

ADIC

PARIS EDITION

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

Ici, on Parle Français  
Qu'est-ce qu'il y a ?  
Kesse keel yah?  
What is the matter?

Man Spricht Deutsch  
Diese Uniform ist amerikanisch.  
Deese Uniform ist amerikahnish.  
This uniform is American.

Vol. 1—No. 215

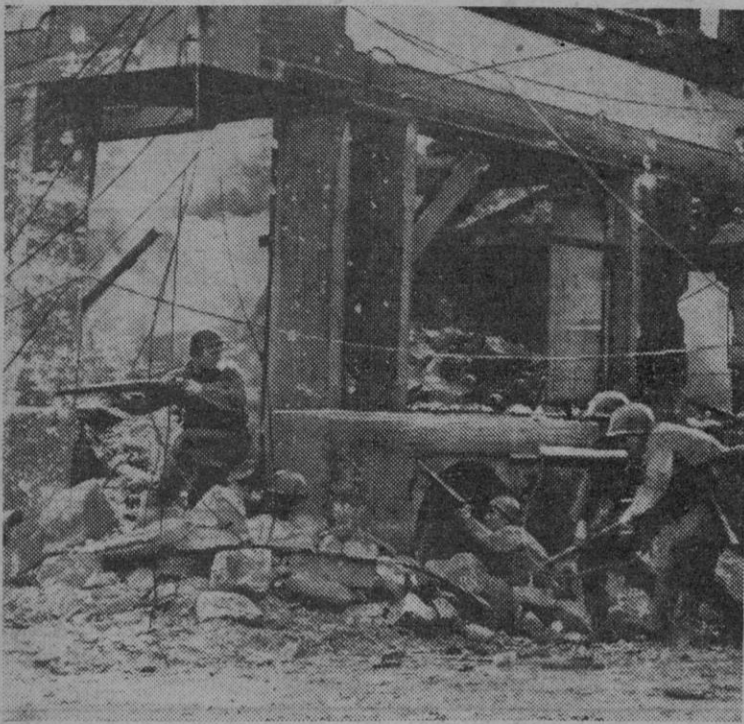
1 Fr.

1 Fr.

Tuesday, Feb. 27, 1945

# Allies Halfway to Rhine

Moving Up With 'Marching Fire'



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo  
Firing as they go, men of a Third Army infantry company's heavy weapon's platoon carry their machine-gun forward as riflemen support their push past a wrecked building in Saarlautern, Germany.

## Bulletless P51s Emerge on Top In Duel of Wits

EIGHTH AF HQ., Feb. 26 (Reuter).—Four U.S. Mustang pilots, their last bullets fired, escaped attack from a dozen enemy planes by joining a Jerry formation and flying wing-tip to wing-tip with the Germans until the latter let them come home.

The four Americans flew so neatly with the Jerry formation that the German pilots couldn't fire on them without shooting down their own planes.

Capt. Thomas R. Bell, one of the pilots said: "I sat there with empty guns, wagging my wings now and then. I waved at the Hun alongside. He waved back but I'll bet he was getting madder every minute."

After this had gone on for a while, the Germans started to pee off. So did the Yanks, and then they came home.

## Yanks at Iwo Intensify Drive For Airfield

U.S. PACIFIC FLEET HQ., Guam, Feb. 26 (ANS).—Capture of the central airfield on Iwo Jima appeared imminent today as three U.S. Marine divisions drove northward with considerable air support in an intensified push.

Marines seized the east-west runway of the field and overran two-thirds of the north-south runway yesterday after a full day of heavy fighting.

The Marine assault followed preliminary bombardment by artillery and warship batteries, carrier-planes and Marianas-based Liberators. The heavy bombers gave close support.

### Japs Claim Gain

The Japanese radio reported, without confirmation, that Japanese troops had retaken Mt. Suribachi, on the southern tip of Iwo.

By noon yesterday, the count of Japanese dead on Iwo had reached 2,827. The enemy garrison was estimated to number 20,000 men on D-Day.

Adm. Nimitz reported that a small group of Japanese bombers attacked American positions and shipping at Iwo shortly before midnight Saturday, but caused no damage. Some Japanese bombs fell in Japanese-held territory.

Nimitz also announced that Liberators had bombed an airfield on Chichi Jima, in the Bonin Islands north of Iwo.

## Czechs Are Urged To Rise Against Nazis

LONDON, Feb. 26 (Reuter).—Eighteen representatives of the Czech National Front—nine in London and nine in Moscow—tonight broadcast appeals for Czechs to rise against the Germans occupying the homeland.

"The Red Army is at the gates of Bohemia and Moravia," said the broadcasts. "The time has come to fight openly for our towns and villages, for our women and children."

## Syria Declares War

BEIRUT, Feb. 26 (Reuter).—Syrian President Shukry Kawatly declared in Parliament this afternoon that Syria was in a state of war against the Axis powers.

## New Blasts Felt On Corregidor

MANILA, Feb. 26 (ANS).—Underground explosions on Corregidor, indicating continued self-destruction by sealed-off Japanese troops, were reported today as Yanks on Luzon captured San Isidro and Montalban in a broad drive to clear the foothills east of liberated Manila.

There were five heavy blasts Friday night deep under Corregidor's Malinta Hill, on which American troops have established themselves. An American spokesman said that 200 Japanese fled from the portals of Malinta Tunnel after the blasts. All were killed.

The Japanese blew up big sections of Malinta Tunnel last Wednesday in their first effort at mass suicide. Several Americans were buried alive and others were injured in those blasts. The Japanese also set off explosions Thursday.

While American troops went forward on several Luzon sectors, planes of Gen. MacArthur's command attacked enemy shipping from the Sakishima Islands, northeast of Formosa, to the harbor of Phanrang, on the southeastern coast of French Indo-China.

## Italy Asks New Status

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (ANS).—Alberto Tarchiani, new Italian ambassador to the U.S., has asked that Italy be given a full partnership in the United Nations. Italy, he said, has paid heavily for Mussolini's crimes.

## So Sorry Yanks Raided Tokyo, Fearful Premier Tells Hirohito

Japanese Premier Kuniaki Koiso, "filled with trepidation," called on Emperor Hirohito in Tokyo yesterday to offer, on behalf of the Cabinet, "our profound apologies."

Koiso, said the Japanese radio, was apologizing for "unforgivable negligence" which permitted American carrier planes and Superfortresses to bomb Tokyo on Sunday, thus endangering the Emperor.

Radio Tokyo, coming through with an apology of its own, offered this explanation of the Japanese Fleet's reluctance to come out and fight:

"The fleet has adopted the strategy of operating within the radius of action of land-based aircraft. It is technically impracticable for our land-based aerial formations to deal decisive blows to American naval forces so long as the enemy task forces remain at a long distance."

### 10 Miles From Japan

This hardly jibed with a dispatch from U.S. Pacific Fleet HQ. at Guam, saying that during the Fifth Fleet's first carrier-plane attack on Tokyo, made Feb. 16 and 17, one U.S. surface unit closed to within 10 miles of the Japanese mainland.

A U.S. destroyer rescued a Navy plane crew within 10 miles of Tokyo harbor, while large units of the fleet were less than 100 miles from the enemy homeland. They destroyed Japanese picket boats.

The American naval force which sent planes against Tokyo on Sunday still was maintaining radio silence yesterday. There were no American or Japanese reports indicating continuing action.

Radio Tokyo said that Imperial property had been lightly damaged on Sunday. Bombs fell, it was reported, near Omiya Palace, the home of the Empress Dowager, half a mile west of Hirohito's Palace, and near the Bureau of Imperial Stables.

The Japanese also reported damage to airfields, other military installations and transportation facilities in Tokyo.

## Canadians, Third Step Up Offensive As All Front Gains

Tank-led forces of the U.S. First Army were reported by UP front reports to have smashed half-way down the road to Cologne, reaching a point beyond Blatzheim, only ten miles from the giant Rhine city, while the Ninth drove through to the northern outskirts of Erkelenz which is less than 20 miles from Dusseldorf.

The Canadian First Army swung into the attack and was last reported 1,000 yards south of Calcar, three miles west of the Rhine in the Rhine-Maas Corridor.

The Fourth Armored Div. of the Third Army sputtered through the Germans' Prum River defenses toward the important communications hub of Bitburg.

Starting shortly before dawn after a heavy artillery barrage, the Canadians moved a mile in three and a half hours. They were last reported about 1,000 yards south of strategic Calcar, three miles west of the Rhine. Opposition was reported as moderate.

The entire Allied position in the West was authoritatively described last night as the best since D-Day.

## U.S. Tanks Hurdled Into Battle for Rhine

By Robert L. Moore  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

12TH ARMY GROUP HQ., Feb. 26.—American armor was hurled into the drive for the Rhine today.

Tank elements of the First Army, rumbling across the tread-way bridges spanning the Roer, sped up the main highway from Duren towards Cologne, raced through the advancing 104th Inf. Div. and by nightfall were halfway to the Rhine.

First Army, placing the armored spearhead officially 12 miles from Cologne, said that the tanks had reached the vicinity of Blatzheim, a small community on the south side of the main Duren-Cologne motor road. Troops of the 104th followed the tanks to clear Golzheim, an important junction on the highway and the towns of Mesmut

(Continued on Page 8)

## Berlin Raided Week Straight; Rails Pounded

Berlin, bombed for six straight nights by the RAF, was rocked with its heaviest daylight air raid yesterday. More than 1,200 Forts and Liberators of the Eighth AF dropped 1,250 tons of high explosives and more than 500,000 small incendiaries on the city.

At a late hour last night, the German radio reported that strong formations of Allied bombers were again over Berlin.

Elsewhere, Allied air attacks yesterday continued on communications and industrial targets throughout the Reich, a total of more than 3,000 planes participating.

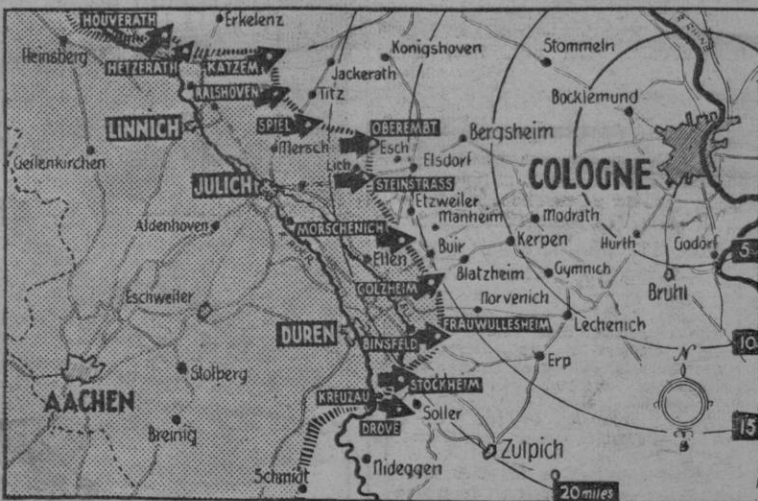
Three major railway stations, Schlesischer Alexanderplatz and Berlin North, were the Eighth's objectives in its sixteenth raid on the German capital. All are located in the center of the city and move freight and passenger traffic to the front.

The Eighth heavies, escorted by 700 fighters, flew to Berlin in a straight line for the first time and dared the Luftwaffe to come up. No German plane accepted the challenge.

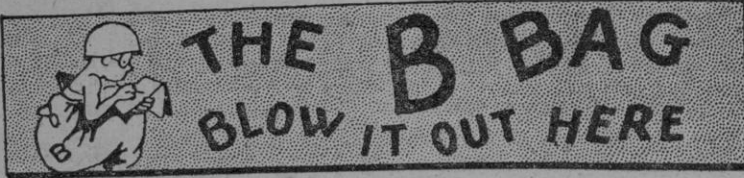
Bad weather along the battle fronts restricted air activity of other commands, but the Ninth AF flew over 300 sorties, and the First TAC marked up over 200. An RAF heavy-bomber raid on the synthetic oil plants near Dortmund, and air

(Continued on Page 8)

## U.S. Tanks Enter Battle for Cologne Plain



Stars and Stripes Map by Baird  
U.S. tanks entered the battle of the Cologne plain yesterday as the First and Ninth Armies broadened their salient to 150 square miles.



**Heaven and Earth**

I notice that B-Bag occasionally dons cap and gown and lends a doctoral ear to the airing of philosophical views. Thus you printed Pfc D. H.'s discussion of religion and war on Jan. 19. Because I think he makes some dangerous mistakes I venture to take issue with him.

I agree war is the most damnable curse ever fastened on the world. But I object, first—to calling armed resistance to forces of evil a violation of the command "Thou shalt not kill," and secondly—to picturing war as God's whip.

True enough, God commands us not to kill; but let us interpret this command intelligently. If we are to strive for the world of brotherly regard promised by Jesus and the prophets we must surely fight evil. In fighting Nazism and Nipponism we fight not fellow human beings but mere shells of men into which has been poured ice-cold evil. Jesus knew there would be plenty of fighting before a decent world emerged. "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword." (Matthew 10:34). And John Milton, whose Paradise Lost has for centuries stood on the shelf beside the family Bible, tells us of the first war in which God Himself was Supreme Commander of the good angels in their heavenly battle against the evil angels.

**His God**

As for war being God's punishment to men, I cannot worship a "God" who is so cruel, unjust and brutal. The God I worship is not capable of such abomination. Did your buddies who were picked off by enemy bullets commit any crime deserving such a punishment? Did the common people of Nanking, of Warsaw, of Lidice, Rotterdam and Coventry or France, Belgium and Russia, deserve the horror which was visited upon them? Let us not profane God by calling the Nazis His agents.

**The Godless Man Causes War**

No-war is caused by men from whom God has departed—men who know not God. On the day that such men are made powerless war shall cease.

Should we commit such folly as to stop social betterment because Jesus said, "Ye have the poor always with you"? Similarly, if we all become fatalists like Pfc D. H. through misunderstanding God's ways to men, we will never rid ourselves of the evil of war. Instead, let us recall the irrevocable promise of God Himself: "And they shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks. Nations shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war anymore." (Isaiah 2:4).

When God created man He gave him two feet fully intending him to stand on them. On the day that man stands on his own feet—that is, boldly acts to end the evils of poverty and war—and quits fatalistically attributing them to God, on that day he shall come into his own and the promise of Isaiah shall be fulfilled.—2nd Lt. David L. Hurwitz, 50th F.A. Bn., Fifth Div.

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**Which Way Out and When?**

The British system of demobilization makes sauce of our professed "plan." The difference is colossal.

**THE STARS AND STRIPES**  
Paris Edition

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In our over-zealous search to be fair we involve too much red tape and too many factors to make it a practical and successful plan.

Age and length of service are the only factors considered in the British plan. Ours is a point system that takes in combat time, overseas service, dependents, decorations, battle stars, and what other additions to come! What is more, regardless of how many points a soldier may accumulate, military necessity can rule him out.

It is right that those who have taken the hard part of the war should get the breaks, but these outlined qualifications vary each day with each soldier.

We lose sight of the fact that age should be a major consideration. The American plan makes it possible for men who are of no material value as soldiers to remain in the Army. It makes it possible for our youth, which is so essential for fighting strength against the Japs, to go home.

The British plan is solid and concrete while ours is loose and filled with loopholes. For once in our Army career it would be refreshing to have something clean and definite in the way of directives. We should like to know who goes—and when! Nobody knows under the present nebulous point system. When the last shot is fired, the British soldier will go home while we will be busy calculating who killed Cock Robin.—Pfc B. S., Gen. Hosp.

\* \* \*

**At the Peace Table**

Pvt. J. M. Miller's "B-Bag" letter (21 Jan.) asked, "Who should stand at the head of the peace table?" and answers his own question with "The spirit of Jesus Christ."

And who in this world can effect that spirit? Why, the vicar of Christ on earth, of course. His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, should be at the table of peace to lend that spirit Miller speaks of. Many learned men have remarked in the past that the Pope, then Pius XI, should have been at the last peace conference, and have added that perhaps the world would be in a better state today if such were the case.—T/4 Wm. V. Geaney, Ord. Sec. 3rd Army.

\* \* \*

**Up Front With Mauldin**



"By the way, what wuz them changes you wuz gonna make when you took over last month, sir?"

**An Editorial**

**Don't Get Headline Happy**

If the insides of many a mind were laid on a table today for a showdown, they'd probably look like this:

1—Hitler's really groggy now. This drive will turn the trick. The war is in the bag.

2—Boy, won't peace be a grand and glorious feeling.

3—Me for a good long rest!

It's only human to give in to such feelings. Lots of soldiers would if they could but they can't. Lots of others would, too. And will. Sure as shooting they will unless.

\* \* \*

Unless before it's too late we take the needed steps to prevent as much as a single day's slowdown or shutdown in any activity that provides troops with vital supplies.

Unless steps are taken now to keep those supplies pouring forth in an undammed flood—after formal German resistance is broken. Until the last German in his last Alpine cave throws down his knife. And the last Jap



... And there's a tough war going on in the Pacific.

who resists retribution has joined his ancestors.

Unless the little things—like shutting down bars—are backed by big things that make it certain that not one soldier's life will be sacrificed on the altar of complacency.

Unless we make sure that as long as there must be suf-

fering and sacrifice, it will be shared by all.

Unless we protect the last soldier in the last outpost from man's natural reaction to page one's happy headlines. That dizzy, giddy, goofy jag that blinds one to the casualty lists buried deep inside the paper and the future.

**4-Hour Hunt Yields a Turnip**

**How They Live in Berlin Today**

A correspondent of the Stockholm Aftonbladet, who has just left Berlin, continues in this copyright article his account of Berlin life. The article was distributed by The Associated Press.

By Herje Granberg

You have to be a born explorer to get vegetables in Berlin today.

A housewife complained to me a few days before I left that after a four-hour vegetable hunt she had managed to find one turnip.

Householders who did not buy their winter's supply of potatoes last fall because they feared loss through air raids now must eat dehydrated potatoes—if they can get any.

**Difficulties But No Starvation**

There is a deadly monotony in the diet. One foreigner told me: "I have eaten so much kohlrabi (normally used as fodder) that I will not dare to look a decent cow in the face when I return home."

One cannot say that starvation has yet struck Berlin, but in the last two or three weeks it has become more and more difficult to buy the full rations you are entitled to, and problems for the housewife are tumbling around her like an avalanche.

Milk is a chapter in itself. A dairy owner at the Adolf Hitler Platz had to fetch his supply of milk in a baby buggy, pushing it two miles daily from Gleisdreick in central Berlin. He couldn't carry enough milk, so all his customers had to be satisfied with reduced rations. The supply of both whole milk for children and skimmed milk has diminished.

**The Beer Is Thin**

Mineral water cannot be found except in the better-class restaurants and the beer is as thin as the oxen which draw the brewery wagons.

Butter and fat rations have shrunk noticeably, and frequently margarine must be taken in place of butter. The meat supply is somewhat better, but salt and matches are almost unobtainable.

Two weeks ago a Danish journalist was expelled from Berlin because he sent out a report that the Berliners were eating rats, cats, dogs, horses and the few remaining animals in the Berlin Zoo for meat.

That is untrue and the supply situation is not that acute, but the increasing difficulties are reflected in the black market.

As the Red Army moves closer, supplies for Berlin's five and a half

millions will be further strangled, and as the Allied air bombardment is stepped up, distribution will be further strained. How badly the distribution system is already dislocated is shown, for example, in the lack of coal, which is perhaps Berlin's worst problem.

**Hot Baths Not To Be Found**

You could once see people gathering cigarette butts in the streets of Berlin, but they don't look for them any more—partly because there are hardly any to be found since the new tobacco ration cuts, but mainly because they are gathering pieces of coal and wood for fuel instead.

It is virtually impossible to get a hot bath in Berlin. Electric stoves were banned a month ago but are still used secretly. The electric current is switched off several hours daily, but this has had unexpected consequences, as air-raid warnings on the radio cannot be heard. Stores, offices and shops which have replaced blasted windows with cardboard or wood are forced to shut down while the current is turned off because they have no light.

**Giant Flying Boat Uses Jet Take-Off**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (ANS).

—Rocket power units are being attached to PBW3 Coronado flying boats converted into hospital and rescue planes for take-offs under conditions normally prohibitive for the huge craft, the Navy reported today.

The new modification of the Coronado four-engine plane is known as Jato (jet-assisted) take-off and has been in use on smaller planes for some time. The jets materially shorten the length of take-off run and in the case of the big flying boats make possible take-offs in heavy seas or from small lagoons.

The Coronados, modified for sea rescue and evacuation service, have 25 litters and carry equipment for giving medical attention and serving hot meals while in flight.

# U.S. Bids Au Revoir to Post-Midnight Fun

*This Was America Yesterday:*

## Federal Officials Go to Work On Would-Be Farmers' Ardor

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Federal farm officials, knowing man's eternal craving for a return to the soil, today put their cool hands on the brows of soldiers and war workers who would go a-farming after the war. Take it easy, boys, these officials said in effect—this farming is not a peaches-and-cream proposition.

To sift out possible farm failures, the Agriculture Department has set up committees in almost every farm county to talk it over with the boys before they buy farms. A little booklet, written by an Oregon county agricultural agent, warns that life on the farm is not paradise—plenty of hard labor is necessary.

AND since this talk of back home on the farm brings memories of the farmer's daughter, the sweet smell of hay and other agricultural delights, we can very properly tell about a cock fight which was held at Center Line, Mich. State cops, with little sympathy for this ancient sport, broke up the fight and made 74 excited spectators cough up beaucoup dough in fines. Two lads, James Curran, of Jackson, and William Pander, of Parma, were held in bail as a result of that evening's fun.



A QUICK-ON-THE-TRIGGER cop raced to the scene of a jangling burglar alarm in Chicago, saw a shadowy figure slink out of a doorway, and promptly blasted him with his trusty .38. The figure plopped to the ground, and the cop figured he had settled the stranger's hash for good. But when they rushed the unconscious slinker to the nearest station house, they learned the poor guy had fainted from fright.

Speaking of near-murders, our sympathy goes out to long-suffering Herman Jochims, manager of a theater at Luverne, Minn. For many years, Herman has winced and shuddered at the sound of popy-eyed movie patrons crunching popcorn. It wasn't fair to art, he claimed, and it wasn't soothing to his nervous system. Hereafter, Herman said firmly, those who bring popcorn to his theater will have to leave the stuff at the box-office.

## The Aching Details, for a Change

THIS is one for newspapermen and those hard-boiled citizens who weep in their suds about how tired they are of reading nothing but war news. The Detroit Free Press decided to pass up the war for one issue on Page One, and slapped this big black banner headline on its fair sheet: "DENTISTS ADMIT GRAFT." It then told the customers the aching details of two tooth-yankers who face sentences of five years for attempts to bribe legislators.

The second story receiving a big play in the Detroit paper concerned Gov. Harry Kelly of Michigan putting the state on "slow time" and the Detroit Common Council going to bat to keep Detroit on Eastern War or "fast" time. Then came a suppressed desire of the Free Press's city editor, who wailed in print that Little Orphan Annie was having a desperate time. Please, he begged, get that kid out of trouble or he would resign himself to a life as bird notes editor.

STILL on the subject of the Fourth Estate is this wistful bit about a man who had probably hungered for years to tell off big-shots. Charlie Laughton did it in a movie called "If I Had A Million" by giving his boss a terrific Bronx cheer. This man, Harvey Feitel, did it publicly in an advertisement in the New Orleans Times-Picayune. Said Harvey's ad: "I see by the papers Congress is still wrangling over the work-or-fight bill. The country would be better off if most of them were in war work instead of Congress." Harvey also complained about oil trucks rolling along at 50 miles an hour, and concluded his public gripe with a softer note: "A little Prayer Helps."

## With a Clang, Clang in His Heart

INTO the office of the St. Petersburg, Fla., OPA came a 78-year-old man with wedding bells in his heart and a request for extra gas coupons in his hand. He had been widowed three months, he told the OPA, and he needed ten gallons of extra gas to court a woman he hoped to make his bride. He had estimated three round trips would do the trick. The OPA wouldn't say whether it had played Cupid or not in this situation.

## Nurse Group Says Army Slight Facts

NEW YORK, Feb. 26 (ANS).—The National Nursing Council for War Service said that the nursing profession has been falsely represented by the Army to be lagging in its war efforts, the United Press reported.

Mrs. Edmira B. Wickenden, its executive secretary, said: "The announcement of Maj. Gen. George F. Lull that 1,400 nurses were commissioned this month inevitably creates the impression that no more have come forward. The truth is that 11,130 applications were filed with the Red Cross during the weeks after the President's plea.

"That is the figure of applications made directly to the Army and Navy," Mrs. Wickenden added, "and the picture that is created differs widely from the Army one."

## Educators Study Vets' Schooling

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (ANS).—Education authorities assembled here today to plan new training aids to veterans, about one third of whom will face post-service jobs with eight years or less of schooling. The meeting is a three-day "work" conference under the auspices of the National Education Association.

President Roosevelt is scheduled to discuss government-sponsored training, in schools under the GI Bill of Rights, of 1,500,000 enlisted men in the Navy.

Approximately 25 percent of the Army men have had eight years or less of schooling. The difference is accounted for somewhat by the fact that the Navy was not required earlier in the war to take men from selective service and was able to set higher educational standards.

## Byrnes' Curfew Puts Manhattan to Bed Early



These two comparative photos of one of the world's busiest intersections give you an idea how the streets back home looked last night when the midnight curfew went into effect. The photo above was taken at Fifth Ave. and 42nd Str. last week at 3 PM while...



...this photo, taken at the same intersection at 3 AM, looking east on 42nd, finds not a vehicle or a pedestrian in sight. Many New York's nightspots are only a few minutes' walk from here.

## LaGuardia Acquiesces To Curfew

The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau  
NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Millions of Americans today could feelingly quote, "The stag at eve had drunk his fill," because, starting tonight, a midnight curfew will snuff out the lights of all the gay spots of the home fronts.

Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia, who had told New York night club owners to continue their usual schedules until further announcement, finally admitted defeat when, together with Anna Rosenberg, Regional War Manpower Commission Director, he announced the Big Town would have to observe the curfew with the rest of the country. Mock funeral ceremonies were held in the wee hours today by Cafe Society Downtown where Barney Josephson, the owner, gave everyone a last drink before 4 AM, and by the Copacabana, where Jane Froman sang Auld Lang Syne.

### Most Hit Hay Early

But there were no real screams of anguish from the towns and cities of the country over the midnight damper. The American Institute of Public Opinion, in fact, announced that 95 percent of the home folks say they are in bed by midnight.

Swing shift workers beefed, and some people felt that the prohibition crowd was getting a big break. The prohibition crowd has already expressed its glee at the closing, but Washington officials insist the only purpose of the ban is to conserve fuel, light, manpower and transport.

Night spot proprietors cited dismissal notices to employees as one effect of the ban, but officials hoped these former night club employees would enter war plants. Some tavern owners believe as many as 25,000 tavern employees will be laid off in New York.

### Local Fun

In Salt Lake City, a local dance hall jabbed at War Mobilization Chief James F. Byrnes, who issued the curfew order, by posting this sign: "We Dare Not 'Byrnes' Midnight Oil."

Meanwhile, officials in Washington busied themselves answering queries about the curfew. Nearly all the questions asked whether certain types of night spots were covered by the ban, and the answer was yes.

Exempt from the order are places providing entertainment for servicemen but sponsored by "responsible agencies," such as USO, and restaurants which customarily serve food all night.

### Mrs. F.D.R. on Job Training

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Eight to ten million young men who will return from the battle fronts "must receive training and education which will fit them to do jobs which are to be provided by employers of our country," Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt said today.

## Weather Slows War Output

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (ANS).—January's weather, worst since 1918, contributed to a slight drop in U.S. munitions output last month but production of most critical items rose sharply, the War Production Board reported today. WPB added that the losses in production of steel and other raw materials because of the bad weather will probably hurt weapons output for the next five months.

Biggest increases for the month among critical items were: Cotton duck for tents, up 35 percent; truck and bus tires, up 30 percent, and mortars and artillery pieces, up 21 percent, but still from five to 30 percent behind goals. The overall drop of one percent from December output was considered serious since plans call for a steady month-by-month increase until midyear.

## Mother of 8 Servicemen Sees 9th Son Put in IA

LEHIGHTON, Pa., Feb. 26 (ANS).—The ninth son of Mrs. Russell McFarland has been classified IA. Leighton draft board officials who announced the classification of Marcus K. Smith, 18, said the next step was up to Marcus, who said he would ask for deferment.

Mrs. McFarland and several Leighton residents sent telegrams to President Roosevelt asking special consideration for Marcus. Eight sons of Mrs. McFarland now are serving in the armed forces.

## At Operating Table Before Bullet Struck

FARRAGUT, Idaho, Feb. 26.—Albert Seagle, hospital apprentice first class, of West Frankfort, Ill., claims the record for quick treatment.

He was standing next to an operating table in Palau Island Field Hospital when a Japanese sniper's bullet struck him in the leg.

His leg buckled and he sat down on the operating table, receiving aid in three minutes.

## Supreme Court Ends Recess; May Rule on Ward Review

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (ANS).—The Supreme Court may announce whether it will review the legality of the government's seizure of Montgomery Ward & Co. properties in seven cities when the tribunal resumes today after a fortnight's recess.

The Justice Department has asked the court for emergency hearings on the Montgomery Ward case in the interest of the war effort. The government contends that Federal Judge Phillip P. Sullivan's decision, in which he ruled that President Roosevelt was without authority to take possession of the mail order firm's plants because the company is not engaged in war production, leaves the government's ability to

cope with "future emergencies" in a dangerous position.

With three months of the present term remaining, the court has 45 cases on its docket for final decision, as well as more than 100 awaiting action on appeals from lower-court rulings. Among the charges to be reviewed is a complaint by Gov. Ellis Arnall of Georgia that freight rates of 20 railroads are discriminatory against the South.

The tribunal also will decide whether it has jurisdiction over the first treason case in its history. It involves the conviction of Anthony Cramer, German-born New Yorker, on charges of aiding two Nazi saboteurs.



**No Doubt About It**

PVT. Hyman Hirschenbaum's five-ton truck with a ten-ton trailer was fourth in a convoy which was just clearing the crest of a hill. As he started down he heard the buzzing sound that warned him his hydraulic brake system had sprung a leak.

The former Brooklyn infantryman attempted to shift into low gear but momentum made that impossible. He could have jumped out but he stuck to the wheel, spinning it to avoid first a tractor-trailer and then a group of men. By the time he had gotten around the last vehicle he was traveling about 40 mph and was headed for an ice-filled canal.

He swerved into a yard, but crashed into a house, coming to a stop near a kitchen stove. A baby sleeping in a crib on the other side of the stove was unharmed.

When he filled out the accident report while in the hospital recovering from bruised ribs and a minor head injury he came to the question; "Who had the right of way?"

"I did," he wrote down firmly.

\* \* \*

**Decorations on His Mind**

S/Sgt. Paul Meyer was on guard duty at 346th Regimental HQ of the 87th Inf. Div. He interrupted his thoughts about a Silver Star which had been awarded one of his friends to challenge a form approaching in the darkness.

"Halt! Who is there?"

"Friend," came the reply.

"Advance, friend," said the sergeant, "and be decorated."

Recipient of the unexpected decoration was Col. Richard B. Wheeler, 346th CO.

\* \* \*

**Something New in Stop Signs**

PFC Frank Altimore, of Altoona, Pa., and Pvt. Andrew McIntyre, were assigned to a road check point in a driving snowstorm with orders to halt all vehicles.

This job they found impossible. At least until they used some American ingenuity.



The duo, from the 23rd Armd. Engr. Bn. of the Third Armd. Div., attached a drawing string to a discarded pair of bloomers, and drew the string when a car approached. Traffic came to a screeching halt.

\* \* \*

**Shades of Sherwood Forest**

1/Sgt. Elden J. Harm, of the 413th Inf. Regt., has a genuine lapin fur collar on his coat to attest to his skill in handling a North African bow and arrow.

Kept in Harm's Co. D command post, the bow and arrow is used occasionally to bring in additional meat for the unit table.

Rabbits are the usual victims, but Com Z PRO quotes Harm as saying that Nazis can be just as susceptible to the arrow's sting of death.

\* \* \*

**He Who Hesitates . . .**

THERE'S something slightly reminiscent of Aesop's fables in the recent experience of S/Sgts. Stan Burkholder, of Rugby, N.D., and Henry Gontarz, of Elizabeth, N.J.

A Jerry flew over on a little strafing spree near the town of Kleinbau. Burkholder opened up at him with his grease gun and Gontarz let fly with his M1.

The pilot bailed out and the plane crashed nearby. While the two 121st Inf. Regt. sergeants stood by arguing over who had dropped the ME109, another alert GI beat them to the Nazi pilot and picked up the loose souvenirs.

\* \* \*

**Confidence Galore**

The Bastogne siege had its lighter moments for Tenth Armd. defenders. On the fourth day after the German encirclement, a half-track driver had his vehicle and equipment burned to a cinder.

The following day he appeared at task force HQ and casually inquired if the new half-track and equipment had arrived.

\* \* \*

**'Sad Sack Jump of All Time'**

AN emergency jump that will never be found in Air Force training manuals was forced upon 1/Lt. Allen W. Arneson, B26 Marauder bombardier from Hillsboro, N.D.

"I put on my pack," he explained, "and discovered that I had put it on backwards. But it was too late to change it around. After I jumped out, and the chute opened, I found out something else: I had forgotten to fasten one of the leg straps."

So Arneson floated to earth upside down, only one leg anchoring the parachute. In defense of what his crew members in the 344th group call the "sad sack jump of all time," he explains: "I was in a hurry."

**Again Yanks Push East, Thanks to Engineers And the Strategy that Conquered the Roer**

**Battle of Crossing Began 45 Minutes Before First Wave**

By Ernie Leiser  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 102nd DIV., Feb. 26.—From the far bank of the Roer on eastward, it's the infantry and the tankers' fight, but the battle of the crossing is the property of the U.S. Engineers.

The job done by the combat engineers working with Lt. Col. Robert Anderson of the 102nd is typical of what happened all along the assault front. Their story tells itself.

While the artillery started to roar out its pre-attack barrage at 0245 on D-Day, the engineers struggled down the slippery, muddy river approaches—45 minutes before the first wave shoved off—hauling the 450-pound assault boats and equipment for a foot bridge.

**The First Wave**

When the riflemen of the first company of the first wave—Capt. "Poncho" Lozano's C Co. of the 405th—filed down to the banks, the engineers shoved them into the proper boats amid the noise and confusion of their own supporting artillery and the beginnings of Jerry fire.

Directing the paddle-operated craft in the rushing current was an impossible job, but the engineers did their best—disentangling the boats from mid-stream branches, keeping the men rowing, and leaping ashore to tie up those boats that made it. Then they towed the clumsy boats upstream, unsnarled the pile up and headed back to do it all over again.

**Up Go the Bridges**

They were behind schedule, but the Roer and the Germans hadn't read the schedule. So they worked and ducked—and died—along the shore. Before noon, late but not too late, they had a foot bridge up. A few hours later an infantry support bridge, heavy enough to carry the weight of a two-and-one-half ton truck pulling an AT gun, was across, straining against the ropes which kept it from heading downstream to join the debris of its predecessors.

And, before the day was over, a treadway bridge, big enough to handle tanks, was bobbing precariously but defiantly across the Roer, and at night, a few rumbled across to join the infantry.

The battle of the crossing had been won. But D-Plus-One wasn't a day for back-slapping or rest. Enemy planes would rip up a bridge and they would have to do it all over.

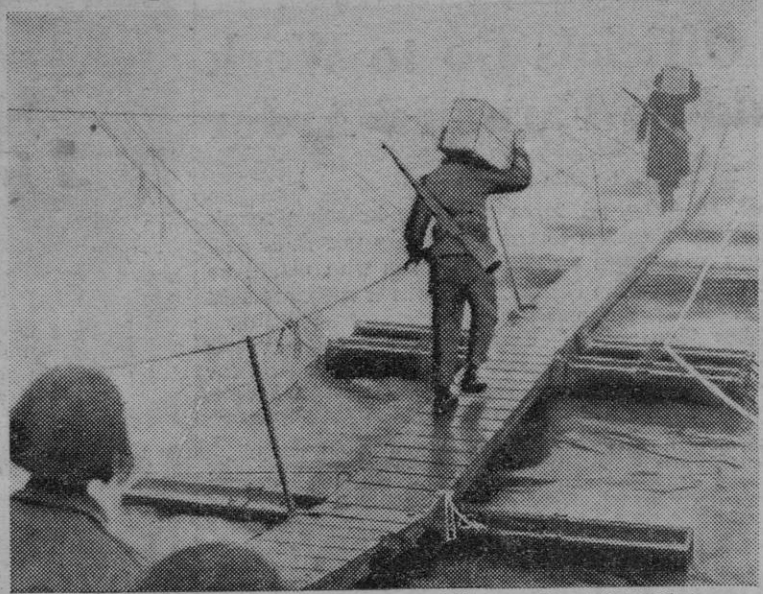
And beyond the bridges, beyond the river, the roads were shin-deep bogs. The engineers celebrated their triumph by hauling up bricks, logs, branches, anything they could get, by bringing up dozers, and by fighting another battle, one that's still going on—the battle against the mud.

**Gen. Spaatz's Spaniel Is Lost—Any Clues?**

Ever aspiring to be the true Soldier's Friend, The Stars and Stripes has often rushed to the aid of generals as well, helping them with their little life burdens and their lost dogs. As, for instance, the recent case of Gen. Omar Bradley and his wire-haired fox terrier.

Today, another general, one of our favorites, has lost his dog. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, U.S. Strategic Air Forces, is minus his golden cocker spaniel, Dandy. The dog wears a tag with the name and the general's British address, 45 Inner Park Road.

If you find Dandy, please notify The Stars and Stripes.



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

"...Supplies, carried by doughs, move across the foot-bridges to the east bank..."

**Licking Logistics Bugaboo**

By Dan Regan  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH U.S. FIRST ARMY, Feb. 26.—The vast panorama of an entire army crossing a river over hastily erected, flimsy bridges presents a tremendous problem in logistics. To move these thousands of guns, trucks, jeeps, weasels and all the other implements of war, Maj. Gen. Terry Allen has originated a new traffic management procedure which he calls the "paddock system."

Instead of the usual method of having unit vehicles operate under a hard-and-fast SOP which directs them to certain definite points at designated times, Gen. Allen displaces vehicles of his 104th Div. in groups which he calls paddocks. Then, as the battle surges forward and certain units are needed at the front, Allen notifies their paddocks and they proceed at top speed over roads and bridges cleared for them.

**The Kid Feels He's Lucky—He's Going Home, All But a Leg**

By Ralph G. Martin  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH NINTH ARMY, Feb. 26.—The kid was laughing. "It sure is funny," he said, "My brother has been fighting in Italy for three years now and he still hasn't gone home. And me, I've only been over six months, and I'm going home already."

He pointed to the bloody stump of his left leg and stopped laughing.

"You betcha sweet life I'm going home," he said.

He was a company aid man attached to the 84th Division.

"It was a mine," he said.

**'He Was a Good Joe'**

He told how they went through Korenzig and ran into burp gun fire and then in the outskirts the mortars and 88s opened up.

"That's where the company commander got killed," he said. "You know, he was a good Joe."

The Nazis poured more mortars and 88s on the company as it edged closer to Roerich. That's where this kid tripped over the wire and set off the mine.

"I didn't get excited," said the kid. "I don't know why, but I didn't. I just put my finger on the pressure point to try to stop the bleeding just like I would have done for anybody else. Then I waited for the medic to come up and give me some morphine."

**Back To Alabama**

"It doesn't pain me at all," he said. "Honest it doesn't." Then he thought a minute.

"Hell, I'm lucky," he said. "That company commander got killed."

He lit a cigarette, took a deep puff and smiled. "Maybe in a couple days I'll be on a C-47 going back to Alabama."

In the next bed a sleepy pair of eyes opened. They belonged to a soldier whose hands were bandaged. He was with a Negro Chemical Battalion that had the

job of camouflaging part of the jump-off area with smoke.

"Did you say you were from Alabama?" he asked. And when the kid nodded his head, the Negro smiled and said slowly, "Well, I'm from Alabama too." Then he fell asleep again.

The guy from Statington, Pa., then spoke up to tell how he was with an ack ack outfit on a recon for new positions when he got caught in the barrage in Baal.

"I guess I'd be dying now, if I wasn't so polite," he said, telling how he jumped into a thin, shallow slit trench and how this other guy asked him if there was room and he said, "Hell, yes" and moved over and the guy jumped in and crouched just where he had been crouching.

**GI Fined, Jailed For Fraternization**

WITH NINTH ARMY, Feb. 26.—A fine of \$20 a month for six months and confinement at hard labor for three months was ordered for a Ninth Army soldier who was found guilty by a Special Court Martial of fraternizing with the enemy.

The case was one of more than 40 convictions for fraternizing in the Ninth Army area during January. Provost Marshal reports showed that the offenders usually were arrested while visiting German homes.

At First Army, three violations were reported, all punished by fines up to \$75.

**Nazis Hoped River A Secret Weapon Would Halt All**

By a Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH NINTH ARMY, Feb. 26.—Today the Roer bridgeheads firmly established, the infant pushing east and reinforcements are rolling across to join them.

With the ebb of its rushing waters, the Roer—normally width of Big Potato creek in Indiana—is ebbing corresponding importance. At the present of operation, by the time the dy river recedes into its banks will be no more than a troublesome bottleneck to Roer-bank supplies.

It will be a long time, though, before it is forgotten by the Ninth Army doughs who first bumped against it back in November who have been looking across ever since from foxholes smashed houses along the banks, and seeing in it an indefinite delay to the punching of tickets home.

**A Secret Weapon**

It seems bizarre that a two-stream could hold up a war nearly three months, or that an army which could smash through the Siegfried Line would be stopped cold by 30 yards of water.

But the Roer was more than a pint-sized river. It was a German secret weapon. The Germans knew that they controlled the flow of water into the river with dams that blocked more than 160,000,000 cubic feet of water at the junction of the Roer and chief tributary, the Urft River. They knew that by blowing the two main dams, they could send an 18-foot tidal wave of the river valley, flooding the area for a few days and cutting off any Allied troops who forced a crossing.

For a month, a Roer crossing was out of the question. Six units on the river's edge were ordered out and sent to meet the Belgian thrust. The others, sprung out to fill the gaps in the line, were alerted to thwart any attempt to spread the flanks of the counter-offensive.

**Had to Plan Anew**

The Nazis, as they saw their defenses in imminent danger of crumbling, opened the gates of the dam.

Any plans to cross the Roer were delayed. U.S. troops were forced to settle back and wait for the river again.

The tension increased as the Roer started to subside, and water seeped into the soggy approaches. Repeated conferences between Marshal Montgomery, commanding the 21st Army Gp., Lt. Gen. Simpson, Ninth Army Chief, were held. Finally a date for the 23rd—was set, and an hour 0330—was chosen.

After three months, they were ready to cross the Roer.

**Brother, Oh, Brother And the W**

By Ed Kent  
Associated Press Correspondent

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE, derick George Peacock, of Buffalo, N.Y., decided he'd like to see Pfc Edward D. Peacock, of the 10th Army, who he hadn't seen in three years, pass, borrowed a jeep, and was on his way to see him when the Ninth Army when—

Cpl. Anthony A. Dagostino about it and said he also had seen in two and a half years, go along. Peacock said sure, a pass. Dagostino obtained one, and they were just about to leave for when—

Word got to Sgt. W. F. Thomas, who announced that he'd seen in three years, and would see if he could get to see him, provided that he was

*This Is Duren's Once Great Factory District*



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

Houses where German factory workers once lived stand empty, deserted and pock-marked by Allied shells after American troops had liberated the northwestern part of the city on the Roer River. Note "dead" smoke stacks on the horizon.

**Mission Didn't Call for It, But B17 Pilot Visits Moscow**

MOSCOW, Feb. 26 (AP).—Maj. Robert Rosenthal, veteran 50-mission Flying Fortress pilot, is taking things easy in Moscow after an unintentional shuttle visit to the Eastern Front and an enthusiastic welcome by the Russians.

Rosenthal, a former Brooklyn lawyer, was guiding his B17 into its bomb run on a Berlin target when it was hit by flak. Although a wing was hit, an engine set afire and a smoke bomb exploded in the bomb bay, the plane completed its run. Then the crew bailed out over the Russian-German Oder front.

"I landed in a field and the next thing I knew, some Russians were surrounding me cowboy Indian style," Rosenthal said. "I thought they were Germans and threw up my hands. One lunged at me with a bayonet and then I yelled 'Amerikanski.' A great light came over the fellow's face. He put down his gun and kissed me. Then they all kissed me, threw their arms around me and took me to a first-aid station."

Hides in Woods  
1/Lt. Robert H. Stropp, of Rome, N.Y., had bailed out before Rosenthal. "I suppose I made first contact with the Russians," he said. "I landed near a woods and dashed in there to hide. Then I saw an American half-track coming down the road."

"Amerikanski, Amerikanski," Stropp said he yelled, but a cautious Russian pulled a revolver, flipped the safety catch and stuck it in the lieutenant's ribs. Finally the Russian understood and offered the American a seat and they rode off to find the Russian's comrades.

Rosenthal and the other rescued members of his crew were taken to a captured German hospital, where they were given baths and put to bed in clean pajamas.

**Brother! Word Went Round And Round**

Ed Kennedy  
Press Correspondent  
FRANCE, Feb. 26.—Lt. Frederick, of the Seventh Army and he'd like to see his brother, of the Ninth Army, whom three years. He got a two-day pass, and was about to set out for—  
Dagostino, of Chicago, heard also had a brother, Cpl. Peter Ninth Army, whom he hadn't all years, and asked if he could aid sure, provided he could get obtained a pass and the pair leave for the Ninth Army area  
W. F. Thomas, of Nashville, ed that he had a brother, Cpl. Ninth Army, whom he hadn't and would they wait until he ld get two days' leave. They at he made it snappy. He got

**House Inquiry Near on Army Policy on Reds**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (UP).—A five-man Congressional committee this week will dig into the reasons for the War Department's "about-face" on commissioning Communists as Army officers.

The Army revealed last week that membership in the Communist party no longer is a bar to a commission unless allegiance to the party is stronger than loyalty to the U.S.

A House Military Affairs subcommittee will begin investigating this reversal on Tuesday, with Assistant Secretary of War John J. McCloy as the first witness. He will be followed by Maj. Gen. Clayton Bissell, head of Army Intelligence. The hearings will be open.

Say Decision Is Significant  
Committeemen attach deep significance to the Army decision and said that they intended to get a full explanation. "If it was dangerous to have Communists in the Army at the beginning of the war, why isn't it just as dangerous now?" asked Rep. Charles H. Elston (R-Ohio). "I'm anxious to know what explanation the War Department has."

Reps. Carl T. Durham (D-N.C.) and Leslie C. Arends (R-Ill.) also indicated concern over the situation. The Army's decision to withdraw the order banning Communists from attending OCS and from holding military assignments involving a high degree of secrecy was revealed in a published report on which the WD at first refused to comment.

Confirmation came from Maj. Gen. James A. Ulio, adjutant general, who told congressmen it had been decided that the basic consideration should be an individual's loyalty to the U.S. rather than his membership in a political or other organization.

**'Free German' Group Is Formed in London**

LONDON, Feb. 26 (AP).—Exiled anti-Nazi Germans in England have formed a self-styled "Free German" movement, paralleling a Soviet-sponsored committee in Moscow, and urged the German people to accept the decisions of the Crimea Conference.

The group, made up of former political and intellectual leaders, asked the British Government for permission for "free Germans" to accompany the British Army to the front so that "they may call for and organize, as Germans, resistance among the German Army to Hitlerism" and "propagate democratic ideals."

**Sun and Dust and Lemonade Spring... But Winter Clings To Dank Foxholes at Night**

By James Cannon

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THIRD ARMY, Feb. 26.—On a hill above the Mosel, Pvt. David Penn, of New York City, took off his helmet, closed his eyes and let the sun warm his face. Dust blew along the roads and the jeep driver's eyes stung. In Fraudenburg a buck sergeant and a staff stiffly threw a baseball across the muddy street. The fields were soft and birds were singing in Saarlautern.

Above Dillingen, Pvt. Ralph E. Combs of the 80th Div., caught a four-pound pike in the Our River. A Red Cross doughnut girl on the Luxembourg bank of the Saar took off her coat and bandana and shook her hair loose.

**Some Field Lemonade**

The confectionery stores in Luxembourg city were more crowded with civilians than the saloons, even though the ice-cream tasted like castor oil. On the road going into Sinz a soldier made lemonade with water and K-ration powder. Near Brandscheid a soldier of the Fourth Inf. Div. took The Stars and Stripes—used as a wind-breaker—out of his shirt and threw it away.

Sheep were frisky in a pasture between Metz and Thionville. Washing hung, damp and limp, on lines wherever troops bivouacked. Bartenders reported that fewer troops asked for cognac before they settled for the watery beer of the Duchy of Luxembourg.

**And the Convoys Stream By**

In the towns behind the lines the soldiers rested their elbows on the window sills of broken houses and stared at the convoys coming through. On the Moselle, outside of Nancy, French civilians fished from the concrete chunk of a broken bridge with long, bending poles. A TD man in the Bannholz woods, stripped to the waist and washed himself from a helmet perched on a tree stump.

On a road leading into Echternach a truck driver was wearing gas mask goggles. In a week of going around the front you didn't see a single snow suit.

Spring was in the valleys and up in the hills as sure as death was there.

But in the holes at night it was still cold and wet; in the holes it was still winter.

**Hiding Nazis Try Yank Song But Find Their Version Fails**

By Pat Mitchell

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

BEYOND SIEGFRIED LINE WITH FOURTH INF. DIV., Feb. 26.—Elaborate German pillboxes with connecting underground roads leading into Prum were taken by members of this division en route through the Siegfried Line.

One such fortification was explored thoroughly after an anti-tank crew spent the night inside it and then discovered 18 Jerry in a room they didn't know existed.

Pvt. Mario (The Harp) Trozzolo, of Chicago, had taken out his harmonica and was playing "Don't Fence Me In" when S/Sgt. William M. Choset, of Brooklyn, heard someone singing. Investigation turned up the Nazis, who had thus hoped to pass themselves off as Yanks.

"They didn't pronounce the word 'fence' right," said Choset, "and that's what tipped me off."

Pfc Dan Duckman, also of Brooklyn, said: "There were large rooms down underground, complete

with kitchens, storage bins and ammo bays. There was space for a battalion, and in one room alone I counted 50 bunks."

The soldiers found the fortification equipped with an excellent kitchen, and in a quartermaster tallybox they found entries going as far back as 1923. Other pillboxes in the area were linked to this one by underground tunnels.

"The underground road that led off to Prum was wide enough for two tanks to travel abreast on it," said Dackman. "All the rooms and tunnels were fixed up with telephones and lights. Things were pretty nice down there. It must have been nice living while it lasted."

**Allied Leaders in Asia Get Together**



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

Allied leaders of the war in Asia meet in Burma to confer on action against Japan. L. to R.: Lt. Gen. Daniel I. Sultan, CG of U.S. forces in the India-Burma theater; Maj. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, CG of U.S. forces in the China theater; Adm. Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander in Southeast Asia; Maj. Gen. William J. Donovan, chief of U.S. Office of Strategic Services.

## Once Over Lightly

(Today's guest sports column is by Frank Haraway, of the Denver Post.)

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Ever wonder what happened to those Army baseball stars who left for battlefronts after thrilling you last summer in Denver's Victory Baseball League?

These items picked up recently on some of the Camp Carson boys, who played for Tommy Flaherty's "Harps," easily the most popular team in the Victory League, offer a typical example of what athletes of this caliber do under fire.

Those boys who played for Flaherty were all part of the famed Timberwolves, (104) Div., which left in mid-August for the Western Front and Europe.

Jack Knott, good-natured, likable Texan, whose pitching was such a standout, has been wounded in Belgium, compiling probably the finest record in combat of any former major league ballplayer. Knott's wife, who lives in Brownwood, Tex., had been notified by the War Department that her husband was wounded, Jan. 10.

ON Jan. 17 Knott was promoted from sergeant to lieutenant, to thus become the first big league ballplayer to win a commission in combat. Details of exactly what happened haven't been revealed by the Department.

One of Knott's close friends, Flem R. Hall, sports editor of a Fort Worth newspaper, who saw service as a war correspondent, writes this about Jack:

"Jack, who came off a West Texas farm in 1926 as a rookie with Dallas, never did like to be hurried or pushed around. Although he's big and strong like a young horse, Knott never caused any trouble. He was just a good natured slow-moving fellow—until someone got shoving. Then he could be terrific. They say he bounced a few wise guys off clubhouse walls until they found out about Jack."

AS for some other Timberwolf Div. boys who played for Flaherty—Paul Armstrong, sensational centerfielder, rated an outstanding player in the Victory League and a sure-fire big leaguer in post-war days, was wounded in the chest by a German sniper in Belgium. Gus Gregory, peppery shortstop, is a German prisoner of war, and Dean Frye, infielder, has been put out of action because of nervousness.

Speedy Gene Connors, whom Denver fans believe can circle bases in an even dozen strides, is still in the thick of the firing as is Roy "Beau" Bell, the slugging big league outfielder, who played at first base for Flaherty. Bell is looking forward to the days when he can return and get a glimpse of his recently-born daughter, whom he has never seen.

## Snead Corrals Pensacola Golf

PENSACOLA, Fla., Feb. 26.—Sammy Snead shot a 65 in the final round yesterday and his 72-hole total of 267 won the \$1,333.33 war bonds prize in the Pensacola Open golf tournament. Byron Nelson, seven strokes behind, received \$933 to raise his season's winnings to \$14,486.

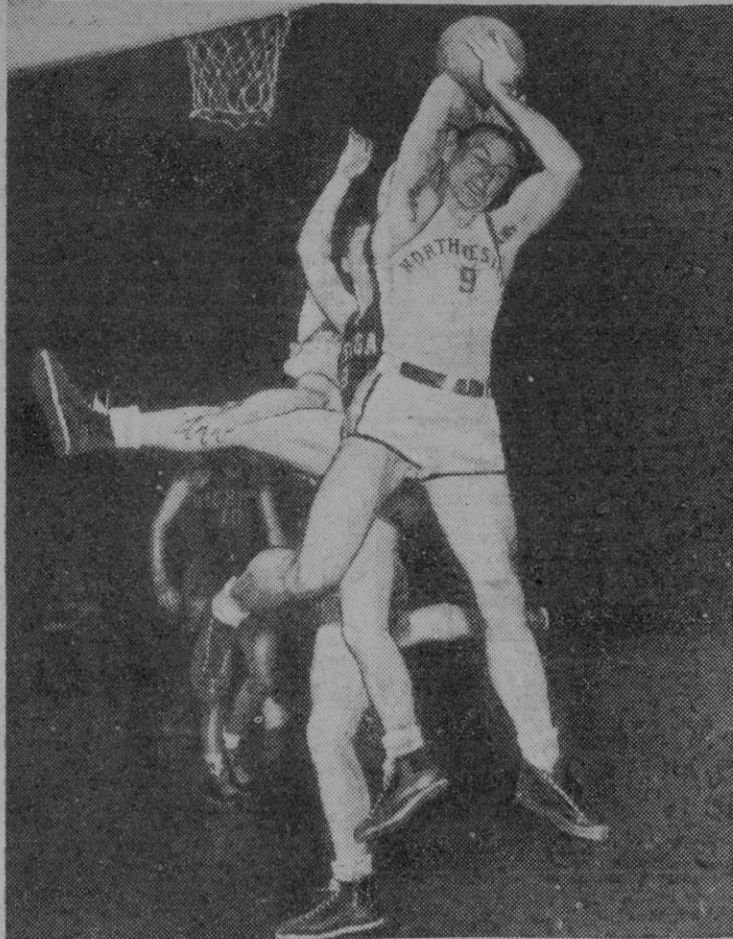
It was Snead's fifth championship of the winter tour, which put him one ahead of Nelson. The Hot Springs, Va., star had complete control of his long shots and he had his putter working perfectly in the final round, after he slumped with a 71 in the morning round.

Jug McSpaden and Claude Harmon tied for third with 275, while Craig Wood, Henry Picard and Sgt. Dutch Harrison were deadlocked with 279s.



Sammy Snead

## No Place to Go—But the Play's the Thing



Their teams haven't got a chance for the Big Ten Conference title, but these boys are putting everything they have into the game. Identifiable players are Max Morris (9), white uniform, of North-western; Walt Kell (9), dark uniform, of Michigan, and Keith Harder (10), of Michigan. The Wolverines won, 46-45, in overtime.

## Baseball Brevities

CHICAGO.—The annual exhibition game at baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., has been cancelled, Will Harridge, president of the American League, has revealed. The cancellation was in line with the government's request to curtail transportation 25 percent in 1945. The game was scheduled to be played July 9, between the Detroit Tigers and New York Giants.

CLEVELAND.—Only a clearly defined "play ball" statement from manpower officials in Washington will bring 4F athletes from their farms or war jobs, says Lou Boudreau, manager of the Cleveland Indians. "Nothing short of a specific declaration by the authorities in Washington to the effect that the government approves participation in pro athletics by players who have been rejected for military service will get the boys out of the factories in time for spring training," Boudreau declared. "I'm talking about the permanent 4Fs. The Army and Navy don't want them but the factories do. Someone in Washington must decide whether those men are more valuable in the war plants or on the ball fields."

### Voiselle Signed Early Pact

GREENVILLE, S.C.—Bill Voiselle, righthander who won 21 games for the New York Giants last season, signed his 1945 contract two weeks before the last season ended. The contract calls for \$10,000—twice as much as he received last season. The Giant ace is 4F.

BROOKLYN.—Though he has steadily insisted that manpower and not transportation is the major problem for clubowners, Branch Rickey, of the Dodgers, has sold Outfielder Carden Gillenwater to the Boston Braves for an unannounced amount of cash. Gillenwater joined the Dodgers last spring after a successful season with New Orleans. He bats and throws righthanded.

### Butcher in Pirates' Fold

PITTSBURGH.—Pitcher Max Butcher signed his 1945 contract—first Pirate to do so—after a short conference with President Bill Benswanger. Butcher, who hails from Huntington, W. Va., led Pirate hurlers in shutouts last year, hurling five, while winning 13 and dropping 11.

OXFORD, Ohio.—The Rochester Red Wings and the Columbus Red Birds, St. Louis Cardinal farm clubs, will do spring training on the campus of Miami University here. The two clubs will have approximately 70 players for training.

DETROIT.—The Detroit Tigers, who missed the 1945 American League pennant by the proverbial eyelash, are prepared for another try at the gonfalon and have listed a tentative roster of 34 players to report to the Evansville (Ind.) training camp, March 15. Outfielder Dick Wakefield is the most conspicuous absentee. He entered the Navy after the close of the 1944 season. Sixteen pitchers, including Hal Newhouser and Dizzy Trout, who combined to win 56 games for the Tigers last season, are on the roster.

## Ed Eagan Investigates Charges Against Jacobs

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Eddie Eagan, chairman of the State Athletic Commission, said today he is investigating charges of collusion in connection with the second Bobby Ruffin-Johnny Greco fight. Maurie Waxman, spokesman for the Ruffin camp, charged that when he sought to have the fight scheduled for 12 rounds, Jacobs refused and asked him to take ten rounds and be satisfied with a draw decision and a return bout.

## Texas Ags Use Editor As Emergency Cager

COLLEGE STATION, Tex.—The manpower shortage is acute at Texas A & M. A week ago, Dick Goad edited the Aggie college paper and played a little intramural basketball on the side. Then three Aggie varsity cagers became sick and Coach Manning Smith pressed Goad into service on the varsity. In a conference game against Texas, Goad got in with only one night's practice and made ten points. Texas beat the Aggies, 87-59.

## Canadiens' Richard Scores 45th Goal to Set NHL Mark

MONTREAL, Feb. 26.—"The Rocket" exploded last night, for Maurice Richard, of the Canadiens, finally scored his 45th goal, thus smashing the record of 44 in one season, established by Joe Malone during the 1917-18 campaign. Montreal defeated Toronto, 5-2, Richard's scoring the final goal of the game.

### Syndicate Now Owns All of Yankee Stock

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Larry MacPhail, Del Webb and Dan Topping have succeeded in purchasing the remaining 3.12 percent of the New York Yankees' stock, held by George Ruppert, it was learned here last night.

This deal, together with the purchase of the ten percent held by Ed Barrow, gives the trio 100 percent ownership. The total purchase price of the Yankees was \$2,900,000.

## Student Killed In Fight Riot

HAVANA, Cuba, Feb. 26.—A fanatical demonstration which led to gunfire causing the death of a 17-year-old student and the wounding of 14 others, mostly women, followed the protested decision awarded Carlos Perez over Kid Tunero in the 12-round bout for the Central American and Caribbean middleweight championship here last night. Perez is from the Dominican Republic and Tunero is the Cuban titleholder.

The crowd, numbering 10,000, whistled and screamed for ten minutes. Men began hurling chairs toward the ring and, as police tried to restore order, shooting broke out. Many persons were mauled and trampled in the wild rush toward the exits.

## Asks No Penalty For Lusty Fouls

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—Basketball, football and hockey have indulged in various modifications of their rules, based on different zones of play, and it's only natural that this fad should eventually get around to baseball. The Sporting News, weekly baseball publication, reports this week that agitation has developed to give a batter a break when, with less than two strikes on him, he belts the cover off the ball, only to see it carried foul, with the result that he's charged with a strike.

Under the new plan, an imaginary line is drawn across the foul lines, 45 feet past first and third base. All fouls that hit beyond those points are considered "dead" balls, those that hit inside those points and home plate are strikes. The suggested plan would give the batter a break—also another "shot" at the ball with no penalty for having connected solidly, though foul.

It was a roughhouse affair with eight penalties, two of ten-minute duration, in the final period alone. Thirteen others, including four major penalties, were meted out by officials.

Buddy O'Connor put the Canadiens ahead in the first period, and Dick Metz evened the count early



Maurice Richard

in the second, but from then on Montreal outscored, outskated and outroughed the Leafs.

### Rangers, Bruins Tied, 4-4

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.—The Rangers kept one point behind the Boston club in the fight for a National Hockey League playoff berth by playing a 4-4 tie with the Bruins before 15,764 fans at Madison Square Garden last night.

Hardly had Hank Goldup, of the Rangers, scored the tying goal in the final period than he became embroiled in a fight with Bill Jennings, of the Bruins. Both were given major penalties.

### Red Wings Beat Hawks

CHICAGO, Feb. 26.—Goals by Joe Carveth and Babe Seibert in the third period gave the Detroit Red Wings a 3-1 victory over the Chicago Black Hawks. Seibert's goal came 11 seconds before the end and Carveth scored twice, his first goal equalizing the tally by Pete Horeck, his second coming on a pass from Steve Wocky ten minutes after the final session began.

### Hockey Standings

National League				
	W	L	T	Pts
Montreal	33	5	4	70
Detroit	27	12	4	58
Toronto	19	20	3	41
Boston	14	25	3	31
New York	10	23	10	30
Chicago	9	27	6	24

American League				
	W	L	T	Pts
Buffalo 4, St. Louis 3,				
Hershey 3, Indianapolis 0,				
Providence 8, Cleveland 3.				

## GI Bout Ends in 20 Seconds

A 20-second technical kayo opened the card of ten GI bouts at the Palais de Glace, Paris, last night, but the other nine fights went the three-round limit. In the first event, Cpl. Rufus Bishop, Brooklyn featherweight, opened a cut over the right eye of Pfc Frank Tessallo, East St. Louis boxer, and the referee stopped the milling before a half-minute had elapsed.

A crowd of 3,000 servicemen saw the program, one of the dullest of the current ARC-Special Service winter offerings.

### The Results

Cpl. Rufus Bishop, Brooklyn, TKO's Pfc Frank Tessallo, East St. Louis, Mo., 20 seconds, first round; Pvt. Arlee Chandler, St. Louis, decisioned Cpl. Jess Cota, San Diego, Calif.; Pfc Beaufort Glover, Cleveland, decisioned Pvt. John Lester, Los Angeles; Cpl. Wilton Kemp, Riverside, N.J., decisioned Pvt. Robert Wilson, Philadelphia; Pvt. Chester Clemons, Kansas City, Mo., decisioned Pfc John Thompson, NYC; Pvt. Ted Pritchard, Pittsburgh, decisioned Pvt. Leroy Bullard, NYC; Pvt. Joe Williams, Detroit, decisioned Pvt. Mike Constanza, Chicago; Cpl. Irving Bishop, Brooklyn, decisioned Cpl. Don Anderson, Philadelphia; Pvt. Benny Williams, NYC, decisioned Sgt. Curtis Chartier, Chicago; Sgt. James Treadwell, Newark, N.J., decisioned Pfc Fred Peeler, NYC.

### U.S. Poloists Beat Mexico

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 26.—Cecl Smith, hard-riding San Antonio stickwielder, scored three goals as the United States defeated Mexico's powerful Herradura team, 9-5, in the International polo matches here yesterday. He was injured slightly in the third chucker when his horse fell, but after a ten-minute respite, Smith resumed play.

# PUP TENT POETS

## Soldier's Poem

If I go into the great beyond,  
Among the martial shadows there;  
If I should fall against the foe  
And if my fortune others share—  
What will we leave to those we love  
That can be measured with the cost?  
And will the living reap the harvest  
Or the victory be lost?

When we change the fate of nations  
Will we change the hearts of men?  
If we chain the conquered savage  
Will he break his bonds again?

Yes—for chains are to be broken  
As are prison walls to scale,  
For a nation knows no bondage  
And, attempting it, we fail.

In a brotherhood of nations  
Let the strong protect the weak.  
Let their strength be drawn from justice  
And their faith in what they seek.

If for this we face the armor  
And the scales of fate are weighed;  
If the battle surges o'er us  
And the mortal price is paid—

Then we leave the field with honor.  
Then the price is none too high  
For we leave unto the living  
What we loved enough to die.

—Pvt. Robert L. Jewell.

## A Wish

I wish I was a little rock a sittin'  
on a hill,  
Doin' nothing all the day, but just  
a sittin' still.  
I wouldn't eat, I wouldn't sleep, I  
wouldn't even wash.  
I'd just sit still a thousand years,  
and rest myself, b'gosh!

—N. M. M.

## Victory

"Someone has spoken of victory—  
Will it come? Yes, I know.  
But not before bloodshed and hate,  
Have left their mark on Joe.  
When men have killed to their  
utmost—  
'And sinned and cursed in vain;  
When all selfishness has gone from  
our hearts,  
We will then have peace again."

—Bob Hall.

## A Clerk's Lament

For Division Hq  
You need at least two.  
Up at Corp  
They need more  
It's bucked back from TUSA  
With an excusa.  
Com Z needs three  
ETOUSA, a thousa.  
Less than a sheaf  
For SHAEF isn't safe.  
Distribution SNAFU,  
It comes back to you!

—T/4 Alfred Stern.

# AMERICAN FORCES NETWORK

Also AEFP (583 Kc. - 514 M.)

Time	TODAY
1200-News	1920-Ran. Sherman
1215-For Chowh'ds	1945-At Ease
1300-Blondie	2000-World News
1330-Dance Music	2005-Your War today
1400-News	2015-Johnny Mercer
1410-Melody R'dup	2030-American Band
1430-RCAF Band	2100-News
1500-Strike Up Band	2105-Char. McCarthy
1530-Combat Diary	2125-Dinah Shore
1545-On the Record	2200-U.S. News
1625-Play to You	2207-Hit Parade
1700-News	2235-Pacific Music
1715-Canada Show	2300-News
1800-News	2305-One Night Stand
1805-Mark Up Map	2330-Mystery Play
1810-U.S. Sports	2400-News
1815-GI Supper-Club	0015-Night Shift
1900-Raymond Scott	

Time	TOMORROW
0600-Rise and Shine	0910-Spotlight Band
0700-News	0925-Canada Music
0715-Song Parade	1000-Morning After
0730-Army Orchestra	1030-Strike Up Band
0800-Combat Diary	1100-U.S. News
0815-Personal Album	1106-Duffle Bag
0830-Modern Music	1145-Piano Parade
0900-News	

News Every Hour on the Hour

## Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features

By Al Capp



## Terry and The Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate

By Milton Caniff



## Abbie an' Siats

By Courtesy of United Features

By Raeburn Van Buren



## Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune Syndicate Inc.

By Chester Gould



## Male Call

By Milton Caniff



**Help Wanted —AND GIVEN**

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

**FOUND**

WALLET belonging to S/Sgt. Frank V. JOCHMAN 3329195—Pvt. E. J. Archacki.

TOILET KIT, initialed P.E.M. in car at St. Quentin—Lt. Robert Kus.

**B**RACELET belonging to Harry R. LATKE 1671119—Pvt. A. Rusach.

**F**IELD BAG belonging to Capt. Richard C. KEBLER, Inf.—Capt. F. S. Crown.

**P**HOTOS showing baby in swan rocker, with one tooth prominently showing, baby holding jar of playthings in lap, young woman leading baby, white lawn seat in background. Pvt. Frank Antonelli.

**S**CARF, on Jan. 23, in Mayol Theater, Paris, belonging to Ninth AF 2/Lt. —Pvt. Wm. Spewak.

**B**RACELET belonging to J. F. 32781037, by S/Sgt. John T. Dickmeyer.

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

**P**Vt. Raymond W. McCaffrey, Chicago—Claudia Jeannine, Dec. 27; Lt. Laurence A. Webster, Polk City, Fla.—Laurence A., Feb. 12; Capt. Jack Solot, Philadelphia—Gerald Allen, Feb. 16; Cpl. Ronald Bence, Watertown, N.Y.—Carolyn Marie, Feb.; T/4 Kenneth Alve Johnson, National City, Calif.—girl, Feb. 18; Sgt. Alexander Bloom, Chicago—Stuart, Feb. 18; Maj. O. L. Nissley, Ashville, Ohio—

Barbara Jane, Feb. 16; Lt. Arthur S. Cameron, Morristown, N.J.—Gordon Craig, Feb. 22; Pfc. Richard F. Garrison, Brooklyn—boy, Jan. 22.

**C**APT. Harold C. Stanley, Anniston, Ala.—Harlett Calhoun, Feb. 17; Lt. Pasquale B. Guarine, Bywood, Pa.—Pasquale B. Feb. 21; S/Sgt. James G. Carter, Valley Stream, N.Y.—Kathleen, Feb. 2; Lt. Raymond S. Bernauer, Milwaukee—girl, Feb. 19; 1/Lt. Laurence Critchell, Washington Douglas Allen, Feb. 21; Capt. Siebrand Niewenhaus, New York—Siebrand, Feb. 22; Capt. Sidney Berman, Chicago—Howard James, Feb. 23.

## Russians Probe At Approaches To Nazi Capital

Moscow dispatches reported yesterday that the main armies of Marshals Ivan S. Koniev and Gregory K. Zhukov, massed on the southeastern and eastern approaches to Berlin, had carried out widespread scouting operations in preparation for a powerful drive for the capital.

Last night's Soviet communique reported that the major battles on the Eastern Front yesterday were fought in East Prussia and in the Silesian city of Breslau, where Soviet troops took 15 more blocks away from the encircled German garrison.

In East Prussia, Red Army troops threw back strong German attacks on the Samland Peninsula, north-west of Koenigsberg, and captured several more towns southwest of Koenigsberg. The German radio said that German troops had restored communications between the peninsula and the city.

The Russians were silent concerning Marshal Konstantin K. Rokossovsky's new drive in Pomerania toward the Baltic. Soviet troops were less than 20 miles from the communications hub of Neustettin, which appeared to be the immediate objective.

The German High Command reported that Soviet troops in Slovakia had gained in an attack along the road to Zvolan.

## Strike Spreads In Dodge Plant

DETROIT, Feb. 26 (UP).—Maintenance and powerhouse employees joined the ranks of 13,000 strikers at the Chrysler Corporation's main Dodge factory today, completely halting the plant's production of guns, tanks, B29 engine parts and rockets.

Rejecting back-to-work requests from the WLB and United Auto Workers (CIO) officials, the strikers demand the reinstatement of eight men dismissed by the company for "loafing."

Meanwhile, a "considerable number" of the 10,000 strikers at the Ingalls Shipbuilding Plant, Pascagoula, Miss., were warned that they faced induction into the armed services under the Selective Service regulations. The WLB charged that the strike was "direct interference with the war" and ordered the strikers back to work.

In Washington, John L. Lewis, of the United Mine Workers, served official notice on the Government of the possibility of a softcoal strike in the U.S. in 30 days.

The notice, which was delivered by the policy committee three days before negotiations for a new contract, said "a labor dispute exists," but added that the union would endeavor in the coming month to prevent a reduction of the bituminous coal output.

## Alexander, Tito Prepare For Linking of Forces

ROME, Feb. 26 (AP).—Field Marshal Sir Harold Alexander, Allied Supreme Commander in the Mediterranean theater, has concluded conferences in Belgrade with Marshal Tito, leader of the Yugoslav Army of Liberation, it was announced today.

The two leaders reached agreements on future military operations and an administrative arrangement to become effective when their armies "eventually join hands." Further Allied aid to Tito's army also was discussed.

## Allies Gain in Burma

A Reuter dispatch from Burma yesterday said that patrols of the British 14th Army were within sight of pagodas in Mandalay. Allied troops gained in other Burma sectors.

Flying from bases in China, Liberators of the U.S. 14th AF sank five Japanese ocean-going vessels in Tongkin Gulf and the South China Sea.

## Honored for Services Rendered



Brig. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, the Army's only Negro general, receives the Distinguished Service Medal from Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, Deputy Commander, ETO, for services from June, 1941, to November, 1944, as an inspector of units in the field and as a special War Department consultant on matters affecting Negro troops.

## Forrestal Visits Iwo, Voices 'Reverence' for Assault Men

IWO JIMA, Feb. 26 (UP).—James V. Forrestal, Secretary of the Navy, toured the American beachhead and advanced positions on Iwo last Friday and expressed his "tremendous admiration and reverence for the guy who walks up the beaches and takes enemy positions with rifle and grenades or his bare hands."

Forrestal, his face reddened by a brisk, chill wind and pelting rain, had removed his helmet and green combat jacket, but still was wearing a gray sweatshirt when he talked with correspondents aboard Vice Adm. Richmond Kelly Turner's Amphibious Force flagship.

Before his visit ashore, which he made with Lt. Gen. Holland M. Smith, commanding general of Fleet Marine Forces, the Secretary watched the early stages of the invasion from the flagship's bridge.

"This operation shows that we still need tremendous amounts of war material," Forrestal said. "The saving of lives is related directly to the preponderance of power we can put on our targets."

He said that more than 10,000 tons of shells and rockets from naval guns had been poured into tiny Iwo.

Forrestal asserted that the Japanese are "not normal, but are opponents driven by mysticism, terror and fanaticism."

## Boss at Iwo



Vice Adm. Richmond Kelly Turner, in overall command of the U.S. operations at Iwo Jima, is a veteran naval commander of the American offensive across the Pacific. He also led the campaigns in the Marshalls and Gilberts.

## Berlin Raided Week Straight

(Continued from Page 1) strikes by the Second TAC boosted the plane total over the 3,000 mark.

A force of 250 medium and light bombers of the Ninth AF attacked German communications centers ahead of the advancing First and Ninth armies in the areas around Euskirchen and Dusseldorf. Ninth pilots reported no enemy fighter opposition and no flak.

Fighter bombers of the 19th TAC flew deep in the Reich to strafe a troop train near Wurzburg and to attack a rail yard at Bensheim, 12 miles east of Worms.

Attacks were made by the First TAC on the Ludwigshafen-Neustadt-Landau rail route in the front of the Sixth Army group.

## Oran Returned to French

ROME, Feb. 26 (AP).—The North African port of Oran has been turned over officially to the French, Lt. Gen. Joseph McNarney, commanding general in the North African theater, announced today.

## Egyptian Deputies for War

CAIRO, Feb. 26 (Reuter).—The Egyptian Chamber of Deputies tonight approved Egypt's declaration of war against the Axis. Confidence in the government also was voted, 214 to 2.

## Taft Demands Army Clarify Policy on 18-Year-Old Fighters

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP).—Sen. Robert Taft (R-Ohio) demanded today that the War Department clarify the policy of using 18-year-old draftees with less than a year's training in combat overseas.

Sen. Taft told reporters today that he would cite the case of Pfc. Robert Pogue, 18, of Cincinnati, who was reported killed in action in France on Feb. 3—a little more than seven months after he had been inducted.

"I don't think that it's fair to put these young boys into the front lines with only basic training or a little more," Taft said.

## Canadian, Third Armies Step Up Their Drives

(Continued from Page 1)

and Buir, one on either side of the highway.

This was the deepest penetration yet reported, as the offensive of the First and Ninth Armies went into its fourth day.

Although the weather was poor and drizzling rain prevented air support for the first time since the drive began, the tanks found the terrain of the Cologne plain to their liking. In several towns surrounded Germans were holed up in strongpoints. After the tanks had surrounded and bypassed the towns, infantry moved in and cleaned up—if there was anything to clean up after the heavy fire from armor and artillery.

Prisoners continued to flow in, with another entire battalion surrendering intact today at Golzheim. It was a panzer grenadier battalion this time, and taken with it were two other battalion commanders and a regimental CO. This ran the First Army's total in two days to four battalion commanders and one regimental commander.

### Front Now 27 Miles

The advance along the entire front—now extended to nearly 27 miles—was accelerated today. First Army troops made advances up to five miles during the day, and those of the Ninth Army, though not registering as much in mileage, captured 11 more villages and entered from three sides the important communication center of Erkelentz in the north.

Two more divisions were identified—the 84th Inf. Div., which was reported to have gained a mile and a half on the extreme north of the offensive to capture Houverath and Hetverath, and the 30th Inf. Div., whose position was not revealed.

### First Army Troops Push Within 11 Mi. of Cologne

By Dan Regan

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH FIRST ARMY, Feb. 26.—The 104th Div. continued its rapid drive toward the Rhine today as tanks pushed five miles to reach points within eleven miles of Cologne.

Attacking during the night, Maj. Gen. Terry Allen's men took the towns of Golzheim, Orschenich, Blatzheim, Buir and Azweiler. Armored units moved across level plains, meeting few natural obstacles in the best tank country since the Normandy breakthrough.

The estimated number of prisoners taken during the past 24 hours will total more than 2,000.

The First Bn. of the First Timberwolf Regt. captured Morschenich and took a German battalion marshalled for a daylight attack.

First Army troops also took Soller, Drove, Boich and Rath, all south of Duren.

### Ninth Army Sweep Engulfs 16 More German Towns

By Ralph Martin

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH NINTH ARMY, Feb. 26.—Our troops are now moving fast enough all along the front so that yesterday's close-support air targets are now well within our battle lines. The Germans are reported to be pulling in considerable troops

from other sectors of the front, plus considerable armor. So far, though, no counter-attack today was more powerful than in company strength.

Ninth Army troops swept through at least 16 more German towns. Captured were: Kauthausen, Kuckhoven, Wockerath, Bellinghoven and Tenholt. The 84th Div. reported taking Hoven, Golkrath and Matzerath, and the 30th Div., whose identity has just been disclosed on this front, captured Oberempt, Rodingen and Spiel.

### Fighting in Erkelentz

Ninth Army troops have passed through the important road center of Erkelentz and are now fighting in the northern outskirts of the town. The town, which was expected to have been heavily defended by the Germans, was surrounded on three sides by the 102nd this morning.

Erkelentz, which is a key point on the Roer road net, was considered an important enough target last November to have been singled out for special air attacks.

Elsewhere on the front, resistance seemed even more disorganized and confused and the total prisoner count since the jump-off is now well over 4,400.

Further south, the 29th Div. announced the taking of Titz, Muntz, Ousten, Hasselsweiler and Ameln. It was at Ameln that the 29th bumped into its stiffest resistance, mostly enemy armor.

Other American troops forced new crossings of the Roer west of Hilfarth. The town was taken in a frontal assault.

Meanwhile, the Roer River dropped another six inches today and now is only one foot and eight inches above its level on Feb. 9, which was considered normal.

### Third Army Gains Up to 1 1/2 Miles

By Pat Mitchell

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THIRD ARMY, Feb. 26.—Four more towns were cleared, one captured and two entered and gains of up to one and a half miles were made by units of Lt. Gen. Patton's Third Army tonight.

Doughs of the Fourth Armored Div. crossed the Nims River and pushed a mile and a half east to the Bitburg area, heading for the Kyll River. Liessem, four miles northwest of Bitburg, was engulfed as the Fourth tankers displayed Battle of France tactics.

Meanwhile, units of the Fifth Div. gained on a four-mile front, clearing the towns of Messerich, Bintliger and Oberweis, all two to four miles southwest of Bitburg. While artillery screamed into Bitburg streets, other Fifth Div. elements battled two and a half miles from the town.

Eight miles to the North, 80th Div. doughs entered Maule, bringing the entire Prum River under Patton's control. Bitburg was doomed as 76th elements operating southwest of the city mopped up pillboxes and entered the town of Wolsfeld.

As Fourth Div. armored tanks raced eastward toward the Kyll River valley, Tenth Armored units pushed a mile and a half farther east, clearing Schoden, two and a half miles northeast of Saarburg. Nazi pillbox systems, bypassed by tankers under Lt. Col. John R. Riley, are being mopped up in a two-mile pocket east and south of Saarburg.

### Seventh Repels Attack

On the Seventh Army front, one enemy counter-attack was thrown back northeast of Forbach but elsewhere the front was inactive. In Alsace, German patrols probed all along the Rhine.

### For a Free Press

A resolution urging international free access to the news with no censorship after the war was passed unanimously today by correspondents at Supreme Allied Headquarters. The resolution endorsed the stand of American and British societies of newspaper editors guaranteeing freedom of news and picture sources.