

Man Spricht Deutsch

Haende hinter den Kopf.
Henda hinter den Kopff.
Hands behind the head.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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

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Thursday, Dec. 14, 1944

ASF, AAF To Transfer 65,000 Men

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (ANS).—Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, chief of Army Ground Forces, said today that a radical change in the mission of the AGF is resulting in the transfer of 65,000 soldiers from the air and service forces, with the possibility that more will be shifted.

In addition, the change means that whole units are being switched from assignments no longer necessary to fighting duties.

"By no means," he said, "is this a sudden manpower shift to balance the scales. Instead, it is an index that the usefulness of these soldiers in their previous services has ceased and now exists to a great degree in the ground forces.

May Shift More

"It is estimated that, as the need and the unavoidable casualties increase, additional men may be shifted from air force surpluses to the ground forces. The changing picture of the war has terminated the usefulness of some units and they have therefore been reconstituted for new missions."

Illustrating the results of this policy shift, Lear said that "almost 100 coast artillery battalions either have been directly converted to field artillery units or their personnel has been used to fill up existing field battalions.

"No intelligent person ever attempts to say the Navy does more than the Air Force or that the Air Force does more than the ground force," Lear says. "The action of all three is an integrated and coordinated whole with one joint mission—total defeat of the enemy. But," he continued, "it is a military fact that the final action of all wars is infantry action—that is, ground force action."

ELAS Scorns British Terms

ATHENS, Dec. 13.—Scorning the British peace terms issued yesterday, ELAS forces opened a full-scale attack from all directions on the shrinking British pocket in the heart of the city. The rebellious Greek forces had gained control of the Athens water supply but the British refused to consider this as serious.

(In Washington, American officials expressed the hope that the British would make an early peace with resistance forces. The U.S. attitude is that it has no military responsibility, a surprise to Greeks who believed that the U.S. was backing the British.)

A threatened one-day protest strike by 150,000 Scottish shipyard and factory workers was reported in Britain as Labor Minister Ernest Bevin flatly told a Labor Party convention, "The steps taken in Greece are not the decisions of Winston Churchill. I took part in these decisions with my labor colleagues—I cannot bring it to my conscience that any one of the decisions was wrong."

Jap Fought in Florida—His CO Told Him So

WITH 41st INF. DIV., Southwest Pacific, Dec. 13 (AP).—A security patrol combing an island in the Southwest Pacific for enemy stragglers recently captured a Japanese soldier who thought he was in Florida.

During the questioning the prisoner was quite emphatic—he knew he was in Florida because his commanding officer had told him so. He said he didn't like the place and thought it wasn't worth much.

Nagoya, Tokyo Bombed; Leyte Convoy Cut Up

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (ANS).—Japan's third largest city—Nagoya—was blasted today by B29s from Saipan, while in the Philippine area other U.S. planes sank three destroyers and three transports off the north coast of Leyte.

Tokyo radio said that more than 100 Superforts had taken part in the raid on the Honshu Island industrial city while single B29s made hit-and-run raids on Tokyo.

Headquarters for the 21st Bomber Command said it was one of the largest formations ever sent out from Saipan.

Meanwhile, Gen. MacArthur's Hq. told of another Philippine naval victory. Planes of the 13th AF caught the ninth Jap convoy in six weeks off Leyte yesterday, destroying ships totalling 23,000 tons. Besides sinking nearly every ship in the convoy between 50 and 55 planes were claimed as destroyed.

In land fighting, the seventh and 77th Divisions were poised on the northern segment of the Yamashita line.

Japs Reported Quitting Tokyo in Fear of Bombs

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (UP).—Japanese reports, relayed through Berlin, state that Tokyo's 7,000,000 population is being stripped to essential defense personnel in anticipation of a full-dress American aerial siege.

Following a Superfort raid last week which fired the city, 20,000 persons were said to have left the Jap capital on Tuesday.

British Wives Seek U.S. Visas

LONDON, Dec. 13 (AP).—The American Embassy has reported that an estimated 12,000 to 15,000 British wives of U.S. servicemen have applied for visas to enter the U.S. Visas already have been granted to another 1,000.

U.S.-Bound Joes Sweat Out Paris

By Ernest Leiser
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

More than 1,800 American soldiers on their way home from the front lines were celebrating with 48-hour passes in Paris last night, sweating out planes scheduled to take them to England and to boats headed for the U.S., where they will revel in a 30-day rest and recuperation furlough. A hundred of their comrades already have left by transport plane for the U.K.

Billeted in hotels, they have been

1st Army Opens New Drive Below Hurtgen; Pre-Hitler Border in Saar Is Pierced

Armor to Artillery to Air Force



U.S. troops in Germany execute a triple play. At the request of an armored unit, this mobile gun crew fires smoke shells to mark a target for Ninth Air Force fighter-bombers hovering overhead.

Dillingen Tough Nut to Crack—But Men of 90th Div. Do It

By Earl Mazo

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 90th DIV. IN DILLINGEN, Dec. 13. — The doughboys and combat engineers fighting for this Siegfried Line town are pushing ahead despite all the obstacles the German military mind can conceive.

Since crossing the Saar River at this point one week

ago, these men of the 90th Div. have actually cleared only the portion of this 50,000-population city between the many-tracked railroad and the river, but that small sector represents for one regiment alone—the 358th—54 pillboxes, 39 city blocks, a cemetery battlefield and a locomotive works which the Germans hurriedly converted into a fortress.

The fighting has been such that one doughfoot, Pfc Donald Sargeant flattened against the wall of a fortified house while a German

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'Five-Star' Officers Now Up to Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (ANS).—The Senate today passed and sent to the White House a bill to create four five-star "admirals of the fleet" and four five-star "generals of the army."

Adms. Chester Nimitz, William F. Halsey, Ernest King and William D. Leahy and Gens. Marshall, Eisenhower, Arnold and MacArthur are slated for the new ranks.

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Last Metz Bastion Captured After 3-Week Siege

Three American Armies smashed ahead yesterday along a 250-mile battle arc from the Aachen Gap to the Rhine. First Army launched a pre-dawn attack toward the Ruhr, Third Army pierced the pre-Hitler German border in the eastern Saar and the Seventh Army pushed up the Rhineland toward the frontier as the Germans retreated from northern Alsace toward the west wall.

At the northern end of the arc, First Army's new attack gained about a mile to the town of Rollesbroich, 14 miles southwest of Duren.

First Army troops closed up to the west bank of the Roer along a five-mile front as attacking forces south east of the Hurtgen Forest seized three villages, according to late Associated Press reports.

35th Div. Crosses Border

Southward in the Saar, men in the Third Army's 35th Division crossed the old German border at Habkirchen, four miles east of Sarreguemines, and smeared a counter attack which tried to throw them back.

Westward at conquered Metz, Ft. Jeanne D'Arc fell. It was the last bastion of Europe's strongest fortified city and had held out three weeks against Lt. Gen. George Patton Jr's besiegers after Metz itself was captured.

Eastward in Alsace, Seventh Army troops fought into Seltz after an eight-mile sweep up the Rhineland from captured Haguenau. This ad-

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Ninth AF Aids Hodges' Drive

Approximately 250 medium bombers of the Ninth AF, supporting First Army infantry drives, hammered at Duren, Schleiden and Euskirchen yesterday, striking at Nazi troop concentrations, warehouses and railyards.

Flying more than 140 sorties, fighter-bombers dumped 61 tons of bombs on Nazi defenses behind the First Army sector at Zulpich and smashed at railyards in Saarlautern on the Third Army front.

The winter cloud cover over Germany closed down again yesterday, grounding the Eighth's Forts and Libs. Photographs taken during Tuesday's 1,300-bomber attack indicated the Eighth had used the brief break in the weather to sever all main rail lines at Darmstadt, Hanau, Aschaffenburg and Freundberg and paralyze German communication in the area.

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Nazis to Fight from Alps After Fall, Reports Say

By Jules Grad

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE NINTH U.S. ARMY, Dec. 13.—The brains of the Nazi party, realizing they have lost the war, but unwilling to stop their fight for world domination, are preparing to continue the battle from Alpine mountain forests after Germany's military collapse.

Yard-by-Yard Battle Rages For Budapest

MOSCOW, Dec. 13 (Reuter).—The yard-by-yard battle for Budapest was raging on the northeastern approaches of the city tonight as the Red Army stabbed deeper into the fortified zone.

Fresh downpours of rain made the going even tougher for the Red Army, meeting some of the toughest German opposition since battles in the Ukraine.

Moscow newspapers admitted that the capture of the Hungarian capital, which a few days ago seemed almost within grasp, now may take some time.

Hitler's Supplies Threatened

Meanwhile, clashes some 40 miles due north of Budapest were merging into a battle to free the eastern half of Czechoslovakia. Red Star said, "The Red Army's offensive is not only threatening Budapest but also those regions of Austria and Czechoslovakia now producing a main part of the supplies for Hitler's command."

On the Baltic front, Soviet forces now are being supplied by sea, following opening of sea lanes through German-planned minefields along the coast.

Paris 1st Stop On Trip to U.S.

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engineer battalion attached to the Seventh Army, was filling shell holes on a front-line road when he heard the news. "I kinda hated to leave—but I wasn't going to make a damned liar out of myself and say I didn't want to go."

'Couldn't Even Talk'

"I couldn't even talk when I heard the news, I was so glad," admitted Pfc Merrill Schwanke, of Dent, Minn., switchboard operator in a 36th Div. battalion headquarters.

Capt. Charles E. Hake, of North Platte, Neb., CO of a 35th Div. weapons company, fighting in the Saar, thought the "Old Man was calling me in on the carpet," when he was ordered to report to Regt. Hq. "I thought he was joking when he told me I was going home," Hake said. "I've still got my fingers crossed."

Nazis Counter-Attack Against Fifth in Italy

ALLIED HQ., Italy, Dec. 13 (UP).—German troops launched a series of heavy counter-attacks along the Fifth Army front today in an apparent effort to upset preparation for a possible large-scale Allied offensive toward Bologna.

(A Reuter dispatch said Canadian troops of the Eighth Army pushed two new bridgheads across the Lamone River southwest of Ravenna and despite vigorous counterblows linked them along a six-thousand-yard front).

Reports reaching Allied sources indicated preparations have been continuing for several months. The picture they give is this:

The nerve centers in the Bavarian, Austrian and Italian mountains will have radio stations, underground roads and hospitals, and possibly a chemical laboratory. It will also have huge depots of food, arms and ammunition. A quantity of war materiel was reported to have already arrived in the Bavarian Alps.

Special Troops Recruited

The movement for open warfare will group itself around Hitler's headquarters. Its troops will be recruited from special formations of SS leaders who have been spotted combing the entire region requisitioning houses, farms and cabins to be used as headquarters. Allied sources disclosed.

The best of the SS troops later will be joined by party officers called individually from the front when the breaking point approaches, the reports indicate. The remainder of the Waffen SS, the Volks Grenadier and the Volksturm will be left on the front to hold on as long as possible.

With a partisan movement of guerrilla bands, the Nazi party will revert to the illegal activities of its first years. This mission is expected to be broad in scope, to operate from many dispersed bases and to have as its objective a "reign of terror."

From their hideouts the bands are expected to sally forth to harass Allied supply lines, cut communications, attack rear echelons, commit acts of violence and sabotage. They will also attempt to assassinate high Allied officers and Germans who actively collaborate with the occupying powers.

French Convict Civilians In AEF Supplies Theft

ADVANCED SIXTH ARMY GROUP HQ., Dec. 13.—French military courts in southern France are acting on offenses committed against the Allied Armies, the Civil Affairs Headquarters for this area disclosed today.

In Lyons, several persons convicted of stealing American Army gasoline were sentenced to two years' imprisonment.

CO's Bullets Pin Yank in Nazi Nest

Many a junior officer has sweated out a verbal barrage from his CO, but Lt. Joseph F. Dougherty, of Baltimore, underwent the experience of ducking a barrage of bullets from the "old man's" carbine for an hour and a half.

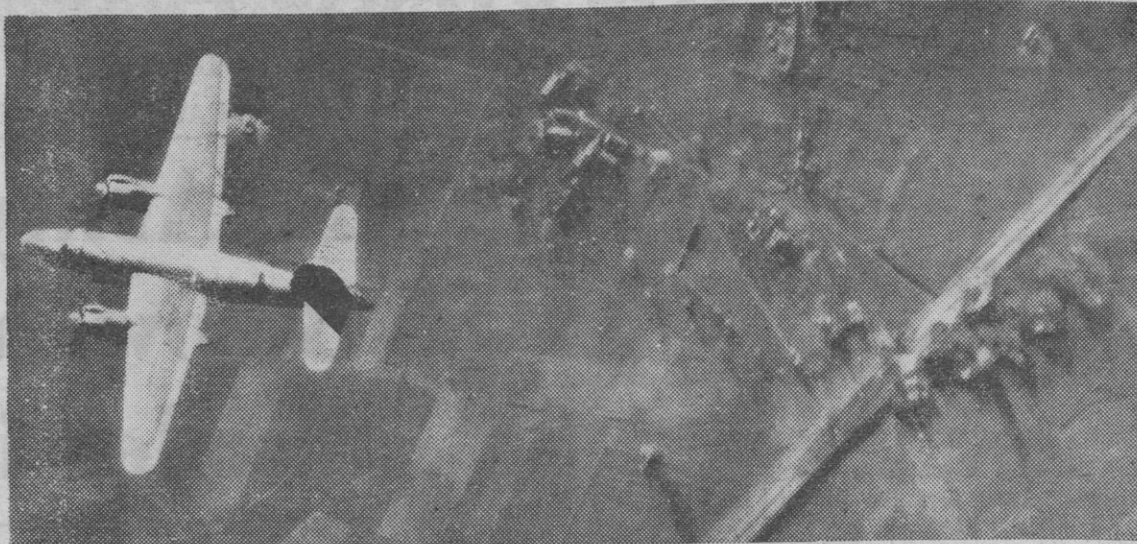
Lt. Dougherty, a platoon leader in an infantry division, became separated from his men while out on a patrol and was pinned down by enemy fire. In desperation, he made for the nearest cover—which, as it so happened, was a German machine-gun nest.

Minus both breath and ammunition, he tumbled into the hole to discover it already occupied by two Nazis—one dead and the other a boy too frightened to do anything but gape at his unexpected guest.

Two nearby Germans attempted to rush the nest and recapture the gun, but Lt. Dougherty, ignoring his still-dazed "companion," turned the machine gun on the would-be rescuers and liquidated them.

Meanwhile, Lt. Dougherty's patrol, noticing his absence, instituted a search under the leadership of the CO, Capt. Jacob W. Gravely, of Dangerfield, Texas. Capt. Gravely, noticing what he thought to

How to Make a Local of Enemy's Red Ball Express



Enemy troop positions protecting this two-lane road near Eschweiler, the Nazi version of the Red Ball Express highway, are blasted. Performing the blasting operations were Ninth Air Force Marauders, part of a 5,000-plane armada which hammered at enemy troops, field artillery, batteries and defensive positions east and north of Aachen in support of First Army.

Dillingen Tough Nut to Crack —But Men of 90th Div. Do It

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tank inside fired over his head. Sargeant, with only one bazooka rocket left, was sneaking around the wall to knock out the tank when he saw two more rumble up the street in his direction. "I never damned anything in my life so much as the fact that I had only one bazooka round left," he said.

Special Teams Do Job

Special pillbox-busting teams from the 315th Combat Eng. Bn. worked with each doughboy platoon in town. Sgt. Joseph Williams, of Kansas City, Kan., found that his unit usually killed at least three German occupants with every pillbox blown, captured the rest. Cpl. Bernard Keith, of Long Island, operating with Capt. Charlie Bryants, of L Co. of the 358th, accounted for three pillboxes. He said, "The toughest job is working your way into them to do the blowing." Infantrymen have been firing to button up the boxes while the engineers operate.

Yesterday, for the first time, the situation in Dillingen began to ease as elements of the 357th and 358th linked up after men of the 357th had beaten off a vicious counter-attack by German tanks, self-propelled guns and infantry.

It Began Easily

The beginning of the fight for this vital Saar crossing was comparatively easy. At 4:15 on the morning of Dec. 7 elements of the 358th and 357th Regiments, without artillery preparation, made a dash across the river in assault boats.

At one point they startled a German sentry awaiting a German patrol due to return from across the river at the same time.

In the first hours of the crossing the surprised Germans kept comparatively quiet their small arms and artillery; then on the second night they sprang to life with perhaps the biggest artillery concentration on the Third Army front.

Americans with tank destroyers, tanks, ack-ack guns and special purpose guns poised on hills on the other side of the river immediately swung into action against pillboxes and fortified houses.

Into the Reich

Despite artillery concentrations, elements of the 359th Regiment crossed, and the concentrated push into Germany beyond the river began.

The river crossings were such that the first American heavy weapon, a 57mm. gun towed by a jeep, had not crossed until the third night. Tanks and tank destroyers crossed, but some of the tanks mired and had to be pulled out.

Not until the fifth night did the situation begin to ease, with the Americans crossing more and more heavy equipment.

Redecorating Is in Order

CAMDEN, N.J., Dec. 13 (ANS). Mrs. Stanley Chonentowski testified that for the nine years of her married life she never knew what it was like to be without a black eye. The judge granted a divorce.

Hodges' Army Starts Attack

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vance brought them to within four miles of the border of the Palatinate, one of the richest of the medieval German states.

Reuter reported from Seventh Army that enemy Panzer reinforcements swung into the battle line to meet Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch's troops pushing toward the Siegfried defenses between Sarreguemes and Karlsruhe, 16 miles from Seltz.

One Reuter dispatch said U.S. troops are now operating on the Rhine's west bank a mile from Seltz, reported under heavy German artillery fire.

Meanwhile, the German Overseas News Agency correspondent at Field Marshal von Rundstedt's headquarters reported, according to Reuter, that Wehrmacht forces between Sarreguemes and the Upper Rhine are systematically retreating into the approaches of the west wall. The correspondent said that Patch was throwing 15 divisions into a drive toward the west wall defenses.

North of the great Ruhr-Saar-Rhineland arc, there were no major changes.

Patton's Third Army men fought stubbornly-entrenched enemy forces in Saarlautern, where 95th Div. men made gains in the suburbs of Rodin, Fraulautern and Endorf.

Small German forces, supported by one or two tanks, jabbed the 90th Division's Saar River bridgehead at Dillingen. These counter-thrusts were stopped by artillery fire.

Senator Says U.S. People Not Sure of War Goal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (AP).—Senator Guy Gillette (D-Iowa), said today the American people are no longer sure of the goal for which they are fighting.

Gillette, who was defeated for reelection, urged "A new and unequivocal statement" on the American "war goal" and asserted that unless America maintains "some strength of position" many countries "will emerge from the struggle saddled with totalitarian regimes against their will and contrary to their desires."

Atrocity Graves Found

Discovery of the bodies of 36 mutilated resistance patriots in two burial pits about 40 miles south of Paris was disclosed yesterday by Gen. Pierre Koenig, Paris Military Governor. Germans apparently had bound their victims hands together, pierced their eyes with a metal instrument and machine-gunned them, it was said.



be an enemy helmet popping in and out of a machine-gun nest, concentrated the patrol's fire on this position—occupied by Lt. Dougherty and a still-frozen German.

For 45 minutes Lt. Dougherty was kept busy dodging his own CO's bullets everytime he lifted his head in search of his patrol. Tiring of playing hide-and-seek, the lieutenant took matters into his own hands and bolted for the hill towards his own lines—at last being recognized.

Where Death Rode Through, Aachen Finds Living a Difficult Task



"Home" for this family of seven is this cellar, all that is left after the building above was leveled during the fierce fighting for Aachen. Better off than many of her families, they have a food reserve sufficient for several weeks stored behind an adjacent partition.



This German refugee child, returning to Aachen to find her home destroyed, here draws her family's supper ration of soup under the supervision of a U.S. Military Government official.

36th Inf. Div. Order Returns to Aachen Ties Mark for Time in Line

By Clinton Conger

WITH SIXTH ARMY GROUP IN ALSACE, Dec. 13. (UP).—The 36th Inf. Div. today equalled and possibly broke the modern U.S. Army endurance record by fighting 108 days without relief and didn't even pause to mark the occasion as it went right on smashing Germans through the 109th day.

Now under French command, the outfit has become "La Trente-Sixieme Division, Infanterie, Texas," if you want the real French phrase for it, and Texans josh each other about it in what they think is French accent or GI French.

Few Texans Left

Although Texas flavor permeates the unit, it is estimated to have had 90 percent replacements since it landed in southern France and there aren't many men from Texas left in frontline rifle companies. Some rifle companies have had as many as 12 company commanders.

Today's combat will not be marked by such milestones of the past as Salerno, Rapido, Anzio, Velletri, Grenoble, Montelimar and Lyons but there is little doubt it clinches the record continuous contact with the enemy.

The matter of combat records is hard to pin down. The 79th claims 107 days of contact in its drive across France toward Luneville and the 45th claims 109 from Salerno to Venafro in Italy. The veteran Third Div. also officially has been in contact with the enemy 109 days but it spent three days in leapfrog action near Remiremont in October.

Too Young and Too Old, But Both Are Fighters

Pvt. Dan Waters, Jr., 16, of Smithtown, Ky., is on his way home after fighting in Normandy since D plus 4. Too young for the Army, Waters was wounded at Saint-Lô and received the Purple Heart. He enlisted at 14 by registering as an 18-year-old and then volunteering. With him goes M/Sgt. Oskar L. Friedrich, 54, of Fayetteville, N.C., who had 32 years in the Army.

Order Returns to Aachen Out of the Chaos of Defeat

By Charles White

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

AACHEN, Dec. 13.—This is a cold, gloomy, depressing place, all shot up and entirely given over to mud and jeeps and trucks and MPs that constitute for German inhabitants the American military occupation. If anybody is getting "coddled" here he must be coddling himself.

Most of the 160,000 civilians have vanished over the Rhine but about 10,000 have come back and are being administered by city and county military government officers.

There aren't more than two or three whole houses left. It isn't a shambles like St-Lô, but everything has been hit in some way or other—bombs, shellfire, or small-arms. Very little food, inadequate clothing, utilities just going and no more. It furnishes a good example of the military government problems which Americans must solve in Germany.

Parts of Aachen are forbidden to civilians, but you see a few trying to put the pieces back together.

Not Fed by U.S.

Civilians definitely are not being fed and clothed by the U.S. Army. They eat what German food they can get—mainly potatoes—brought in from the surrounding countryside by their own food committees. Slim pickings.

They are on a curfew, which starts at 5:30 PM, and the MPs will pick up anybody who looks out of place.

"The Germans can't go anywhere they like," says 1/Lt. Jerome Wolfson, Springfield, Ill., who came here to work in the county MG after doing similar jobs in Italy and France. "In fact, one of our troubles is keeping our civilian em-

ployes, burgomeisters, etc., out of jail."

There is no such thing as democratic self-government in Aachen, despite newspaper stories and talk to the contrary. The Military Government goes out and—at some pains—lines up native burgomeisters to represent the people, and the burgomeisters take orders from the military. Aachen itself has a crew of nine burgomeisters. If a citizen can't get anything to eat, needs clothing or has other trouble he goes to his burgomeister. But the burgomeisters aren't elected, don't represent the Army and haven't any real civil authority.

The system has worked fairly well, according to Major Jack Bradford, St. Paul, Minn., deputy MGO for the City of Aachen. His burgomeisters lined up 160 civilian policemen, who co-operate with the MPs, patrolling the streets, acting as guides and keeping order. They wear "polizei" armbands, but do not carry arms.

Tax System Still Exists

There have been no cases of provable sabotage or violence, although some people have been hurt by booby traps left by the Germans. Offenses are handled by summary courts, where one or two officers hear evidence and pass sentences.

According to Lt. Wolfson the civilians still have a sort of tax system—a revolving fund which is used to help destitute persons and

War Halts to Save Cake

THEY had to hold off firing the 100,000th artillery round in the 87th FA Bn. of the 104th Div. on account of T/5 Tom Torello. Tom had baked a cake for the occasion, and war or no war, he wasn't going to have his cake fall from the concussion.

So the artillerymen waited until it was ready for the frosting, then they let loose.

The fellows admitted the cake tasted swell and looked good, too, with "100,000 Rounds—87th FA" in pink letters on top—but they said the frosting had a funny flavor.

So Torello had to admit he'd used Squibb's tooth paste—the only stuff he could find.

'Pvt.' General Bucks For Second Stripe

The commanding general of the Fifth Inf. Div. is bucking for corporal.

The famous "Blue Devils," France's most-decorated military unit, made him an honorary private in a heavy weapons squad in recognition of the Fifth Division's successes.

"If you and your troops reach Berlin," the squad leader told him, "we'll make you a corporal."

pay for some supplies. In Aachen the burgomeisters working with military counterparts have divided duties among themselves, such as utilities, supply, schools and churches.

Clothing is hard to get, and undoubtedly there will be suffering from cold this winter. Civilians wearing discarded German army boots, ragged green fatigues, old overcoats—general trashpile pickings—are a common sight. Only the lucky have good warm civilian clothes. And the wealthy.

Shortly after occupation of Aachen it was necessary to open up a large barracks at the edge of town for displaced persons and refugees. At one time, under Major Royal S. Copeland, Suffern, N.Y., and other MG officers, it harbored as many as 6,000 German civilians.

Camp Moved into Aachen

As people were sent back to their homes, the camp population dwindled, and the camp was moved to its present site in Aachen. It includes a former school, children's clinic and houses—in all about 25 buildings, all damaged.

Altogether, it couldn't be regarded as a pleasant life—just a few degrees worse than being in the county poorhouse, but maybe better than jail. The civilians are not mistreated, and they aren't coddled. The army just holds them there until it can get rid of them.

Meantime, they probably get pretty tired of potato soup.

Quite a Busy Night

Leading a night patrol, Lt. Constantine Mims, of San Antonio, Tex., surprised two Nazis at an outpost. The two jumped into a covered dugout and refused to come out.

Mims, a 35th Infantry officer, jumped into the dugout, tried to drag them out, finally had to shoot one, used Judo on the other to take him prisoner.

Indian Warrior Takes Warpath To Trail Sniper

WITH THE THIRD U.S. ARMY, Dec. 13. — Before sunrise every morning, Pvt. Carl "Chief" Chukima, 38-year-old Indian from the Oraibi Reservation near Flagstaff, Ari., sows a few grains of corn in French soil as a petition to the gods to look with favor on the activities of the 90th Division. Pvt. Chukima, of Co. "B," 315th Engineers, is a member of the Hopi Tribe.

Capt. Clarence Symes of Lubbock, Texas, company commander, was about to list Chukima as "missing in action" on the unit morning report the day the Indian stoically resumed his place on the Engineer road gang.

Made Him Mad

The last time Capt. Symes saw Chukima was in the German town of Butzdorf, which the 38th Infantry and Engineers were attempting to clean up. A sniper exposed a man standing next to the "Chief" as the two were leaving a house.

"It start making me mad," explained the Hopi. "I go house—one from one. That evening I still in town looking for sniper. Next evening I joined the tanks.

"After three days I ask boys where infantry is. I told one tank going out of town I go with him. I hitch-hike to where I find 90th Division MP. He tell me where headquarters are I come back."

For relaxation during pre-war days, the Indian chased horses. It's easy according to Chukima.

"Just chase 'em all day over hills," he explained, "they lay down when they get tired. You start early in the morning. They give out sometime in afternoon."

Can't Locate Medics, GI Calls Nazi Aidmen

WITH FOURTH ARMORED DIV.—Unable to find U.S. medics to treat a wounded soldier he had rescued from a burning tank, Sgt. Joseph H. Johnson, of Bronx, N.Y., a Cavalry Recon. Sq. tank commander, returned to the battlefield, captured two German medics, and brought them to his wounded comrade.

Precious Cargo Which He Ain't Got



A tobacco store proprietor in San Francisco points to the sign which tells the sad tale of the cigarette situation which has hit the home-front. He tells customers that he knows just as much about what happened to the smokes as the GIs in France and that is "nothing!"

This Was America Yesterday:

Cigarette Shortage 'Fogs Up' Best Brains in Washington

By Joe Fleming

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—A lot of expensive brains are working on that cigarette business, but it's the same old story—more you put in, less you get out. Internal Revenue geniuses, for instance, count 29,000,000,000 smokes produced in September, some sort of a record, but they get no further explanation of the shortage, no matter how hard they pull the chain.

The big snow-storm extended east from central Illinois and Michigan into Pennsylvania and western New York. Snow from Canada to Georgia. . . 36 inches in West Virginia.

The storm inflicted severe hardships to thousands and brought curtailment of production at numerous war plants due to absenteeism caused by impaired transport. The death toll was 58 in America and 18 in Canada.

THE second most popular tune right now, understandably, is Berlin's dream about a White Christmas. It's Number Two according to sheet music and juke box statisticians, but something called the "Trolley Song"—a Judy Garland film hit—seems to be sending them faster. Another one you'll hear from the replacements: Cole Porter's "Don't Fence Me In." . . . Suggested French translation: "Don't Dig Me Under."



Mrs. Roosevelt

Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt disclosed yesterday that she plans to take down and burn the large portrait of herself that hangs in the President's study. The First Lady, pointing out the painting to newspaperwomen covering her weekly news conference, revealed the portrait was painted fifteen years ago from a photograph.

She said, "I am going to take it down and burn it." When asked why, she replied with a laugh: "It is far too pretty."

Detroit is still Detroit, with CIO picketers plodding through snow at Montgomery Ward's. . . The trouble started Saturday over the company's refusal to accept a 1942 pay check-off for union dues.

ANOTHER strike threatened closing of New York's butcher shops. The Office of Price Administration again proposed a ceiling price on cattle to remove price squeezes on meat retailers and slaughterers. Lack of ceiling prices for cattle on the hoof is the chief grievance of butchers, whose shut-down plan was reported spreading to Albany, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

Tommy Manville, too, was giving the OPA a headache. How can you determine ceiling prices on nude pictures? The price agents showed up at the big auction sale of Tommy's 29-room house in New Rochelle, and found lots of things not on the list, like nudes, electric trains, a phonograph record cutter and other fancies of Citizen Manville and his seven wives.

FRONT pages of the papers were dominated by weather and war news, new draft regulations and quizzing of Edward Stettinius' prospective six assistants.

Walter Winchell, that old warhorse, described people who leave war jobs as "Quitlings" . . . but the draft folk aren't kidding; they request power to "induce or compel" small numbers of young deferred men to take unattractive war jobs for which workers cannot be recruited. And Jerry Klutz, Washington Post, reports the War Department hereafter will clamp down on release from Army of big-shot athletes, movie stars, writers and playboys. They have to get the WD's okay, besides that of the CO.

IT will be a White Christmas, and a Tough Christmas, if Macy's New York ads mean anything. For \$1.29, Mom can buy Junior a commando helmet, holster, gun, bullets and whistle. He'll buckle on the helmet, which is adjustable in size and light-weight plastic . . . and he'll strap on the split, leather belt and holster, ready for action with two wooden bullets.

Locator Files On PWs Keep Kin Informed

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13.—When a soldier is reported captured by the enemy or missing in action, he is not forgotten by the Army, whose records follow him from the moment of induction. A file system keeps track of every one of the more than 55,000 soldiers, sailors and marines so far known to be prisoners of war and another 58,000 reported missing in action.

In a wing of the old munitions building of World War I in Washington, D.C., a Prisoner of War Information Bureau has been set up in accordance with provisions of the Geneva Convention. Here the Army handles the work for all branches of the service.

Follow-up Process

A soldier isn't counted as a prisoner of war until he is so reported by the nation which captured him, or until a capture card is received by the next of kin from the soldier himself.

First information on captured personnel is sent by the enemy to the International Red Cross at Geneva, which then notifies the War Department by cable. The list goes to the Prisoner of War Information Bureau. Telegrams sent to the next of kin, by the Bureau are followed up with a letter, explaining how mail may be sent to the prisoner.

Later, in from 30 to 90 days, the Red Cross at Geneva will specify the PW camp to which each man has been sent. This new information is relayed to the next of kin in a second letter, with instructions and enclosed labels for mailing packages.

Billion Spent For GI Bonds

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (ANS).—Servicemen have bought more than a billion dollars worth of war bonds, Maj. Gen. Howard K. Loughrie, finance chief, told a sixth war loan rally here today. As subscriptions rose past the 14-billion-dollar goal by nearly a whole billion, he said GI Joe is not only fighting this war, but from his meager pay he's assisting in financing it.

Meanwhile, the Treasury Department reported a heavy demand for V-mail war bond certificates as Christmas gifts for men overseas. The certificates printed on regular V-mail stationery contain a reproduction of a war bond and inform soldiers that bonds have been bought for them at home.

Chaplin-Berry Baby Suit, New Round, Ready to Begin

LOS ANGELES Dec. 13 (ANS).—Lawyers were ready today to begin Joan Berry's paternity suit against Comedian Charlie Chaplin, with both sides prepared for a possibly long, hard-fought legal battle to determine if he is the father of Miss Berry's 14-month-old daughter.

But whether they will be able to find a courtroom for the case immediately was the question raised by Presiding Judge Ruben Schmidt, of Superior Court. The jurist said that with a crowded court calendar the case will have to await its turn along with many others.

A blood test is expected to be one of the crucial issues of the suit, brought on behalf of Carol Ann, child of Chaplin's one-time protegee.

Toot Sweet



Striding a California beach is Frances Horne, a Hollywood lass. The World Almanac states that California's motto is "Eureka," meaning "I have found it." The book also says that California's "topography is most varied . . . every phase of surface character is presented."

Plan Veterans' Home

CEDAR RAPIDS, Iowa, Dec. 13 (ANS).—The American Legion post here has taken initial steps toward construction of a \$250,000 veterans home.

While denying paternity, the 55-year-old comic submitted to blood tests last spring which were conducted by three physicians. They announced that the findings indicated he could not be the father.

Despite these findings, the state district court of appeals ruled the paternity suit must go to trial. The appeal court upheld a superior court ruling that the child was entitled to a "day in court," although these had been an agreement that there would be no further claims against Chaplin if the blood tests indicated he could not be the father.

The white-haired comedian was acquitted last April on Mann Act charges, in which Miss Berry was the complaining witness.

Forced Peace Is Necessary, Says Patterson

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Allied military power great enough to enforce peace in Europe was demanded today by Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson. Total dismemberment of the German war machine is not enough, he said.

Emphasizing the need for an effective Allied postwar organization, he said, "We know Germans are planning a third World War, and nothing short of defeat so complete that it will live in the memories of their people for hundreds of years will stop them from again forcing the world into war.

Must Defeat Smugness

"Peace-loving nations cannot again let their armies become impotent, their arsenals rusty nor their peoples smug and complacent. Experience shows that peace can be kept only by force," he said.

He outlined three principles which he said were necessary in planning for a peacetime military organization: Universal military training; industrial resources capable of mobilization to furnish necessary weapons, and scientific and engineering developments.

Student Vet Poll Lists Free Press Needed for Peace

EVANSTON, Ill., Dec. 13 (ANS).—Men who fought in World War II regard military might and a universal free press as important elements in keeping the future peace. These are the findings in a Northwestern University pool of 175 veterans enrolled as students.

Of those polled, 84 percent expressed belief that world peace could be maintained only through the use of armed force.

The most overwhelming majority—95 percent—agreed a free press in every nation could be a potent factor in averting war.

Draft Revamp Moves Swiftly

WASHINGTON, Dec. 13 (ANS).—Under new draft regulations an average of 50 men past 26 years of age soon may be inducted from each of the nation's draft boards, Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey estimated yesterday as Selective Service acted swiftly to put into effect the government's "produce or fight" directive. Draft Director Hershey said regulations are being amended to channel to military service all registrants under 38 who drift from essential jobs. These revisions will be announced by the end of the week.

A spokesman for the agency said new regulations do not change the draft directives now in force. Hershey explained in Cleveland that they merely tell draft boards what the objectives of the war effort are and leave it up to the boards to carry them out under existing regulations.

Gypsy Becomes Mother As Ex-Mate Weds Again

NEW YORK, Dec. 13 (ANS).—Gypsy Rose Lee Monday night became the mother of a seven-pound four-ounce boy born prematurely on the eve of the day the baby's father, Alexander Kirkland, was to be married to Phyllis Anne Adams, 20-year-old debutante.

Miss Lee divorced Kirkland Oct. 7.

Once Over Lightly

By Andy Rooney

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Portuguese brandies are having a small sale in the East this year—and very little Mexican gin is being sold—all of which leads to the story of the 38-year old gentleman with store teeth who is playing pro football with the New York Giants and doing a grand job.

The guy with crockery choppers is one Kenneth Strong, who back in 1926 carried the mail for New York University.

SEEMS KEN, after five years of retirement, during which he sold liquor for a concern dealing in Mexican gin, Portuguese brandies, Cuban rum and other goodies, decided he still had parts of a good ball game in him. Anyway, business was bad, and when Steve Owen offered him a job to do the Giants' place-kicking, he grabbed it.

It was a treat to see the old master with the pendulum foot boot the ball through the cross-bars, but there always was some body in the stands who couldn't understand why he never ran with the ball. That somebody was Ken Strong, Jr., his 12-year-old son.

STRONG'S greatest day in football, even greater than those Saturdays in his senior year at N.Y.U. when he scored 162 points, was in 1934 in the Chicago Bears-New York Giants playoff. On a frozen field, the Giants came out in sneakers and Strong scored two touchdowns, two extra points and a field goal.

Owen may figure Strong as better than a one-play player when the Giants meet the Green Bay Packers Sunday for the pro championship. Owen may put him in the backfield, hand him the ball, and say, "Here, Ken, run with it." And if he does, old toothless Kenneth probably will run with it.

Cochran Captures 3-Cushion Crown

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Welker Cochran won the world three-cushion billiard championship here last night by defeating Willie Hoppe, 50-44, in 31 innings. Cochran ran up nine straight victories in the round-robin tournament. Hoppe, who had lost a previous match to Arthur Rubin, had a chance to throw the tournament into a tie by defeating Cochran. Cochran's high run was seven. He collected \$2,500 first-prize money, plus a \$500 war bond donated by an anonymous billiard fan.

Leonard Gets Neil Award

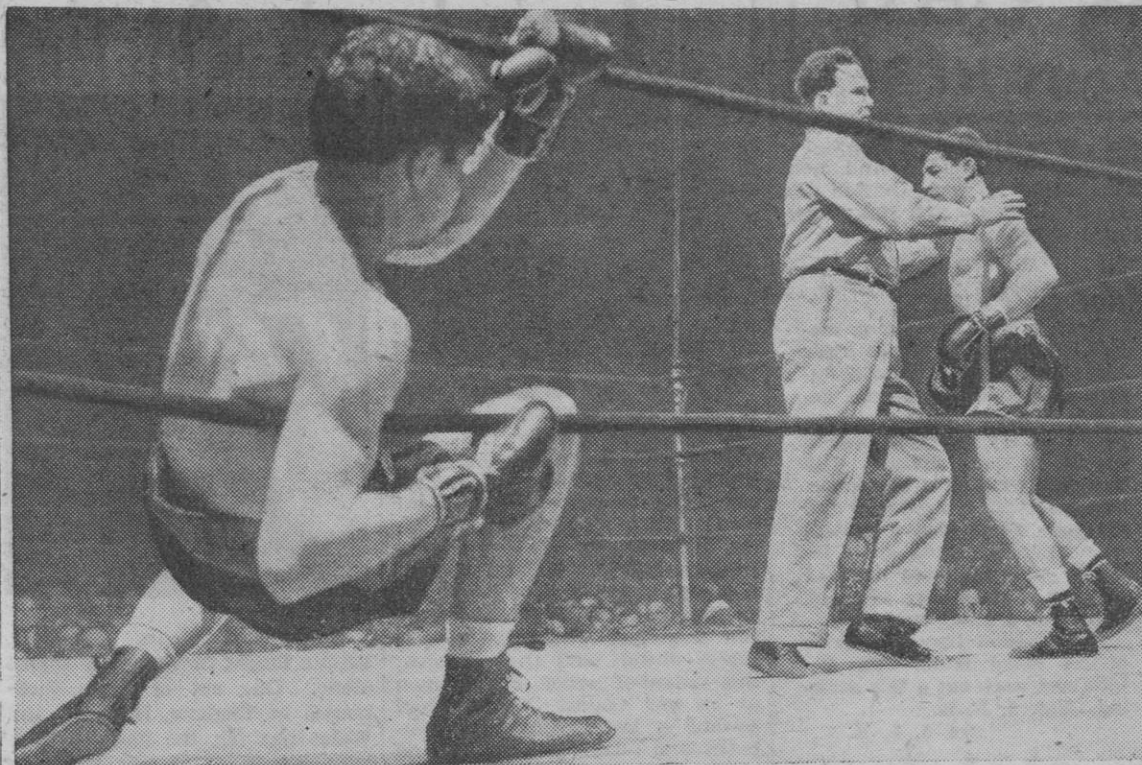
NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Lt. Cmdr. Bennie Leonard, USMS, retired lightweight champion, was awarded the Edward J. Neil Memorial Trophy by the New York boxing writers for outstanding contributions to the sport in 1944. Leonard is in charge of recreation and morale at Sheepshead Bay, New York maritime base.

93,000 Fans Put SRO in Rose Bowl

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 13.—The New Year's Day Rose Bowl game between Southern California and Tennessee already is a sellout, Arnold Eddy, U.S.C. business manager, announced today.

Ticket sales were limited to persons living within a 50-mile radius of Pasadena Bowl (capacity, 93,000) in accordance with Pacific Coast Conference wartime policy.

Johnny Greco Gets Rough With Ruffin



Bobby Ruffin tugs on ropes after being knocked down by Johnny Greco in ten-rounder won by Greco at Madison Square Garden. Greco seems peeved because Referee Fullam won't let him go in for the kill.

INS Photo

Ray Robinson TKOs Rangel

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 13.—Ray "Sugar" Robinson, Harlem welterweight, scored a technical knockout over Richard "Sheik" Rangel, of Fresno, Cal., in the second round of a scheduled ten-rounder at Convention Hall last night. It was Robinson's fourth straight victory since getting an honorable discharge from the Army.

A crowd of 10,000 saw Robinson drop Rangel for two nine counts in the first round. The Californian was taking an unmerciful beating when Referee Charley Daggert halted proceedings with 10 seconds left in the second.

Question Box

To Pvt. Ben Shadrick.—Max Schmeling won on fourth-round foul from Jack Sharkey in New York City, July 12th, 1930, to gain heavy title vacated by retired champion, Gene Tunney. Succeeding champions were Sharkey, who regained title beating Schmeling, July 21, 1932; Primo Carnera, Max Baer, Jim Braddock, Joe Louis.

To Pvt. Joel Blum.—Dick Wakefield never was property of Boston Red Sox. Signed with Detroit Tigers for 50-grand bonus and got Packard car from Owner Briggs as personal gift.

Pfc Jack Parquette and Cpl. Arthur Ellis.—Arne Anderson set world mile record of 4:01.6 last July. Hundred yard mark of 9.4 seconds held jointly by Jesse Owens, Frank Wyckoff, Clyde Jeffrey, George Simpson and Harold Davis.

S/Sgt. H. LaBoda.—Rutgers 19, Lehigh 6 in October, 1940.

Cpl S. S. Blitzbeau.—Jim Jeffries was 35 when he was knocked out by Jack Johnson at Reno in 1910.

Sgt. Johnny Nelson.—Sammy Snead is from White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. K rations and water for the editor who said he was a Virginian.

12th AAA Boys.—Leo Durocher was with Cincinnati in 1930-31-32 and part of '33.

Lt. Col. Leon O. Clayton.—Humble apologies, suh, for sullyng the Tigers' record. Correct result as you stated: Clemson 13, North Carolina State 0. And a deep bow to that record number of Clemson men in service. We've got two of 'em.

Bond Bowl Ducats Released to Public

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The public will be allowed to purchase tickets to Saturday's Bond Bowl football game at the Polo Grounds between Randolph Field and the Second AAF without having to buy war bonds, it was announced today by the War Finance Committee.

New York banks and business houses have underwritten the entire \$79,750,000 quota put on the game by the Treasury Department, thus releasing tickets for general sale.

East Team's Roster Released by Kerr

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Andy Kerr, Colgate football coach, today announced completion of the squad which will represent the East in the annual Shrine football game against the West at San Francisco New Year's Day.



Frank Dancewicz handling the team.

The roster:
Ends: Harrison, South Carolina; Marcotte, Minnesota; Mead, Wisconsin; Brogger, Michigan State. Tackles: Sixich, Minnesota; Hughes, Purdue; Savitsky, Penn; Podorski, Lafayette. Guards: Serpico, Illinois; Hackett, Ohio State; Ciolli, Indiana; Ranni, Pitt. Centers: Bujan, Illinois; Syzmanski, Notre Dame. Backs: Dancewicz, Notre Dame; Cannady, Indiana; Walthalf, W. Virginia; Kelly, Notre Dame; Brugge, Ohio State; Girard, Wisconsin; Flanagan, Ohio State; Kulnitski, Minnesota; Breslin, Michigan State; Horvath, Ohio State.

CAGE RESULTS

Albright 48, Kutztown Tehrs. 28.
Dubuque 68, Upper Iowa 34.
Floyd Bennett Field 48, Brooklyn Army Base 46.
Kansas 47, Rockhurst 23.
New Mexico 58, Hardin Simmons 18.
Notre Dame 71, Alma 30.
Ohio University 60, Lockburne AAF 32.
Oklahoma 39, Norman Navy 38.
Toledo 45, Wayne 39.
Olathe Clippers 53, Pratt-Whitney 51.
Louisville Medics 59, Georgetown 32.
Wartburg 57, Penn (Iowa) 34.
Simpson 67, Des Moines Boys 48.
Waco AAF 62, Baylor 23.
Washington 47, Johns Hopkins 38.

Boston Bruins Down Rangers

BOSTON, Dec. 13.—The Boston Bruins trimmed the New York Rangers, 7-5, last night in a hockey battle that saw the Rangers tie the score three times in the second period.

Ken Smith and Herbie Cain tallied for the Bruins in the first period and goals by Phil Watson and Grant Warwick knotted the score early in the next stanza. Dit Clapper and Frank Mario for the Bruins and Fred Thurier and Ab DeMarco for the Rangers made it 4-all at the close of the session.

In the final period goals by Joe Cuplo, Smith and Cain settled the issue, Warwick scoring for the Rangers.

Hockey Standings National League

	W	L	T	Pts
Montreal	11	4	1	23
Toronto	10	6	0	20
Detroit	9	4	2	20
Boston	8	9	1	17
New York	2	9	4	8
Chicago	2	10	2	6

American League EASTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts
Buffalo	12	7	2	26
Hershey	10	9	2	22
Providence	7	11	2	16

WESTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts
Indianapolis	11	7	6	28
Pittsburgh	11	7	2	24
Cleveland	10	7	2	22
St. Louis	4	12	2	10

Favor Duke Over 'Bama

DURHAM, N.C., Dec. 13.—Although Duke never has won a bowl football game, gamblers are making the Blue Devils a 7-5 favorite over Alabama in the Sugar Bowl game.

See Olympics Aiding Peace

CHICAGO, Dec. 13.—Two prominent American athletic officials suggested today that international athletics based on principles of Olympic competition probably will play a prominent part in the re-establishment of global peace. They added that German and Japanese athletes should be welcomed when Olympic games are revived.

Herman J. Fischer, president of the Central Association of the AAU, and Avery Brundage, head of the AAU Olympic Committee, agreed Olympics would return to pre-war

10-Man Board To Submit New Baseball Pact

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—Appointment of ten men to formulate and submit a new major league agreement to the joint meeting of American and National Leagues in February was announced at the baseball conclave here today. The new committee will augment the advisory board consisting of Leslie O'Connor, Ford Frick and Will Harridge.

National League members of the ten-man board are Sam Breadon, president of the St. Louis Cards; Horace Stoneham president of the New York Giants; Warren C. Giles, general manager of the Cincinnati Reds; Phil Wrigley, Chicago Cubs' prexy, and Branch Rickey, president of Brooklyn's Dodgers. American Leaguers are Jack Zeller, general manager of the Detroit Tigers; Don Barnes, St. Louis Browns' president; Alva Bradley, Cleveland boss; Tom Yawkey, head of the Boston Red Sox, and Joseph C. Hostetler, legal representative of the American League.

There is a strong indication the baseball committees, when they do submit the name of a successor to the late Judge Landis, will pick no handshaker. The moguls are almost unanimously in favor of a

man with absolute powers over baseball—with certain reservations.

A clear definition of the new commissioner's power in contrast to the arbitrary authority in all matters held by Landis, is expected. It's be-

lieved the new agreement will have a clause comparable to the 96th Article of War, dealing with punishment of individuals who may bring discredit to baseball.

Stove League Gossip — The White Sox continued active in the trading mart, concluding straight player swaps with Detroit and Cleveland. Jimmy "Skeeter" Webb was sent to Detroit for Joe Oringo and Eddie Carnett went to Cleveland for Oris Hockett. There was no cash involved.

Opposition from Clark Griffith president of the Washington Senators, is seen in the proposed ban on pro footballers using big league ball parks, but Griffith probably will be brought into line by clubowners who will threaten to vote against unlimited night baseball, for which Griffith has fought the last two years.

Desson Gets Green Light

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 13.—Joe Desson, defenseman for the Philadelphia Eagles of the Eastern Hockey League, who was suspended Nov. 23 for punching a referee, was reinstated at a meeting of league officials today. He will be allowed to play again Saturday.

prominence with Axis athletes taking an active part when peace returns.

England will be the scene of the first post-war revival of Olympic games, they thought, with Finland a possibility.

The AAU officials predicted a sports boom greater than any the world had ever seen and pointed out such forerunners of the great upswing in sports activities as the Central American and Far Eastern Games and the contemplated Pan-American Games.

THE B BAG BLOW IT OUT HERE

Won't Let You Down

We are fighting in that "Flak City" that "Forgotten War," holding in some Germans who don't want to fight any more.

Here we stay, hoping for a little news, praying that we'll be taken up on "the line."

Other outfits have landed long after we did and gone on up to fight. I'm not bragging—but I want to say that we are a good outfit, morale is high, leadership good, men unbeatable.

We want to fight; we want to fight in Germany, to be there when the chips are down. And when newer, younger outfits pass us up, it isn't good. So please, Gen. Bradley, please, Gen. Eisenhower, give us our chance. We won't let you down.—Lt. A. R. B., Inf.

* * *

Mail Aid

As my wife and I write to each other every day we decided to enclose the letters for two days in one envelope, thereby reducing by 50 percent the number of letters the APO must handle for us.

It is not the envelopes that count, but the contents. I never did get the letters in date order any way.—Sgt. R. H. Bruce.

* * *

Sucker

When Barnum issued his famed statement he must have had great foresight for I'm sure it was directed toward the American soldiers in Belgium where I spent three days at a rest camp.

Can you picture yourself back in the States shelling out \$18.00 for a bottle of diluted cognac? Or \$37.00 for a \$10.00 silk scarf?

The stores, bars and other money-grabbing establishments welcome us as "their liberators" and after giving us the well-known hook, proceed to rifle us worse than any slot-machine ever dared to.

I can understand the Belgians appreciating us for their release from tyranny; but please let's see if we can do something to halt them from making us the object of their release from depression.—Cpl. E. G. Ferero F. A.

* * *

Round Trip

If we have a flying bomb that's better than Hitler's, what are we waiting for?—Sgt. E. L. Whelan, Inf.

* * *

According to Hitler

If the Germans want to fight unfairly by using diabolical weapons, I say let's fight them at their own game. The Allied forces maintain that they must adhere to the rules of the Geneva Conference, but the rules for the conduct of war assume that war would be waged against human beings.

Fair play has its place, but when the enemy conceals a horseshoe in his glove, let's do the same thing. Future generations will not condemn the Allied forces, if that's what is worrying our leaders. In fact, it will bring a sobering effect upon future would-be aggressors and teach mankind that "illegal war-

fare"—if there is such a designation—can be two-sided. And more importantly, it would hasten the end of this mess.—Pvt. Max Miller, Signal Corps.

* * *

Number, Please

Much is said concerning morale. Now what would raise Joe's morale more than a lottery ticket with first prize being a furlough to the states? Say a lottery was held once a month in each division with one man winning a trip home. The American is a gambler and everyone would have a chance, even if it is a long shot, Joe would get a lift from the idea of even a possibility of going home for a short time.

The division Special Service officer could handle the details and work out a fair drawing.—Sgt. J. L. K.

Sgt. J. L. K.

* * *

Blood Containers

There is no excuse for the carelessness and negligence of drivers who insist on depositing empty gasoline cans along the road, into ditches, some to be run over and flattened.

On a recent trip to a gasoline depot, I was told to pick up all cans on the way. In a radius of 20 miles, I picked up 200 cans—50 in one pile—along a sparsely traveled road. Think of how many cans must be lying idle throughout the ETO. Those cans are containers for the life blood of the army machine.

Bring them back.—Pvt. J. Sesto.

* * *

Shoved Around

Is there any logical explanation for reserved seats for officers in theaters, including free performances? It seems to me that they, of all people, should be willing to take their chances with the EMs and let "first come, first served" be the order of the day. It somehow spoils a show for me to go and be shoved around because the best seats in the house are reserved for officers, and as often as not the seats are vacant all evening.—T/3 Clement Mortford, WAC.

Private Breger



"He was lighting the Colonel's cigarette when a shell exploded nearby!"

An Editorial

Let's Look At the Record

THAT was a lulu of a statement in the Army and Navy Journal reported in The Stars and Stripes of Dec. 11. "Since D-Day in France," the Army and Navy Journal said, "greater preoccupation has been shown . . . by Great Britain in Italy, Greece and Albania to protect her lifeline through the Mediterranean to India than in achievement of the prime objective of our armies—prompt defeat of Germany."

Contrast that statement with Winston Churchill's Thanksgiving Day speech in London: ". . . It is a British and American Thanksgiving that we celebrate today. We are joined together shedding our blood side by side, struggling for the same ideals. We are moving forward surely, steadily, irresistibly, and perhaps, with God's aid, swiftly, toward victorious peace. But a greater Thanksgiving Day shines ahead; and that is when this union of action forced upon us by war against tyranny shall become a lasting union of sympathy and feeling and loyalty and hope. Then, indeed, there will be a day of Thanksgiving and one in which all the world will share."

In a war as big as this, with as many people involved and with the whole business pasted together by the thin, messy glue of human nature, it is hard to tell heads from tails and truth from wishful thinking. The statements above are a case in point. So it may be good to review some facts.

Winston Churchill became Prime Minister on May 11, 1940. For



almost two years thereafter, Britain fought the Germans almost alone. One out of every three houses in England, Scotland and Wales has felt the blast of German bombs. One out of every three Britishers between the ages of 14 and 64—4,500,000 of them—are in the armed services. There are 225,000 more on full time civilian defense duties, while 3,210,000 are employed in direct war industry. The ratio of Britishers in the services is higher than ours. Battle casualties were recently reported at 563,000—12% of her strength as against, 5% of ours. In addition, Britain has suffered

57,298 civilian dead and 78,918 wounded.

Britain has lost two-thirds of the shipping she had at the start of the war—11,500,000 gross tons. She has built 102,609 planes since 1939 and has used those planes pretty well. A total of 25,116 tanks and over 50,000 gun carriers and armored vehicles have poured from her assembly lines. She did it on reduced rations, in blacked-out cities, in homes and factories never far from the sick smell of death.

For two years, to repeat, the British fought Hitler almost alone. There was a time when the RAF, the British Navy and the eighth Army were America's toast. There was a time when British-American unity was in full stride and going places.

The facts taken from Churchill's White Paper to the British people don't quite gee up with the Army and Navy Journal's slant on Britain's war role. Yet even these facts have been interpreted by some John Bullbaiters as a slap at America's war production and America's contribution to lend-lease. It's part of the rumor race. Anything goes that throws mud on the integrity, the loyalty, the intentions of our British ally.

We don't know enough about the inside picture to say whether the Army and Navy Journal is right or wrong. But we'll say the record so far is on the side of Winnie Churchill and the British.

We're fighting this war beside them. We'd like to fight the peace beside them, too.



SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE



Slight Interruption

During the battle for the Nijmegen Bridge, Cpl. Jean Le Boufe, an 82nd Airborne paratrooper, was en route to the CP to deliver a message. On the way, the Germans started shooting and the corporal hit the nearest foxhole. The hole was occupied by a muddy groaning soldier. Le Boufe told him to shut up.

The man paid him no heed. When the firing died down Le Boufe took a second look. His companion was a Storm Trooper. Le Boufe

polished off the Jerry and delivered his message.

* * *

No Speed Limit

Fast driving at the front has a lot of good features. Pvts. Frank Grimmet and John Lear, 36th Div. ambulance drivers, touched off a mine with their vehicle's front wheels, but they were going so fast that the blast caught only the rear of the ambulance.

* * *

Yule Party Was on Adolf

Christmas came early for men around Strasbourg. Supplies taken from abandoned enemy warehouses included fur-lined sleeping bags, blankets, sardines, cheese, candy and liquor.

* * *

Clothes Horse

The Second Inf. Div. picked up an AWOL German soldier who had stolen an overcoat from a buddy and surrendered to the Yanks rather than face a court martial. First thing he asked for after surrendering was an American overcoat.

* * *

Cute Capsule

Margie Hipler, of Johnstown, Pa., has been chosen by members of the 28th Inf. Div. as the "Sweetheart of the Bloody Bucket Div." Margie, who was chosen "Miss Pennsylvania of 1944," was sponsored by Pvt. Francis T. Zatalava, also of Johnstown. Beside being the sweetheart of the division, Miss Hipler was voted "the capsule we'd most like to keep in our pillbox."

* * *

Sam, the Pants Are OK

Pfc Bill Breth, an infantry runner, is one GI who's not complaining about outsized pants.

Fired on by a machine gun recently, Bill had slugs put through each of his trouser legs, but wasn't touched himself.

* * *

Raid Put Down

Men of the 30th Reconnaissance Troop of the 30th Inf. Div. have learned to think fast and shoot faster in this man's war but this time it was a matter of talking fast.

While having a clandestine feast on southern fried chicken in a



dugout, "recon" men were surprised by their captain who walked in and asked ominously; "Chicken?"

Hastily remembering a warning about making free and easy with strange chickens, S/Sgt. Joe Robinson, of Leeksville, N.C., came smartly to attention and reported: "Nine Rhode Island chickens attacked this position at 0500 this morning and I am happy to report that the raiding party was wiped out."

Births

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

L. T. Karl Freyer, Valdosta, Ga.—Karl Christopher and Karl Martin, Dec. 8; Lt. Jack S. Farris, Little Rock—Martha Magness, Nov. 11; Sgt. Irwin Flaum, New York—Leslie Brian, Nov. 22; Cpl. Carl Finkheimer, Coopersville, Mich.—James Edward, Nov. 30; 1/Sgt. Charles L. Fowler, Louisville—Charles Jr., Nov. 14; S/Sgt. Edward Gabel, Toledo—Irwana Bernice, Oct. 13; Pvt. Wilfred L. Grand, Mattapan, Mass.—Peter Jude, Nov. 21; Pvt. Chauncey L. Green, Meridian, Idaho—girl, Nov. 21; Cpl. George P. Hinckley, Jamaica, N.Y.—Karen, Nov. 14.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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HASH MARKS

Sgt. Norman Kobren tells the one about the GI who applied for the position of chaplain's assistant and asked: "Can I be Cadre Padre?"

A guy who signs his letter "Weegie" muses: "Maybe the absence of mail over here is due to the presence of male over there."

Daffynition. Shot—that which, if some people have more than one, they're half.

Men of the 39th Sig. Co. are still trying to cross carrier pigeons with



woodpeckers so the birds can knock on doors when delivering messages.

Another unsigned verse left in our typewriter:

Breathes there a man with soul so dead, Who never to himself hath said: "I'd like to knock a knot on our 1st Sgt's head!"

Ain't it the truth? A colonel was lecturing a class of embryonic officers. "A 40-foot flagpole has fallen down," he said. "You have a sergeant and a squad of men. How would you erect the flagpole again?" The candidates thought; then offered suggestions about a block and tackle, and so on. "You're all wrong," replied the colonel, "You'd say: 'Sergeant, get that flagpole up.'"

Worst pun of the Decade. And then there was the ghost who finally got assigned to combat duty. "Hooray," he enthused, "Strictly apparitional at last!" (Ouch!)

Life is like That. Frances Booker, an ASC WAC, spent her day off tramping all over Paris in search of a flacon of "Evening de Paris" as a Christmas present for her mother. Returning to camp, weary and footsore she found a Christmas package from her mama—containing "Evening In Paris." J. C. W.

Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

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

PERSONAL
WILL officer who borrowed Parker pencil in lobby of Seine Base Section Bldg., Nov. 18, mail it to Lt. Anthony Valente.

LOST
FAMILY Bible, 77 years old. Inside inscription: "To Mr. and Mrs. John E. Johnson." Pvt. John E. Johnson.

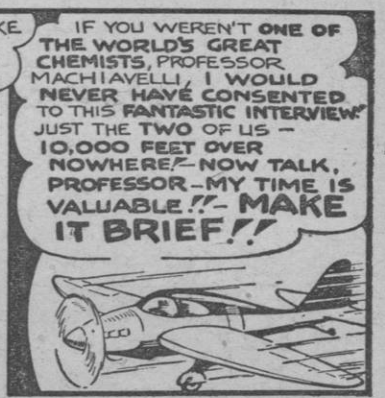
FOUND
WALLETS belonging to: Bernard Miller, 32795714, by Sgt. Chester L. Thomas; Charles E. Copley, by Capt. H. E. Cotton. BINOCULARS No. 158659. Pvt. James M. Keeler.

PACKAGE sent to "Sgt. Earnest" by his aunt Sarah Mulligan, Topeka, Kan. **APOs WANTED**

S/SGT. Howard L. Bonewitz, Wooster, O.; W/O John A. Butler, Newton, Mass.; Sgt. James C. Campbell, Newton, Mass.; Opl. August Caprefollie, Kansas City; Lt. Warren Clark, Iowa City; Pfc Alfred L. Davidowitz, Bronx; Lt. Alfred P. Evans, Providence; Lt. Thomas Gay Jr., Muskogee, Okla.; Pvt. William Greer, Medora, Ill.; Lt. R. S. Catherine Haysle, ANC; Capt. Johny H. Hoefker, 0-442148. **PVT.** Phillip J. Avalon, 16145163; Pvt. Joe Dagman, 31236749; Oscar Fewins, Mason City, Ia.; Pvt. Walter E. Hall, Pueblo, Colo.; Pvt. Mariano Mendez, 390-13854; Donald E. Whedon, Chicago.

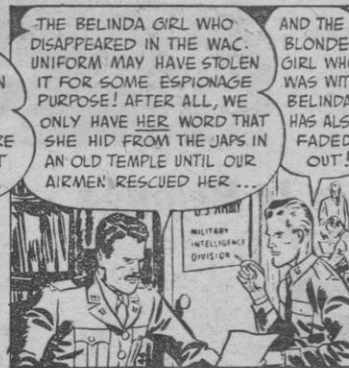
Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features



Terry And The Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate



By Milton Caniff



Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune Syndicate Inc.



By Chester Gould



Abbie an' Slaters

By Courtesy of United Features

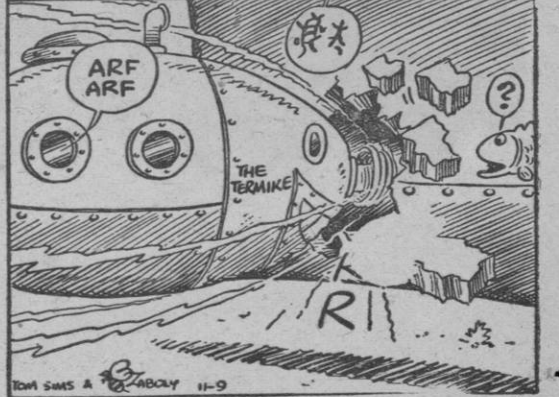
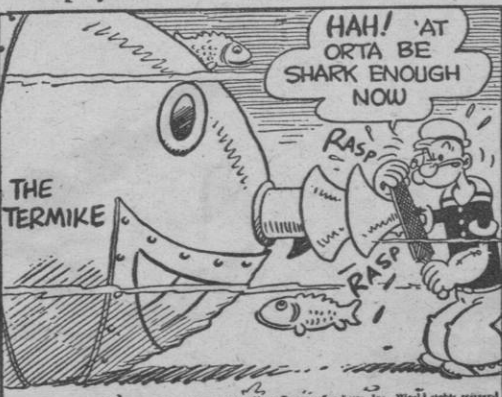


By Raeburn Van Buren



Popeye

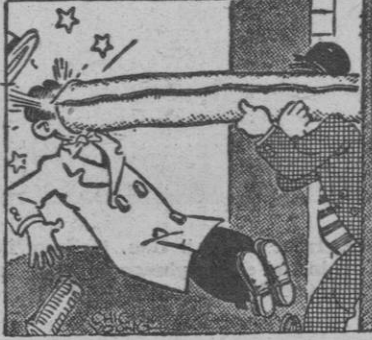
By Courtesy of King Features Syndicate



By B. Zaboly

Blondie

By Courtesy of King Features Syndicate



By Chic Young



Destination—Germany

Opening Christmas Packages in a Hurtgen Forest 'Parlor'



GIs of a U.S. infantry division fighting in the Hurtgen Forest open the first batch of Christmas packages which arrived at their unit APO near Zweifall, Germany.

Signal Corps Photo

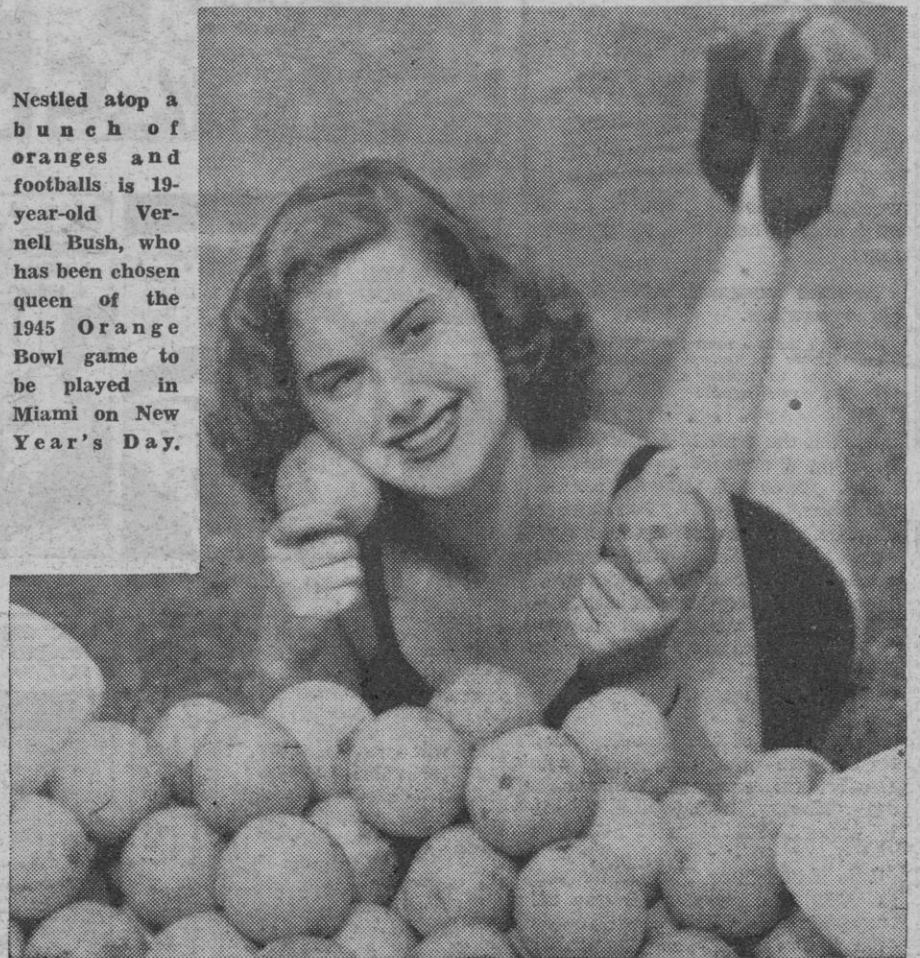


Where It Belongs

A Queen in Any Man's League



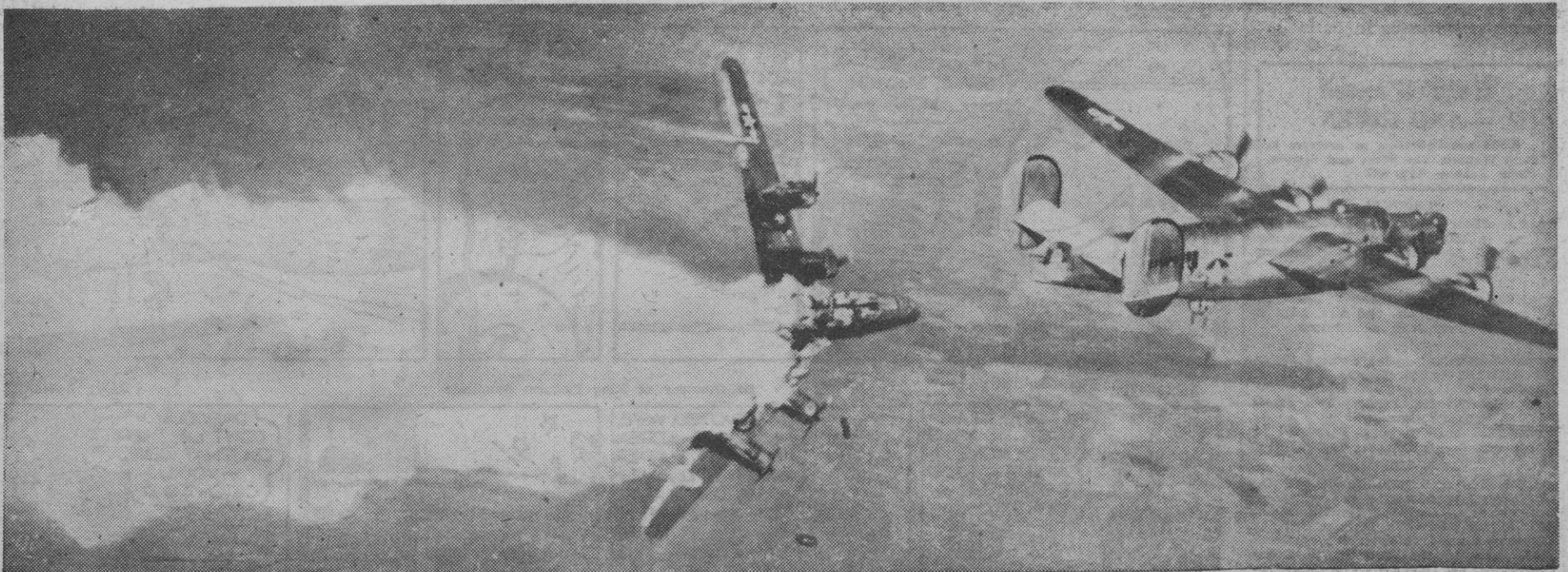
Nestled atop a bunch of oranges and footballs is 19-year-old Vernell Bush, who has been chosen queen of the 1945 Orange Bowl game to be played in Miami on New Year's Day.



A French soldier drags the German flag across the street after it had been torn from a building of a liberated village in southern France.

No jeeps, no trucks, no nothing—just feet take these Ninth Army infantrymen across muddy, slippery French roads toward a forward position near Geilenkirchen, Germany.

Signal Corps Photo.



Victim of flak, a flaming Liberator of Maj. Gen. Nathan Twining's 15th Air Force turns over to begin the death plunge to the ground. The picture was taken by a USAAF cameraman as the B24 formation went in for a bomb run over

Blechhammer, Germany. Monday the 15th Air Force joined Eighth Air Force formations to give the Reich its heaviest blasting of the war. On that day more than 6,000 tons of explosive were rained over the railroad network in the area around Frankfurt.