. Charlie L. McKinley, Sontorce, Puerto Rico—Errol Dwight, March 2; Cpl. Oscar F. Willie, Battle Creek, Mich.—girl, Feb. 15.

L. T. Richard J. Frendergast, Chicago—boy, Feb. 21; Capt. Francis B. McAllister, Jefferson City, Mo.—Mary Tenara, Feb. 7; S/Sgt. Wayne Bodine, St. Paul, Minn.—boy, Feb. 28; Lt. Halsey A. Van Orman, Glens Falls, N.Y.—Roger Allen, Dec. 11; Lt. John Eldredge, Salt Lake City—boy, yesterday.

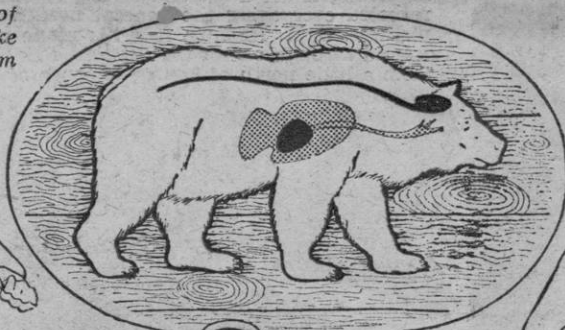
PVT. Samuel Elkes, New York—boy, March 13; Pvt. Seymour Bateman, Newark—Gloria Lee, Feb. 26; Sgt. James Owen Berger, Bloomfield, N.J.—Jay Owen, March 2; Pfc. Henry J. Repard, Bellmore, L.I.—girl, March 11; Capt. Harry F. Schellenburg, Dubois, Pa.—boy, March 4.

AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK

Also AEF (583 Kc — 514 M.)

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

Hunters learn vital areas of animals from sketches like one of bear reproduced from an outdoor magazine.



Black areas indicate spots where bullet causes immediate death. Wounds in shaded spaces are fatal—but not instantaneous.



1) Placing rifle shot correctly is the difference between a thrown or a dropped grenade.



2) In under the shoulder or through the head is about all you can do here.



3) Old time gun-fighters said "shoot 'em in the middle where they're biggest."

## Colonel Hinds' School for Snipers

IT was the Kraut who got it in the end!

When Col. Sidney Hinds, commanding officer of the 41st Armored Inf. Regt., sidled his "sniper gun" out of the peep, took a beautiful Kentucky windage on an estimated 900-yard range and permanently ruined the crawling Jerry's rear echelon.

This sort of stuff is everyday business for Sniper Hinds, who, despite his manifold responsibilities as CO, always manages to find a little time for "possibles" on Heinie targets. It is his first love.

Back in the States at Fort Benning some years ago, the infantry brass didn't have to look far for the officer to supervise the extra-special "sniper training" course for embryo Dan'l Boones.

Col. Hinds, who had spent the greater part of his life up to that time sniping away at all existing rifle records—and hitting them—was the ideal choice.

His methods were tried, found okay—and when the 41st Regt. planted both feet on Adolf's aching back in Tunisia in 1942—sniper training became a regular part of the outfit's extra-curricular training.

The ideal sniper is a combination of eagle-eyes, Job-like patience, Indian quiet, Solomon-wise judgment and rabbit-jumping agility. In addition to all this he is a damn good soldier.

"A sniper is a super-rifleman," Col. Hinds explained. "And his function is comparatively simple. Equipped with an 03 and telescopic sights, his mission is to destroy specific targets. These targets are enemy officers and non-coms as well as counter-sniping against Jerry 'pot-shooters.'"

"As an added attraction," the colonel said, "he is sometimes sent around the flanks to pick off Jerry MG nests which are causing trouble."

"During the recent fighting in Belgium," Col. Hinds related, "we had reports that 'sympathizers' were tampering with our telephone wires. We notified the higher officials that we were going to post snipers and that touching the lines would be a 'kiss of death.' The next day, a devotee of the 'better life' came along with wire cutters. He lifted one of the wires. A shot split the slight ground haze. There was no more wire tampering in that sector."

There are six snipers to an aver-

Col. Sidney Hinds is a graduate of West Point who has been in overseas combat with the Second Armored since Tunisia. He won the all-around national championship at Camp Perry in 1926, firing all weapons except the shotgun. He fired 13 matches with 11 different rifles, including the standard 03, a heavy-barreled rifle with iron sights, a heavy-barreled rifle with telescopic sights, a 22 cal. with both iron and telescopic sights, a 38 cal. revolver and a 45 cal. pistol, also a 22 cal. pistol. He presently holds the Pan-American Individual championship won at Lima, Peru, with an 03 rifle firing over a 300-meter course, 150 shots slow fire. In 1924 he fired with the U.S. International Olympic team, also the Dewar and Pan-American match teams. In 1928 he fired with the International team at The Hague, in Holland, and, in 1930, coached the U.S. national world-championship team at Antwerp.

age rifle company. They are selected on the basis of the best shots in the company and then given an added five weeks of training. In addition to that, selected officers and non-coms of the regiment are also given sniper training.

"The first phase of the training," explained Col. Hinds, "consists of shooting at known distances using the telescopic sight. After the first familiarization firing, the second—and most important phase—gets under way. The men learn to estimate ranges to hair-like accuracy."

"During this phase," Col. Hinds went on, "the sniper estimates and estimates and estimates until he feels like a building contractor. He must have a good picture of the bullet's trajectory and memorize the height of the trajectory at each range up to 900 yards. By doing this the would-be sniper knows the amount he has to hold above or below the target at various ranges," the colonel said.

After a few weeks of field training the sniper trainee can hit a man at 600 yards with the first shot.

But his training is only beginning. He must learn—and he does—the value of patience.

During his field training, he

sometimes sits up in a tree for periods ranging from a half-hour to four hours, just sweating out a moving target. He never knows when the silhouette or any part of it will pop up. But he's got to be ready for it when it does. A few weeks of this and "waiting" becomes second nature. It pays off, too.

The last phase of the sniper training is specialized cover and concealment.

Before he can get his diploma, the sniper must be able to move into a firing position unseen. To accomplish this, he spends about a week crawling through bushes and woods and hedgerows and rubble.

Although he is completely camouflaged, he has to watch his derriere. Other snipers are posted around the neighborhood and they have instructions to shoot—with live ammunition. All in fun though.

"Another and just as important point in the sniper training," said Col. Hinds, "is for the sniper to be able to get back to his own positions and to move around to another position without being seen by Jerry."

The last few days at the school are used for dawn and dusk sniper training. The sniper learns to adjust himself to the dawn ground haze and other hazards of the early morn as well as putting his cat-eyes in working order for the dusky evening, when he may have to go out and "do a job."

For his graduation present the sniper is given full possession of his special 03 and the telescopic sight.

"And," remarked Col. Hinds, "he sleeps with that rifle. He takes care of it like a bottle of cognac in the middle of the Reich."

After the colonel left the area, Lt. William Woodbury, who acts as the company sniper gunsmith—just for the love of it—popped up with a good yarn.

"I remember back in Sicily," he recalled, "when we were held up near Palermo by an 88."

"While the infantry went around to clean it up, Col. Hinds took a couple of shots at the emplacement—just to see what would happen."

"The 88 stopped firing."

When the infantry took the position, they found two very dead Krauts and two more in a very friendly mood.

"He's that kind of a guy," the lieutenant said.

## How to Kill Foe With First Shot

By Joe Weston  
Warweek Staff Writer

WITH THE 41ST ARMORED INFANTRY REGT. OF THE SECOND ARMORED DIV.—The woods near Samree, Belgium, stank of dead Krauts as a rifle squad of Easy Company prowled through the wilderness looking for fresh meat.

Before long the squad ran across fifteen Jerries with pronounced anti-American tendencies, but with a fair amount of discretion nevertheless. The Hitler heilers took off through the trees.

Easy Company opened up—standing and blazing away with their M1s. The whole trouble was that they didn't hit much except trees.

The squad leader, who had been around the front lines for quite a while and had learned long ago that an M1 properly used was a one man army, took a kneeling position. He sighted—and squeezed off three beauties.

The twelve remaining Krauts stopped running and became very good "democrats."

The wild shooting came from the new men who had just come into the outfit the night before. It came from men who thought the non-coms and officers who drilled position and sighting and squeeze into them ever since they passed through the induction center were only kidding.

The straight "on the target" firing of the squad leader came from a soldier who had confidence in his weapon. He knew what his M1 could do—and what it could not do.

### Know Your M1

What Easy Company's squad leader knew and practiced, and what the new men would learn later, Col. Sidney Hinds, Commanding Officer of the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment and a combat-wise veteran of three campaigns also knows—and practices—and preaches—and teaches. For the good colonel, whose background as a rifle authority includes the all-around shooting championship of the United States some years ago, a job coaching the American team which won the championship of the world at The Hague in 1930—and a roomful of shooting trophies for various other activities, is sold on the M1 rifle and equally sold on the WELL-TRAINED American rifleman.

"This is essentially a rifleman's war," the colonel said. "Although other services such as the tanks, the artillery and the air, all help the 'doggie' take an objective. But once the point is taken it is up

to the infantryman to hold it. His principal means of holding the objective is by accurate, well-directed volume of small-arms fire.

"The bulk of the infantry is armed with the M1—the best basic infantry weapon of any army in the world," Col. Hinds continued, "and with that he can lay down an accurate, unequalled fire power at individual enemy infantrymen. When a 'doggie' picks a Kraut in his sights, he gets him—if he knows his M1 and how to use it."

### 'A Rifleman's War'

From his own combat experiences as well as those men in his outfit who owe their lives to proper understanding and mastery of the M1, Col. Hinds developed a rifle training program which is now in effect in the regiment—and which has made the 41st Armored Infantry as "crack-shot" an outfit as there is in the Army. The program is a combat enlargement of an original plan developed by Col. Hinds at Fort Benning, Ga., carried over to Tidworth, United Kingdom—now to France, Belgium and the Reich.

"The purpose of the whole rifle program is simple," the colonel explained. "We want every rifleman to have enough confidence in his M1 to be fully aware that with it—used correctly—he can hold off any reasonable number of Jerries coming his way."

"The best way to do this is a combination of three things. He must learn to shoot on a target range—not on the front lines. He must understand that the basic fundamentals—position—squeezing and aiming—are just as effective on the front lines as they are on the range at Ft. Benning. The 'bolo' there is the casualty here."

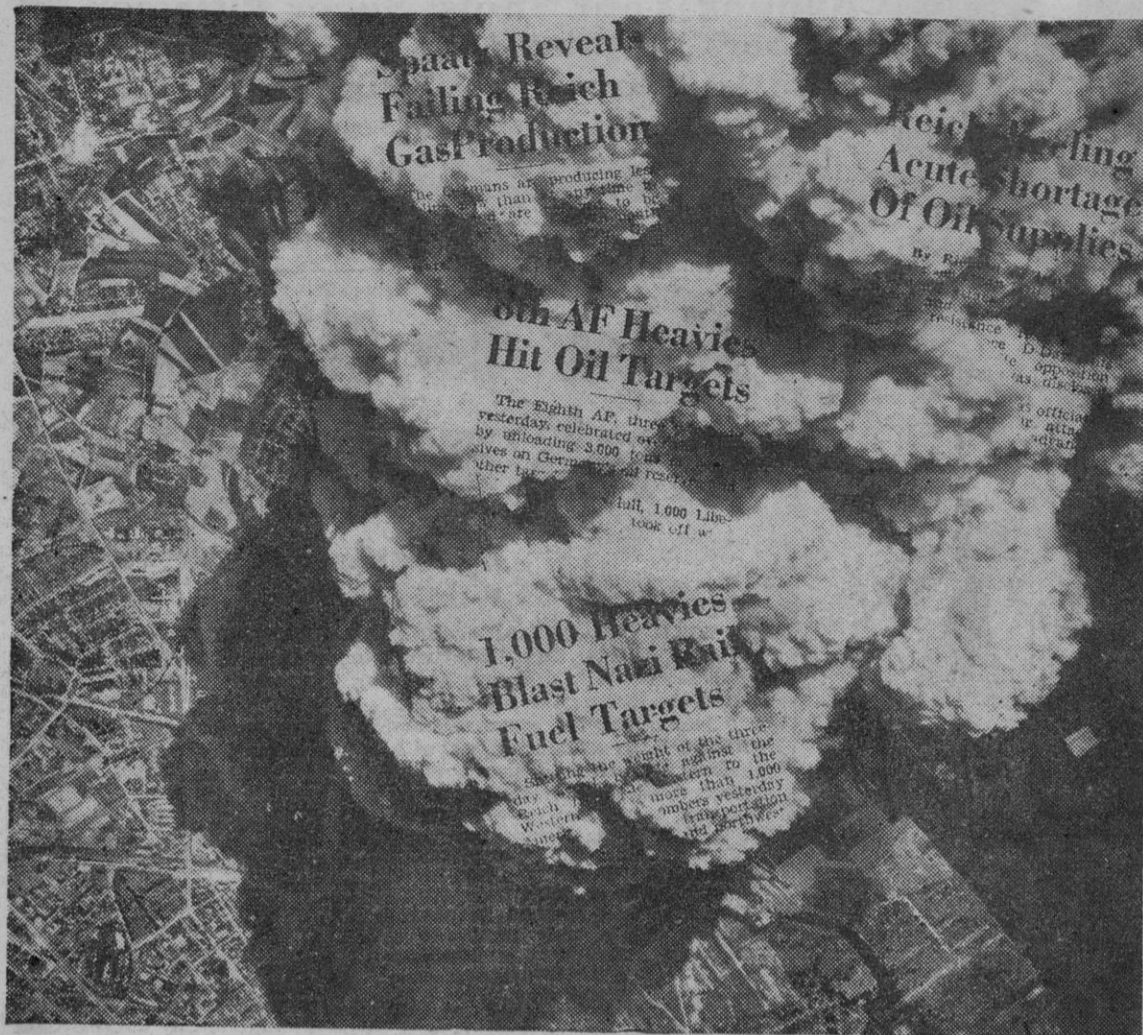
"The next thing is to develop confidence in the weapon by showing the soldier both the capabilities of the weapon and the limitations. Although the M1 is the finest rifle designed for the pur-

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SNIPER'S pet is 'scope-mounted '03—World's finest precision rifle. For a soldier who knows where to put 'em, it's a 'sure killer.'

U.S. Army Signal Corps.



Fifteenth Air Force Photo

# No Rifle Could Reach 'Em

By Simon Bourgin  
Warweek Staff Writer

The great air battles fought over German oil installations since last April were paying off last week on the Rhine's east bank and the approaches to Berlin. The Reich is desperately short of oil, and the lack of fuel and lubricants is being set down as one of the big reasons the German Army is not counter-attacking in force. The battered state of its communications is believed to be the other reason. Both derive from the air onslaught on the Reich.

Under the squeeze for gas the number of motor transport in German mechanized outfits has been steadily cut down, and horse-drawn units increased. Von Rundstedt's panzers were rationed to 160 miles, and gambled on reaching American gas stores to continue the attack.

With little gas for training, the Luftwaffe has had to send its pilots into battle untrained. No other factor could account for the Luftwaffe losses in the December aerial battles: six-to-fifteen German pilots were shot down for every American lost. For lack of fuel, thousands of retreating Germans were immobilized in the Battle of France, and much valuable equipment was abandoned. For lack of fuel a large part of the Reich's U-boat fleet has not been able to leave its ports.

The struggle to save the oil plants is a life-and-death battle for the Nazis, and they are losing. Despite the most elaborate measures for defense and repair, the plants are turning out less than 25 percent of what they formerly produced. The Allied air offensive and Russia's advances account for the difference.

The lack of fuel in Germany is so acute that some army units get gasoline only for actual combat. Others on their way to the front are rationed from one control point to another. Everywhere in the Reich gasoline is ladled out like water in the Sahara—which is what the Allied air staffs planned.

In April of 1944 there were 81 active oil installations in Greater Germany—23 synthetic oil plants and 58 oil refineries. By mid-February all the refineries were out of action and the synthetic plants reduced to four.

Only 45 of the original 81 installations are still in German hands, the Russians having taken over the oil business in Roumania, Poland and eastern Germany. The output of German oil has been cut from around 1,250,000 tons monthly, pro-

duced last spring, to the current production of under 300,000 tons. This is far less than the Wehrmacht, the Luftwaffe and the U-boats require to satisfy even their most essential commitments.

To reduce the Reich's fuel output by more than three-fourths, Allied bombers dropped more than 100,000 tons of bombs on the oil targets, attacking them more than 450 times in all.

The U.S. Eighth Air Force threw its full strength from England at the synthetic industry built up on the brown coal of southeastern Germany, and the refineries in the ports of Hamburg and Bremen. The U.S. Fifteenth Air Force, based in Italy, struck across the Balkans at the great Ploesti refineries in Roumania and others in Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The R.A.F., usually attacking at night, hit the synthetic plants feeding on the hard coal of the Ruhr.

The history of these attacks would be different if the plants remained bombed when they are hit. They do not. They are repaired quickly, and it is necessary for the bombers to return again and again to keep the plants out of commission.

An oil refinery is a complicated industrial mechanism. Boiler houses, power plants and storage yards are spread out over many acres. When a thousand heavy bombers strike at such an aggregation of machinery, it takes a great deal of work to make it function again.

Labor battalions are kept available for just this purpose, and march in before the smoke has cleared to begin the night-and-day repair task. The enthusiasm of these workers, and of the technicians who work in the plants, has not been increased by the policing habits of Allied bombers. After months of trying to keep pace with destruction from the air, these men have tended to view the oil situation as hopeless.

So seriously has morale fallen around the oil plants that the Reichsminister of War Production recently found it necessary to reassure other Reich bigwigs upon the matter. Just because the enemy destroyed the plants as soon as they resumed work didn't mean it was pointless to rebuild them. On the contrary, his telegram, later captured, read, "the successful prosecution of the war" depended upon oil reconstruction.

The High Command's policy, backing this up, is: Everything for oil. Oil repair has a claim on manpower and materials, even over aircraft production and U-boat building. Most of the 66,000 anti-aircraft guns in the Reich are around the oil plants, one installation alone having more guns for its defense than all of greater Berlin.

But all of these measures combined have not stopped the bombers—or checked their rate of destruction. The thin trickle of oil and gasoline that still comes from the plants is largely the result of the tremendous efforts put forth by German repair workers. And so far Allied bombers have shown they can destroy the oil factories faster than the labor battalions can rebuild them.

Oil has been the number one target of the Allied strategic bomber forces for a good reason. No other industry touches the German war effort at so many places—not even the vital ball-bearing industry or the vast rail network supplying the German armies.

Germany is fighting the greatest oil-producing nations in the world. And before the war it produced less oil than any large nation in Europe. The skeptics said Germany would fold up in six months for want of fuel and lubricants.

Hitler's ace in the hole was a carefully-hoarded reserve of 6,000,000 tons. Then, with characteristic ingenuity, German scientists developed two new processes for turning the Reich's ample coal reserves into fuel oil and gasoline. Two dozen large synthetic plants were erected. The Roumanian fields, the best in western Europe, were put to work for the Reich and by good luck, impressive crude deposits were discovered in Austria and Hungary, where none had been before.

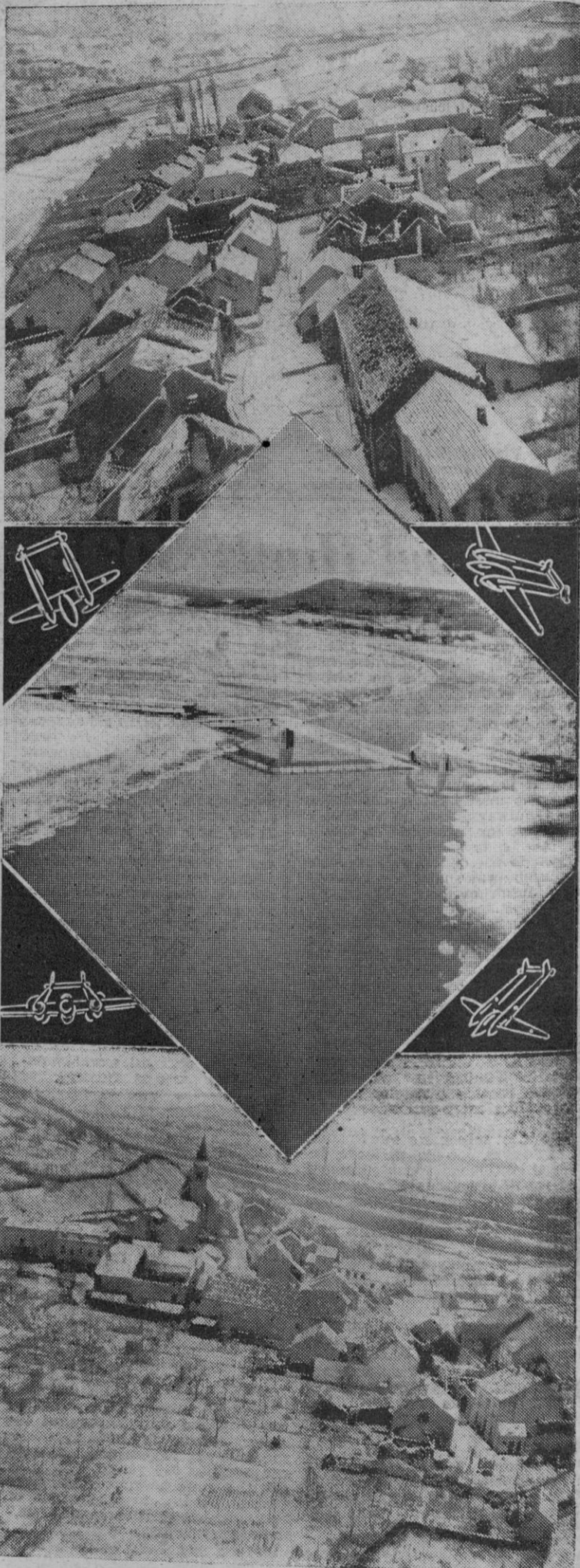
From all this Hitler was getting around 1,225,000 tons monthly when the April, 1944, attacks began.

(Continued on Page 6)

## Photo Recon Mission!

HEADQUARTERS, NINTH AIR FORCE, FRANCE.—How the Ninth Air Force obtained for Lt. Gen. George S. Patton a detailed account of what the Germans were doing along the Saar River is shown in these photographs, from a series taken by Capt. Robert J. Holbury, of Sylvan Lake, Mich.

Holbury, a group assistant operation officer, flew his P38 Lightning under a 600-foot ceiling to bring back 212 pictures which revealed everything the general needed to know. To obtain these pictures, Capt. Holbury flew his plane as low as 25 feet from the ground through one of the heaviest flak routes in western Germany; from a little north of Merzig to south of Trier.



Ninth Air Force Photos

PAVING the way for assault infantry is the air recon pilot's job. Metert, German-held when this pic was taken, lies wide open. Merzig bridge (middle) was wrecked by Krauts, meaning engineers would be needed. Hamlet near Wasserbillig (bottom) reveals no signs of enemy defenses. Note factories in background.

BDIC

# They Come from All Over!

When 'Home' Is a Foxhole It's Like New York City—Everybody in the Squad Comes from Somewhere Else

By Ralph Harwood  
Warweek Staff Writer

THE men of the squad sprawled leg-weary and wet on the floor of the barn they'd taken over for the night. At least, they hoped it was for the night. The straw was dry in the barn, and outside rain was making an icy mush of inches of snow. You never could tell, though. The three-five-nine was pushing hard.

Three times in 24 hours the company had been ordered to move up, and there had been talk of another night attack. If it came off, you could have one guess as to what platoon of what company of what battalion would wind up spear-heading the goddam thing, the men said.

Already, a couple of doughboys slept. The others took it easy, talking quietly, laughing a little now and then. Mostly they talked about Steffenhausen and the grimly funny incidents of fights before that.

Steffenhausen made particularly good talk because it had only happened the day before and hadn't yet got screwed up with the details of other days' fights. Then, too, who had ever heard of going into an attack by tobogganing on his pratt down a steep, icy hill?

## Surprise for the Kraut

The village had been pocketed by wooded hills, and all roads leading in were well covered by enemy MGs, mortar and medium guns. K Company had caught the Kraut flatfooted, however, by flanking and working quietly before dawn down a firebreak that ran from the top of one of the highest knobs to the floor of the valley.

It had been anything but easy in the deep snow. When a man wasn't sweating out his next step in the treacherous going, he was sweating out the discovery of the whole outfit by the Heinies below. And then had come the crucial moment near the bottom, where the hill fell away sharply and there was no longer any footing. So they had made the last 50 yards or so of the descent hell-bent, à la fanny. The surprise had worked beautifully. Before the enemy could come to and swing more than a couple of his burps around, he was swarmed under.

Now the men of the squad were kidding one Joe about his aching back. Part way down the firebreak, he had been hit from the rear by a runaway piece of bridging material that had gotten loose farther back. The blow had sent him flying as if from a catapult. His pack had saved him. A few inches either way and he would have been killed for sure, and might have been anyway. Only he wasn't, so everybody had a laugh over his close call. He laughed about it, too.

## Variety is Typical Today

"I suppose," mused T/Sgt. George A. Bruno, of Iron Mountain, Mich., acting leader of the third platoon of K Company, 359th Inf., "that you might say these men are a typical infantry squad. They click together. They deliver the goods. Of course, if you're looking for all oldtimers, then that's another matter. I don't think you could find them in this outfit. The 90th Div. has seen a little too much of the shooting for that."

"Length of combat time is only the beginning of the variety you'll find in the average platoon or squad today," the tech sergeant added. "Most of us are dyed-in-the-wool doughboys, for example, and never have been anything else. Mixed in now, though, and we're seeing more and more of them, are fellows like Trainor and Mullian and Wheeler, who are converted infantrymen from other branches of the Army. They're working out swell. The conversion idea is OK for my money."



Illustration by John R. Fischetti.

"Speaking of differences," agreed S/Sgt. Dan W. Barnhart, the platoon guide who used to be a job painter in Palestine, Tex., before the war, "there are probably as many different kinds of jobs and as many different places in the States represented here as there are men present. These guys are just a small cross-section of Americans, any way you look at it. Maybe that's the reason they work so well together. I don't know. What do you think, Paul?"

## Soldiers Share one Desire

S/Sgt. Paul E. Spangler, of Harrisonville, Mo., 22-year-old squad leader, thought for a moment before answering. A veteran who joined the 90th Div. June 14, at the height of the attack on Gurbesville, he had missed out on the Tough Ombre's sweep eastward last summer, when he got hit shortly before the St. Lo breakthrough. Evacuated to England, he recovered completely and caught up with the outfit November 12 clear at the opposite side of France, just over the Moselle.

"One thing everybody shares alike," Spangler finally said, "is the desire to get the Germans licked completely, get the war over with as soon as possible and get the hell home where they belong. That desire cuts right across everything else. It is interesting, though, when you stop to think how different as individuals the soldiers in an outfit can be, and yet how perfectly they can work together as a fighting unit. I'm pretty sure, for instance, the squad leader grinned, "that I'm the only ex-milkman in this bunch."

He was right. There were no other milkmen.

Sgt. Frank L. Williams, 23-year-old assistant squad leader from Springfield, Mo., had been an independent paint contractor before going into the Army. He, too, came to the 90th Div. in back of the Normandy beaches and learned to duck 88s in the hedge country. He was in on the division's fierce struggle through the early part of July at Hill 122 and on south,

and took the long jaunt east to Mayenne and Le Mans the following month.

He'll never forget the race north when the TO boys got to draw the string on the Falaise pocket at Chambois. After that came the cross-country pursuit to Rheims and the early September business around Thionville. On September 18, however, Lady Luck looked the other way for a moment, and he was hit at Gravelotte as the 90th tested the outer defenses of the fortress of Metz. Not until January 20 was he allowed to return to the outfit and take over the tough tail spot in his squad.

The squad boasts one D-DAY man who's just as hot with a BAR now as he ever was with a welding torch for Wheeling Steel, back in West Virginia. The name is Pfc Stephen Hartfile, and his friends insist it would be squad leader Hartfile, except for the time he's lost with wounds. He got hit first at Hill 122, and again at Kerling across the Moselle on November 15. In the latter deal, he was captured to boot, but got away during the American shelling of the place. He knows plenty about how the Kraut operates.

Pvt. Calvin C. Cox, 20-year-old rifleman from Cincinnati, O., joined forces with the 90th Div. June 14 also. As a civilian, he was an electric welder. He, too, was wounded at Gravelotte on September 16, but did not have to be evacuated.

Rifleman Keith W. Baird, a native of Powell, Wyoming, came to the 90th October 1, in the early stages of the Metz siege. A former student at the University of Nebraska, he worked as a reporter on the Billings (Mont.) Gazette back in the days when it was Mr. Baird instead of Pfc. Baird.

## Converted Doughs Work in

First among the squad's several converted infantrymen is S/Sgt. Gabriel C. Mullian, of Grand Rapids, Mich. who arrived in France on D-1 with a field artillery battalion attached to another infantry division. As a civilian he was a super-

visor for a chain dry-cleaning concern.

Since December 24, when Mullian joined the 90th at Besseringen, on the Saar River, after receiving infantry basic in France, he has been working as an acting assistant squad leader. After shadowing the older leaders for awhile, he'll be ready to take over a squad of his own.

## No Time for Worry

Another former artilleryman who now doubles on the M-1 and the bazooka in the squad is Pfc. Edwin W. Wheeler, of Harrodsburg, Ky. Before the war, Wheeler, who is 20 years old, was a farmer. He came to France last July in a 105 battery, but the growing need for infantrymen changed things. He was given training in France and assigned to the 90th Division, and subsequently to the 359th Infantry, just a few days before Christmas.

The third converted infantryman in the squad used to be a mortar repair man in CWS. Before that he was a machinist in a shipyard in Philadelphia. His name is Pvt. Thomas J. Quinn, age 21, and although he didn't join the outfit until January 24, it's already clear that he's a natural as a ground fighter. In his first scrap at Steffenhausen he served as a scout, and, according to Bruno, he did all right.

It was just 16 days from a port of embarkation in the States to a place in Luxembourg called Oberwampach and a spot in the line with the 359th Infantry for rifleman Pvt. John V. Frye, of Springfield, Mo., a sheet metal worker before he put on the O. D. He caught a fleeting glimpse of England and France after a swift crossing of the Atlantic, and, on January 24, was learning the names and faces of the men of the squad. Less than one week later he had taken part in the action at Steffenhausen—it was all just as fast as that.

"I got to know the guys pretty well in a couple of days," said Frye, "and I had made up my mind to

watch and listen and try to follow the actions of the older men. It helped plenty."

Frank Williams, the assistant squad leader, nodded his head. "I've noticed that confidence comes to new men from having guys they know and trust on their flanks," he said. "A fire fight is a poor place for strangers to try to work together."

Paul Spangler put in a word about new men in the squad from the standpoint of the unit leader. "Often," he remarked, "all you've got to have is a little patience. If a man has a tendency to hang back a little at first, sometimes you can move him back a bit. It helps him to see more men in front of him. Nine times out of ten he'll get going all right after he gets to shooting."

## Little Angles—But Important

"Incidentally," the platoon guide, Dan Barnhart, broke in, "when you mention shooting you're talking about one of the most important things for older men to drill into new ones. It's hard to get them to throw back fire sometimes when they're pinned down by enemy machine-guns. Everybody has a more or less natural tendency to freeze up in that situation. Throwing back fire is the best possible way of building confidence, I think, and it kills Germans, too. Then, also," he added, "there are things like keeping dispersed and not congregating around prisoners and always keeping on the move that should be passed on to new men."

"You're absolutely right, Dan," agreed Steve Hartfile. "There are a lot of very important little angles to this business that can be told to others, things that can help to keep them alive—and us. But I still insist that men have got to be led. You can't just tell them what to do and let it go at that. If the men can see their leaders up ahead of them, that truly gives them the courage to move forward."

Platoon leader George Bruno picked it up from there. "Both of you fellows are right," he said. "In squad leadership it's a combination of telling the men what to do and how to do it, and then setting them the example."

## They Deliver the Goods

"Of course," he continued, "before it ever comes to that a lot can be done to assure the success of a bunch like this. If necessary, we re-make whole squads to get the best possible proportion of experienced men and new men. And that doesn't mean that we jerk fellows around at will, without their having any say in the matter. Wherever possible, and it usually is possible, when a man wants to transfer to another squad to be with a buddy, or because of personal differences in his old squad, his request is granted."

"Yeah," Bruno concluded, glancing about in the half-light at the figures here and there in the straw, "I think you could say these guys are a typical squad, all right. They click together. They deliver the goods. And right now there isn't a one of them that's half as concerned about his next brush with the Kraut as he is over whether we get to spend the rest of tonight inside here in the dry. They're typical doughboys, all right."

# The 'Rabbit-Punch Attack' Trick

## Krauts Looked Wrong Way One Time Too Often

By Michael Seaman  
Warweek Staff Writer

INSIDE GERMANY, with the 90th Infantry Division.—The unteroffizier, senior noncom of Kampfgruppe Keitel, was well pleased with himself. The German radio had just announced that the Reich would withstand its test of fire and blood. Also, he had been promised another pip for his shoulder. A promotion to unterfeldwebel, and a prophecy from a high ranking Nazi official that the Reich would endure, were wonderful things to contemplate.

He breathed deeply of the fire-scented air. It was good to be a German, good to be alive and safe. In another hour the five German civilians at the stone house would serve a hot breakfast to him and the twelve privates using the building as an outpost. After eating he would march six of the twelve men back to the Kampfgruppe command post because their tour of duty was over. Later that day he would return to the outpost with rations of candy, cigarettes and liquor for the six men left behind.

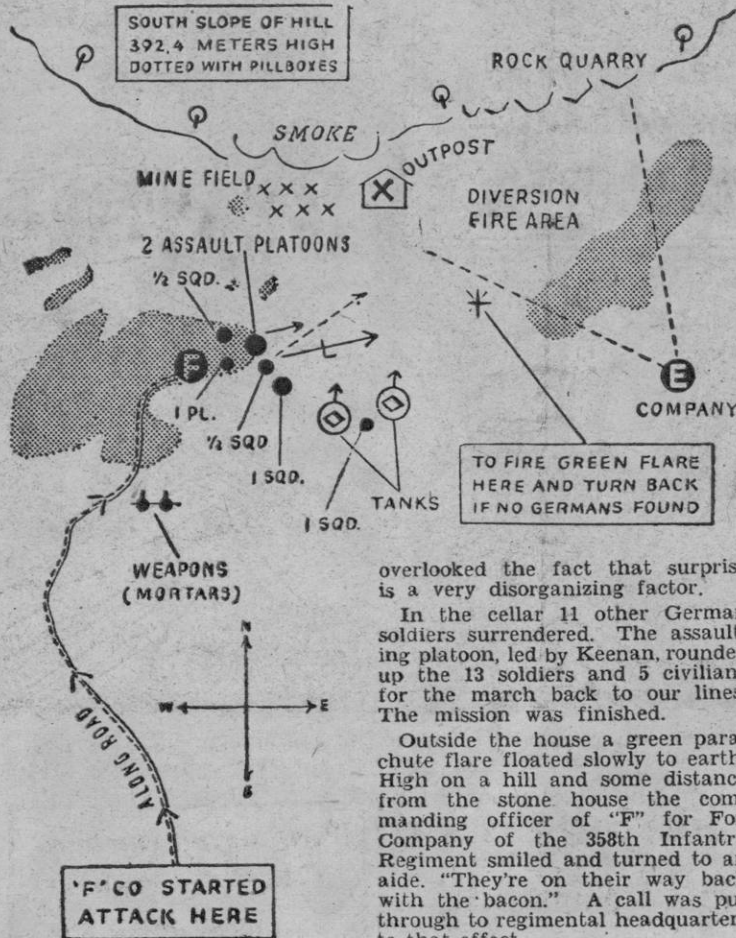
Then all hell broke loose.

### Barrage Tricks Krauts

Earth-shaking sounds blasted to shreds the cold, still air of the winter morning. Thin, shrill hisses exploded into star dust of flesh-ripping bits of shrapnel. Smoke grenades blossomed into huge black flowers on the hill behind the outpost. The sergeant flattened himself on the ground and, belly down, crawled to the vibrating house.

Inside the house confusion commanded the situation until he shouted down the screams of the civilians and ordered the privates to battle positions. The attack was coming from the east. His men got ready for attack from that direction. For fifteen minutes the din of mortar, machine-gun, artillery and rifle fire kept him straining his eyes toward a draw east of the house.

From the opposite side of the house yells, like the ones the sergeant heard in American sound films before the war, showing Indians attacking a settlement, were suddenly added to the bedlam. He was wrong! The attack was coming from the west.



overlooked the fact that surprise is a very disorganizing factor.

In the cellar 11 other German soldiers surrendered. The assaulting platoon, led by Keenan, rounded up the 13 soldiers and 5 civilians for the march back to our lines. The mission was finished.

Outside the house a green parachute flare floated slowly to earth. High on a hill and some distance from the stone house the commanding officer of "F" for Fox Company of the 358th Infantry Regiment smiled and turned to an aide. "They're on their way back with the 'bacon.'" A call was put through to regimental headquarters to that effect.

### Careful Planning Pays Off

In the broad over-all daily accounts of the war, newspapers in the United States would mention that the Third Army had that day surged forward so many yards, had captured so many prisoners. War, however, is compounded of many so-called minor engagements which get little space in the newspapers, but which are big when measured by the yardstick of heroism, careful planning, and precise execution. This particular assault was a jewel of precision.

The way the regiment planned the capture of the Huns needed for interrogation without suffering so much as a scratch casualty, was not the result of chance.

Several days before the attack, a patrol of E Company, in contacting G Company on its left flank, had captured two German soldiers. Interrogation of the Krauts disclosed that six Jerries, armed with one machine-gun, three bazookas, grenades and rifles were entrenched in a building at an important crossroads. Lt. Col. Jacob W. Bealke, Jr., ordered the Second Battalion to capture the men at the outpost for vitally needed information about enemy movements.

At noon the next day, the Second Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Robert H. Shulz, presented the mission to his staff. F Company was to storm the outpost, take the Huns prisoners and return as quickly as possible. The staff studied maps of the location for a long time and planned every detail of the attack very carefully. The assault was to jump off at 0800 hours the next day.

Fifteen minutes before that time, the 344th Field Artillery began firing heavy concentrations of shells on a draw behind and to the east of the outpost. The diversionary fire was in an area from which the Huns would nominally expect an infantry attack.

### Battalion Units Co-operate

The 345th Field Artillery stood by to interdict several targets on call. E Company, 2,000 yards from the stone house, was delivering heavy diversionary mortar, machine-gun and rifle fire in the same area.

Meanwhile, 4.2 mortars were smoking the south slope of a hill dotted with pillboxes and trenches, blinding any defenders there to the actual route of the attack. Two tanks on a slight ridge, southwest of the house, were ready to fire on targets of opportunity, or to

button up any pillboxes that might open up.

F Company was at this time moving northwest through the woods on a ridge overlooking the outpost, and then it moved east and northeast under the cover of the nose of a hill.

At the edge of the forest, and to the left of the two tanks, two squads of riflemen from the company were deployed to cover the two platoons assaulting the outpost. Another squad was deployed for local support of the tanks.

### Quick Switch in Attack

The first rifle platoon, consisting of 34 enlisted men under 1/Lt. James E. Davis, Miami, Fla., burst from the cover of the woods like Comanches at exactly 0815 hours, the time planned. They swarmed down on the house said to be the outpost by the two prisoners bagged by E Company. That house was empty, proof that all information given by Nazi prisoners must be taken with more than just a grain of salt. They remained in and around the house, however, to give additional support to the second platoon under Keenan, which attacked the second of the five houses at the crossroads.

The prearranged green parachute flare was seen at 0845, the precise time planned for the completion of the mission. At 0847 F Company outpost called to regimental headquarters that its assault platoons were on the way back "with the bacon."

That the careful planning paid off big dividends was evident from the stories told by the prisoners. The attack form the west demoralized them. Some were literally caught with their pants down. Three Jerries were marched to the Pee Wee cage with blankets draped around them.

The action demonstrated the following tactical principles for a small scale assault.

All available information as to the enemy, his activities, and the terrain over which the attack is to take place, must be collected and given to all men who are to take part in the attack.

### Aerial Survey Urged

Enough time must be allowed for the formulation of plans and the plan must contain a very limited objective.

Map studies must be complete. All leaders should make a ground reconnaissance after they have studied maps of the objective. An aerial survey for all key leaders is recommended when a plane is available.

There must be a co-ordinated plan of diversionary fires delivered if possible from a key terrain feature from which the enemy would logically expect an attack to come.

Supporting fire should be heavy enough to keep the enemy in his bunkers and pillboxes.

Use of smoke on all hostile high ground to blind the enemy's observation is necessary.

Communications, always critical during an attack, must be sure. The 536 radio used for inter-company contact did not work to satisfaction in the attack. The sound-power phone was excellent. Where possible wires should be strung right behind the attacking parties.

The prearranged parachute flare was valuable for it told the supporting weapons that the raiding platoon had completed its mission and that it was withdrawing. Supporting weapons continued firing for 15 minutes after the flare was sent up to cover the withdrawal of the assaulting company and its bag of prisoners.

A thorough study for minefields should precede an assault raid. Only from information from the prisoners did the attacking company discover that it had traveled through a heavy minefield.

Every German civilian should be suspected as a potential dealer in death. When Keenan blasted away the lock on the door leading into the outpost an aged German was behind the door, a heavy club upraised, ready to strike him.

Those are the lessons of an offensive patrol. They apply just as well to many other types of action in the field.

## ... With One Shot (Continued from Page 3)

pose to which it is put, it still has very definite limitations.

"If the individual soldier understands these things, he understands his weapon. It then becomes unnecessary for the non-coms to order men to clean their rifles. You don't have to tell men 'to stay alive,'" Col. Hinds said.

In discussing the things an M1 can do if properly handled, Col. Hinds pointed out that the rifle is as accurate as the '03 up to about 400 yards, but loses accuracy slightly over that range. However, he added, the automatic firepower of the weapon and its ease of firing more than makes up for this slight deficiency. Illustrating his point about the M1's firepower and accuracy at comparatively short ranges, the colonel cited an incident which won a Silver Star for a rifleman of Charley Company during the hectic days of battling around Geronsweiler, Germany, recently.

"One of the squads made a successful attack on a strong point," the colonel related, "but was hit with a counter-attack shortly after. About fifty fanatical Jerries were coming strong—and they were coming fast. The squad had to move—but hup-hup. One man volunteered to cover while the men moved. Armed only with his M1 he stood his ground, knocked off sixteen of the frenzied Fritziess—and stopped the rest of them cold. He did it with a hasty upslung, a perfect prone position, a sweet M1—and a barrelful of guts," the colonel concluded.

One of the prize pupils of the colonel's "rifle school" is Pfc Virgil Slover, of Harlan, Ky., a squirrel-shooting joker of Fox Company.

Slover's biggest distinction was that he was probably the only guy in all Kentucky who couldn't hit a dime at 600 yards with a blindfold over one eye. As a matter of fact, Virgil had a hell of a time even qualifying for marksman.

They all laughed when he sat down to shoot—back in England.

But they didn't know what Col. Hinds' rifle school could do.

A few months later, in the middle of the Ardennes bulge, Pfc Virgil Slover caught a Jerry patrol in his sights. Range 400 yards. Windage—Kentucky. Six shots. Five Krauts. One M1.

But the M1 isn't all beer and skittles. It has limitations. It is not a tommy-gun or a BAR and it is not designed to fire effectively at tanks and airplanes.

"The M1 is not supposed to be used like a machine-gun," said Col. Hinds. "Many men attempt to shoot it too fast. Pick your targets and shoot at them. But don't try to spray an area unless you are in a close spot and want to clear your way out."

"At ranges over 500 yards," Col. Hinds continued, "the M1 is not too good, especially in this country with the foliage and the ever present ground haze. Don't try to be a sniper with it."

"And finally, the M1 is not generally effective against tanks and aircraft. Firing just gives away your position and just usually wastes ammunition," he said.

That is the story of your rifle. Joe with an M1 is definitely a better man than Fritz with a Mauser.

—But use it right!

### Old Sergeant Says:

The M1 sometimes gives a little trouble with the rear sight because it comes loose. New men are prone not to check this frequently. Always check the sight scale for tightness and adjustment. Run the sight down to the bottom of the scale. Set the sight scale and tighten.

Use the hasty upslung almost all the time for more accurate fire. Easy to carry and much steadier and accurate shooting.

In winter fighting, snow gets between the stock and the operating handle. It melts and freezes, causing stoppages. This is remedied by tying bandages around the stock to cover the opening. That keeps it warm.

## Bombers Blitz Reich's Oil

(Continued from Page 4)

This is not much oil alongside the 18,500,000 tons the United States produces each month. But it was enough to power and lubricate the war machine that almost conquered Europe.

Germany's gradually strengthening position in oil was not lost upon Allied airmen in the early years of the war. It was just that, for the time being, there was very little they could do about it. The R.A.F. was still too small a force. The American Strategic Air Forces had another job to do first: destroy the fighter aircraft industry in the Reich, so that the Luftwaffe could not take to the skies when the Allies invaded France. By the spring of 1944 the Luftwaffe was practically eliminated as a factor in invasion plans, and the way was clear for the heavies to take on oil.

From April until September the Reich's oil production, and its fuel supply, dropped like the blood pressure of a dying patient. In September it reached the danger point—25 percent of the pre-attack level. Today it is below that, mid-winter air attacks and the Russian

advance having brought fuel and lubricant sources to an all-time low.

It is the worst fuel famine the Reich has faced. But oil experts warn that not even the most incessant pounding of the oil targets can prevent the Nazis from collecting sufficient fuel to launch a limited offensive. Von Rundstedt is believed to have accumulated 70,000 or so tons before launching his drive. This amount, sufficient to support a dozen or so divisions, was gotten together in a matter of months by scrounging in all sectors and forcing some to go without.

When the history of the battles now being fought is written, the air offensive against German oil targets will go down as an important contribution to the Allied victory. By depriving the Wehrmacht of over three-quarters of its fuel, Allied airmen have given invaluable aid to the armies besieging the Reich in the West and the East. Germany is falling before the combined operations of Allied soldiers, and there is no better example than oil of how airmen and infantrymen together are operating to defeat the Reich.

It Happened in America Last Week:

A Tightened Belt Heads U.S. Styles for Spring

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, March 17.—The people tightened their belts again last week while officials in the capital gave a decided refusal to the peace feelers put out by a desperate Germany.

The belt-tightening was the result of a meat shortage, slashes in the supply of leather and the general increased needs of the armed forces.

But the signs of the approaching end of Germany came with signs of spring in the land, and some of the feeling of gladness was expressed all over the country in St. Patrick's Day fetes resounding with the melodies of Ireland.

Pussywillows and New Hats

THE signs of spring, despite the fact that no newspaper carried a story about a man buying a straw hat, were these! Pussywillows blooming in Oradell, N.J.; new women's hats which looked like flower sprays; the planting of peach trees in front of a department store on Peachtree St., Atlanta, and cottonwood springing to life in Illinois.

Washington talked about Bernard Baruch's expected visit to England soon on a special mission for FDR. Baruch was non-committal, saying: "It may be true and it may not be true."

FIVE bishops were named by Pope Pius to fill vacancies in the dioceses of Buffalo, N.Y.; Crookston, Minn.; Raleigh, N.C.; Steubenville, Ohio, and Grand Island, Neb.

The newspaper PM polled the U.S. Senate on the question: "Would you on the basis of information now available vote for or against U.S. entrance into the new world security council?"

MEMBERS of the Senate Banking Committee said they did not think price controls on movie tickets were necessary in answer to OPA Boss Chester Bowles' request for legislation on the subject.

Wisconsin tried a farm census, but according to Rep. Lawrence Smith (R-Wis.), the figure-collectors were greeted by axes and shotguns because farmers thought they were checking up on taxes.

Margie Hart's a Scholar Now

MARGIE HART, a strip-teaser extraordinary, rejected an offer of \$1,000 a week, because theatrical appearances now would interfere with her studies at Hunter College.

A Gallup poll found that 65 percent of the persons questioned thought Russia would fight Japan after Germany's fall—a 12 percent rise since December.

IOWANS mourned the death of George E. Hamilton, 72, author of "Iowa Corn Song," while in Minnesota Jimmie Berg, composer of "I Am Homesick, Minnesota," strongly opposed making "Hail Minnesota," the Minnesota University song, the official state tune.

Critics liked Basil Rathbone's new Sherlock Holmes thriller, "House of Fear," but were divided on "Thunderhead, Son of Flicka," a sequel to "My Friend, Flicka."

TALLULAH BANKHEAD won raves for her performance in Philip Barry's "Foolish Notion," but critics puzzled about what Barry was driving at in his play. "Dark of the Moon," a story of North Carolina's Smoky Mountain people, filled with witches and lusty humor, also opened.

William L. White's book, "Report on the Russians," is creating a controversy among reviewers, with some feeling that he went overboard to slap at the Soviets. Another book, "Russia Is No Riddle," by Edmund Stevens, is less readable but is believed to be more factual.

RICHARD WRIGHT, author of "Native Son," has written another book, "Black Boy," a moving story of a sensitive Negro's boyhood in the South. "Wars I Have Seen," by Gertrude Stein, describes the pigeons-of-the-grass lady's memories of the German occupation of France.

The Saturday Evening Post has an article by Sen. Arthur H. Vandenberg (R-Mich.) calling on the U.S. to accept an important role in the world security organization; Life says the Inter-American conference gave the new State Department staff an important workout; the New Yorker hails Comdr. Harold Stassen as one San Francisco security conference delegate who knows the score, and Time tells about Britain's Second Army and its commander, Lt. Gen. Miles Christopher Dempsey.

ELIGIBLE for many years, Cordell Hull has at last permitted his name to go on the Spanish-American Veterans' pension rolls. The pension amounts to about \$75 monthly. The 73-year-old former Secretary of State applied for the pension at the urging of friends about three months ago.

'Psst! Take a Gander at the Blonde in the Third Row!'



Jimmy McDaniel (left) and Ralph Zanelli take time out from their close-quarter fighting, apparently to whisper sweet nothings into each other's ears. McDaniel won the decision in N.Y.C.

Charlotte Golf Led by Snead

CHARLOTTE, N.C., March 17.—Sammy Snead's penchant for shooting 65s continued yesterday as he toured the hilly Myers Park course in seven under par to lead the golfing caravan in the first round of the \$10,000 Charlotte Open golf tournament.

One stroke back of the leader with 66 was Harold "Jug" McSpaden, who blew a golden opportunity to tie Snead when he hooked a drive to the 18th hole and landed in the rough at the left of the green.

Snead, victor in six of 11 tournaments this winter, scored the only eagle of the day. His 375-yard drive to the 10th hole was followed with a 25-yard chip shot, the ball rolling into the cup for a two-under-par deuce.

Byron Nelson disappointed the crowd with a 70.

Dizzy Trout Hits First Homer in Detroit Drill

EVANSVILLE, Ind.—Thirteen Detroit Tigers, mostly batterymen, took part in the first workout under a hot sun here, in a two-hour drill which consisted of a pepper game and batting practice. Dizzy Trout, star pitcher last year, hit the first out-of-the-park homer in the batting session.

Three Phil Holdouts

WILMINGTON, Del.—Herb Penneck, general manager of the Phillies, revealed that three of the Phils' regulars last season are holdouts. They are Pitchers Al Gerheuser and Charley Schanz and Outfielder Buster Adams

Washington Reviews 13 4F Big Leaguers

WASHINGTON, March 17.—Since the directive of January 20, requiring War Department review of all 4F professional athletes before rejection by local draft boards, 13 cases out of a total of 27 major league players have been referred to Washington.

Nine of the 14 other 4Fs were accepted for active duty and five reclassified have yet to be examined. One limited service man was re-examined and certified for general service and 15 not deferred were examined and accepted.

Bivins, Bettina Fight N.Y. Draw

NEW YORK, March 17.—Jimmy Bivins, Cleveland Negro and Mello Bettina, or Beacon, N. Y., two of the leading contenders for the heavyweight title, fought to a draw in a ten-round bout at Madison Square Garden last night.

The officials disagreed with Referee Arthur Donovan who called six rounds for Bettina and four for Bivins. Judge Marty Manroe called eight rounds for Bivins and two for Bettina, while the other judge, Jack Gordon, called the bout even, with five rounds for each contestant.

Browns Await Muncrief

CAPE GIRARDEAU Mo.—Bob Muncrief, righthand pitcher, who won 13 games for the St. Louis Browns last season, is en route to the Browns' camp here. Muncrief worked in a Houston (Tex.) shipyard during the winter months.

Covering GI Sports

CHANNEL BASE HQ.—Three second-round TKO's highlighted the first CBS boxing show. The best bout was a three-round lightweight match in which Tony Lanzitto, Chicago, decisioned Frank Calbo, New York.

Results of other bouts: Ernest Dickerson, Monroe City, La., TKO'd John Searcy, Reynolds, Ga. (second round); Mike Mangine, New York, TKO'd Jim Edwards, Detroit (second round); Lloyd Respes, Philadelphia, TKO'd Bill Herbert, New York (second round); Walter Salters, Weirton, W.Va., won on a second round foul from "Toots" Bernstein, Milwaukee, Wis.; Alonzo Ross, Tams, W.Va., decisioned Victor Schmidt, Allentown, Pa.; Willy Rainwater, Atlanta, Ga., decisioned Irv Fudenberg, St. Louis, Mo.

Seine Tournament

Friday Night's Results

168th Hosp. 52, 2775th Playboys 37. Blackbirds 78, OCQM 47. 32nd MP 33, Post QM 31. 351st Engr. 43, 106th Reinf. 22.

16th Port Tournament

Quarter-final Result

494th Port 44, 465th Port 24. Semi-final Result 581st Port 39, 494th Hq. 34.

Pepperdine Meets Loyola in Finals

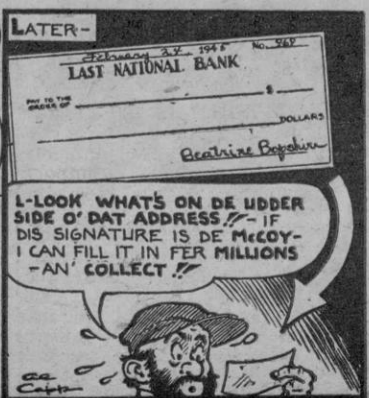
KANSAS CITY, Mo., March 17.—Loyola, of New Orleans, and George Pepperdine College, of Los Angeles, moved into the final round of the National Intercollegiate basketball tournament here last night. Loyola had a tough time winning from Southern Illinois Normal, 37-35, while Pepperdine thumped Eastern Kentucky, 52-34. In the final seconds, Loyola's captain, Johnny Casteix, dribbled in for a one-hander that won the game.

Cougars Trip Oregon

EUGENE, Ore., March 17.—Vince Hansen, nation's leading scorer, led Washington State to a 53-48 victory over Oregon last night to tie the northern division of Pacific Coast Conference playoffs at one game each. Hansen, six-foot eight-inch giant, scored 26 points.

Winner of tomorrow night's deciding game will represent the Coast in the NCAA, Western division, tournament at Kansas City.

Li'l Abner



By Courtesy of United Features

By Al Capp

# Luzon Yanks Crush Section Of Japs' Line

MANILA, March 17 (ANS).—Maj. Gen. Leonard F. Wing's 43rd Inf. Div. has delivered a smashing double-pronged blow against the Japanese in the Shimbu Line east of Manila while a new amphibious operation has tightened the pinch on the enemy in southern Luzon.

Gen. MacArthur announced these successes today along with stepped-up air attacks. Fifty Liberators struck at Ansan Naval Base on Formosa and at the adjacent Pescadores Islands. Some planes ranged up to Okinawa midway between Formosa and Japan.

Wing's 43rd has destroyed the entire southern flank of the Shimbu Line around Antipolo. Other elements bypassed Theresa, which is on the highway between Antipolo and Laguna de Bay, then swung back to the highway at Maybanca. Combined with seizure of the road

## Japs Learn from Nazis

WASHINGTON, March 17 (ANS).—The Japanese are using electrically controlled mines on Mindanao for the first time in the war. Germans have used vast systems of controlled devices which can be operated from a distance.

network around Theresa. The action cut Japanese escape routes toward southern Luzon.

In the amphibious operation elements of the 158th Regimental Combat Team landed nine miles south of Dagaten, which is a little more than 50 miles south of Manila.

## 2 Iwo Airfields Operated by U.S.

GUAM, March 17 (ANS).—American conquest of Iwo Jima already is paying dividends, the Navy disclosed today in announcing that two airfields are in combat operation there within fighter-plane range of Tokyo.

Yank engineers completed the second of the two dromes yesterday as three marine divisions crushed the last organized enemy resistance after 26 days of fighting.

The second field lies in the center of the eight-square-mile island, and the other a bomber field taken on the second day of the invasion, is situated in the south. The southern drome has been in operation since Feb. 26, and already 30 Superfortresses have made emergency stops there on trips between the Marianas and Japan. Iwo is about halfway between the Marianas and the enemy homeland.

Iwo cost more American casualties than any other island yet invaded across the Central Pacific, topping the previous high of 16,525 in the 24-day conquest of Saipan. There were 61,000 marines on Iwo, and official totals showed 4,189 American dead, 13,308 wounded and 441 missing. More than 21,000 Japanese were killed.

# UMW Turns Down Operators' Offers

WASHINGTON, March 17 (ANS).—The United Mine Workers late yesterday rejected the soft coal operators' answer to their wage contract demands but directed the UMW negotiators to continue the joint conferences in the hope of reaching an agreement by March 31, expiration date of the present contract.

John L. Lewis was scheduled to present the union's reply today at what was termed the first of the showdown meetings. Whether there will be a national coal strike April 1, hinges on the outcome of these meetings.

Operators had rejected Lewis' 18 contract demands and offered six counter proposals.

## Suspend Soldiers' Sentences

CAMP BARKLEY, Texas, March 17 (ANS).—The sentences given to six Seventh Day Adventists here for refusal to attend guard-mount on their sabbath have been suspended and the soldiers returned to duty.

# 100 Bomb Missions



Col. Ashley E. Woolridge, 28, of Clearfield, Pa., recently received the Distinguished Flying Cross from Brig. Gen. John P. Doyle at the completion of his 100th combat mission. The B26 flier is believed to be the first medium bomber pilot to attain this mark. He has flown throughout the Mediterranean and ETO campaigns.

# Nazi Peace Bid Is Confirmed

Confirmation of rumors that peace overtures had been received in Stockholm from an envoy of the German government has come from official British quarters, the Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune said yesterday.

These quarters, the paper said, indicated that Adolf Hitler is willing to end resistance if he is allowed to continue to rule the Reich—a suggestion that fell on deaf ears, for the offer was promptly rejected and the American and Soviet governments notified.

The German bid, which came about two weeks ago, was regarded in London, the paper reported, as typical of Nazi efforts to sow dissension and create distrust among the Allies.

Dr. Fritz Hesse, former London chief of the official German news agency DNB, and a close friend of Joachim Von Ribbentrop, the Nazi foreign minister, made the approach, the paper said. He attempted to contact a junior member of the British legation staff through Swedish businessmen with word that Hitler would give up to the Russians if he could not gain peace from Britain and the U.S.

# Seesaw Fight Raging in Italy

ROME, March 17 (Reuter).—A seesaw battle raged today through the ancient stone buildings of Salvaro, 15 miles southwest of Bologna, as Nazi Field Marshal Albert von Kesselring threw in picked troops in an attempt to stop the American drive outflanking Vergato.

At one time yesterday the Yanks held most of the buildings in the town, including a portion of the heavily defended church, but the Germans laid down terrific machine-gun and mortar fire, forcing the Americans to withdraw. American capture of Salvaro would neutralize the enemy's Vergato bastion.

# Green Orders Strikers To Work, Is Rebuffed

HOLLYWOOD, March 17 (AP).—William Green, AFL president, today branded the strike of 17,000 film studio workers as unjustified and ordered them to return to work.

Green's order was answered by Herbert Sorrell, spokesman for the strikers, who declared: "The strike goes on."

The Screen Publicists and the Screen Office Employees Guilds planned meetings to decide whether to rescind or renew their vote to respect the picket lines.

# Reds Outflank Altdamm in Stettin Attack

Marshal Gregory Zhukov's armor and infantry ground forward again yesterday under cover of powerful artillery fire against the reduced Stettin bridgehead, applying his greatest pressure along the east bank of the Oder River between the village of Ferdinandstein and the Stettin suburb of Altdamm.

German spokesmen said that Zhukov's forces had broken into the Oder "inner defenses" near Stettin, outflanking Altdamm, a communications center four miles from Stettin, by capturing Bruenken, three miles south of the great German city.

The Altdamm area constitutes the last German bridgehead east of the Oder, and its complete seizure would rate as tactical preparation for the Berlin offensive second in importance only to the seizure of Kustrin.

## Break Through To Sea

As Zhukov's First White Russian Army hammered the Nazis in the Stettin area, Marshal Konstantin Rokossovky's troops, pounding the Danzig-Gdynia arc, broke through the central defenses, captured Zhukovo and slashed to the sea thus virtually isolating from one another those two Baltic bases.

Front reports said that the days of these two cities appeared numbered and that their capture would release a substantial percentage of troops for the all-out assault across the lower Oder.

A series of new Soviet attacks southwest of Koenigsberg, meanwhile, reduced the East Prussian pocket to an area of less than 500 square miles, according to reports reaching Moscow. These attacks sent Red Army units to the Baltic on a two-mile front and won a town five miles southwest of the besieged provincial capital.

The Soviet communique said that Brandenburg, a fortified town some ten miles southwest of Koenigsberg, had been won.

A lull was reported from the crucial front along a 25-mile stretch of the middle Oder due east of Berlin.

# 8th AF Renews Reich Assault

Oil targets, tank plants and railway yards in Germany were attacked yesterday by 1,300 heavies and 750 P51s as the Eighth AF resumed its hammering.

Objectives included synthetic oil plants at Bohlen and Ruhland, a benzol plant at Moblis, a tank factory at Hanover, and Munster marshaling yards.

The attacks followed a 1,000-plane RAF assault Friday night against the communication centers of Nuremberg and Wurzburg. Mosquitoes hit Berlin for the 25th consecutive night.

Bad weather hindered tactical support operations of Western Front troops.

# Surprise Target



Ninth Air Force Photo  
A near miss was scored by a Ninth Bombardment Div. B26 an instant after "bombs away" when a FW190 German fighter plane loomed beneath the cluster. The camera plane was one of a formation of Raiders jumped by eight FW190s and Me109s during an attack on German rail yards.

# Third Fighting Regional Pacts Inside Coblenz, France's Aim At Oaks Parley

(Continued from Page 1)

ing along the roads toward Bingen, a major Rhine crossing and important rail and road terminus for the entire Saar basin.

Directly in the path of American armored advances was the rail and road hub of Bad-Kreuznach, pivotal point of German communications from the southern Saar to the Rhine. CCB was said to be about five miles north of the Nahe River, along which the rail line runs, and no opposition was reported in that sector strong enough to stop it.

Gaffey's Combat Command A, meanwhile, overran four towns east and northeast of Simmern and kept on going, its whereabouts undisclosed.

## Germans Fight Fiercely

Despite the threat to their rear, Germans fought fiercely along the Saar and Palatinate frontiers.

Maj. Gen. Lewis E. Hibbs' 63rd Inf. Div. drove a half-mile into the outer Siegfried defenses between Saarbrucken and Volklingen, while the communications center of Bitche was cleared by Maj. Gen. W. A. Burrell's 100th Inf. Div. One large enemy counter-attack was spotted forming east of Bitche and was smashed by U.S. artillery, which inflicted heavy casualties.

Maj. Gen. Harry J. Collin's 42nd Inf. Div. captured Barental, in the Hardt Mountains, and cut the main road from Bitche to Haguenau. On their right flank, Maj. Gen. Anthony McAuliffe's 103rd Inf. Div. fought along the eastern slopes of the Hardt Mountains and entered the town of Gundersnoten against heavy opposition.

French forces disclosed that fighting on the right flank of Patch's Army gained 2,000 yards on the outskirts of the Haguenau Forest.

Supporting the ground offensive for the Saar, 175 or more medium bombers hammered at the railway yards at Kaiserslautern and Neustadt and hammered Seigen and Altenkirchen, east of the First Army bridgehead across the Rhine.

French Minister of Information Pierre Teitgen, speaking after disclosure that his government is addressing to members of the United Nations copies of its proposed amendments to the Dumbarton Oaks world security plan, has asserted that the main amendment is aimed at enabling bilateral security pacts within the framework of the world council.

Stressing that France was going to the forthcoming San Francisco conference in a positive spirit, Teitgen at the same time explained that France intends to insist on "regional security," through avoidance of a situation in which regulations of the new world organization would paralyze automatic functions of such regional pacts.

## Calls System 'Rudimentary'

Although approving the system of collective security formulated at Dumbarton Oaks as an advance over the League of Nations, the French do not believe the new plan goes far enough.

Teitgen termed the system "rudimentary" and implied doubts whether it would prove effective in case of aggression. He said that France has received assurances from the USSR concerning automatic application of the Franco-Soviet security pact but that Russia was not consulted on the wording of the French amendments.

# Shamrock . . .

(Continued from Page 1)

Headquarters would be after holding a dance and carnival at 33 Rue Caumartin in the night—when the banshees come out—and the shillings would go to French war orphans. And at 33 Rue Caumartin, he found booths grandly decorated for the Saint, and a girl from Paducah, Ky., who, poor lass, knew little of the old sod and St. Patrick.

The Paducah girl pointed to the paper flowers, and she said they were the green shamrocks, indeed, and 'twas the only place in Paris they could be found.

Into the Metro he went, with the jumping miseries because he had not seen one soul with the shamrock flying from lapel or cap. He walked into 21 Rue de Berri, where The Stars and Stripes is after being printed, and as he stood near the elevator, a fine broth of a soldier boy, who worked there, walked in, and he was after wearing a fine shamrock on his lapel.

Praise be, he had found a man who honored the shamrock in Paris, and he climbed the stairs and went straight to the managing editor and said, "I'm late, indeed, but 'tis the very devil of a job to catch the sign of the shamrock when a man is colorblind."

## Fraternizing Costs WO \$390

WITH V CORPS, Germany, March 17.—A special court martial recently sentenced a warrant officer to forfeitures totaling \$390 for violating non-fraternization orders. He was tried under the 96th Article of War. The sentence was approved by higher authority.

# Taxing Problem

## Assets in One Foxhole

LOS ANGELES, March 17 (ANS).—Collector of Internal Revenue Harry C. Westover received a reply today from Pfc Sidney I. Jaffe who had been asked for payment of his 1943 income tax.

Jaffe wrote: "A few days ago your letter was dropped into my quarters...a foxhole overlooking the Rhine."

"You asked for a financial statement. I have in my possession one rifle, M1; eight clips of .30-caliber ammunition; five grenades, hand and fragmentation; one grenade, concussion; two packages of K rations; one bayonet, and other incidentals.

"I should be most happy to give the information you desire. I trust you will defer my tax liability until such time as I return to civilian life in order to keep tax interest from mounting.

"If you find that is impossible and that the tax must be collected immediately, I suggest you choose your least valuable employe to look me up. Jerries, I am told, have an intense dislike for American tax collectors."

Westover decided to keep his least valuable employe on the payroll. He granted Jaffe's extension.

