

"...with unshakable faith in the cause for which we fight, we will, with God's help, go forward to our greatest victory."  
Eisenhower's Order of the Day.

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

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

"This is the battle in which the war probably will be won—by our side. Let's make sure it is the one."  
A CO in France.

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# Yanks Stop Nazi Attack, Unleash Biggest Air Blow

## Byrnes Acts To Spur U.S. War Output

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—In one of the most drastic manpower moves of the war, the government yesterday served notice that materials, fuel and transportation would be denied businesses which defied manpower regulations. Almost immediately after this announcement War Mobilization Chief James F. Byrnes ordered the nation's horse and dog racing tracks to shut down and stay closed until "war conditions permit re-opening."

The actions capped a week of intensified endeavor to speed up the whole American war effort to a greater pace.

### Had FDR's Support

Byrnes, acting with the President's approval on the racing ban, disclosed that he had requested Selective Service chief, Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, to have the nation's draft boards check on the classification of men known to be engaged in professional athletics who had been deferred because of failure to meet physical qualifications for the services, or who had

(Continued on Page 8)

## Maj. Glenn Miller Lost On Flight from England

Maj. Glenn Miller, director of the USAAF band which has been playing in France, is reported missing while on a flight from England to Paris. The plane, in which he was a passenger, left England Dec. 15.

Maj. Miller lived at Tenafly, N.J., where his wife resides. No members of the band were with him.

## Acid-Throwing Nazi 'Chutists Hunt High Ranking U.S. Chiefs

By Jules B. Grad

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH U.S. FORCES, Belgium, Dec. 21 (Delayed).—German parachutists dropped behind U.S. lines to sabotage communications and kill high-ranking officers constitute a well-organized task force specially trained and equipped, a U.S. spokesman disclosed today.

They carry small phials of sulphuric acid which fit into match boxes and can be thrown in the faces of any who try to intercept them.

Their American uniforms were

## Christmas Day—Pup tent Version



Stars and Stripes Photo by Riordan  
Pvt. Jack McDonald, of Chicago, decorates his Christmas tree outside his front-line home, but his weapons are ready.

## 'Christmas?' Asks Foxholer, —'Must Have Missed a Day'

By Bud Hutton

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH AMERICAN FORCES IN BELGIUM, Dec. 24.—They didn't even know what day it was.

They lay huddled in holes on a snow-covered hillside and peered down the slope to where the Germans were. When the 88s slammed into the hillside they crouched a

little closer to the frozen earth. The cold ate through their clothing and made their lips grey. There was a six-day stubble of beard on their faces. Their hands were black with dirt worn into them, and from the powder of a lot of firing. They couldn't wash because there wasn't any water except in the little creek at the bottom of a hill, and even if they could have gotten

(Continued on Page 2)

## Key Points Fall To Soviet Drive

BULLETIN

MOSCOW, Dec. 24 (Reuter).—Capture of Szekes-Fehrvár and Bicske, strong points in the German defense of Budapest, was announced in an order of the day issued today by Marshal Stalin. Stalin said Soviet troops had broken through the enemy line of fortifications southwest of the Hungarian capital and had advanced up to 46 kilometers. Both captured towns are important communication centers.

In weather 18 degrees below freezing, Russian forces were battling against stern opposition toward the Baltic port of Libau along the Libau-Riga railroad in Latvia, according to German accounts yesterday.

The German news agency indicated that the first major battles of this winter offensive, on which Moscow so far has been silent, were being fought between Saldus, 57 miles northeast of Libau, and Mazzeikiai, 52 miles southeast of Libau.

## Bulge Stabilized; Columns Halted 29 Mi. from Sedan

**WEST FRONT**—Allied troops have stopped the German counter-offensive, Supreme Headquarters announced last night. SHAEF's Christmas Eve battle reports, 36 hours behind developments at the front, said the entire German salient was stabilized by Friday night and that the enemy made no farther advance.

**AIR WAR**—Led by history's greatest single bomber fleet, Allied air might rocked the stalled Wehrmacht with a series of sledge-hammer blows yesterday. More than 5,500 planes joined in the attack.

## 5,500 Planes Rock Enemy

The greatest force of heavy bombers ever mustered for a single mission by any air force—more than 2,000 Flying Fortresses and Liberators—ripped communication and supply centers of the German offensive in the most powerful of the day's air blows against Von Rundstedt's forces.

Thundering out in columns 400 miles long—so long that as the first bombers reached Germany, the last elements of the giant fleet were just taking off from their English bases—the heavies bombed a dozen road and rail junctions and supply centers from Euskir-

(Continued on Page 8)

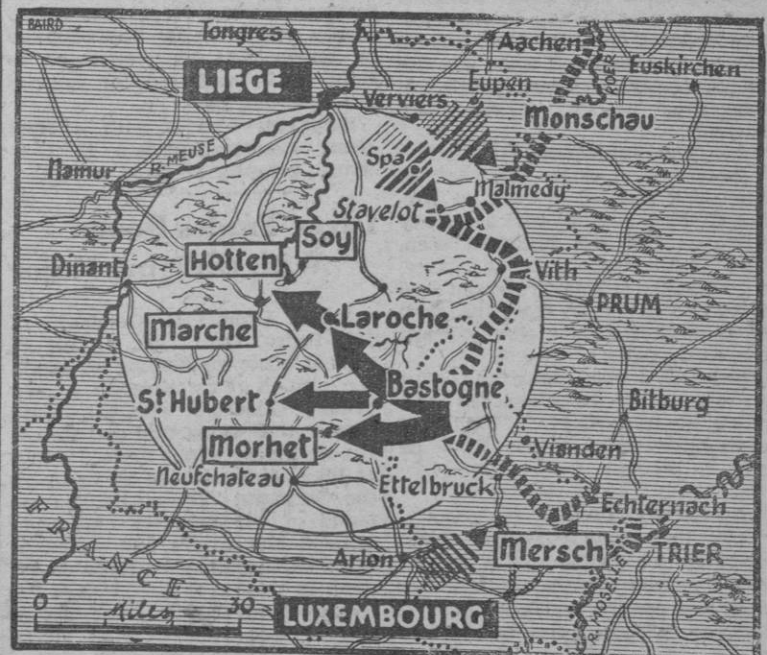
## German Wedge Split at St. Vith

Field Marshal von Rundstedt's counter-offensive, Germany's all-out effort to pull a stalemate out of impending defeat, was brought to a halt Friday night, SHAEF reported yesterday.

Nazi spearheads, aimed toward the Meuse Valley, were blocked as they stabbed 29 miles from Sedan in France after driving 40 miles through Luxembourg and Eastern Belgium.

Brightest official reports since the German offensive was sprung nine days ago said the bulge had been stabilized by Allied pressure on its flanks and center. As the

(Continued on Page 8)



Germans thrusts to the west have been halted by the Allies. Farthest Nazi penetration was in the Laroche and St. Hubert sectors.

## Skipped a Day, Almost Forgot Christmas Eve

(Continued from page 1)

there the creek was frozen solidly by the same cold that cracked their knuckles where they gripped their rifles. Nobody in the platoon had gloves.

Sometimes they could slip back 20 yards to where it was very comfortable. That was in a big foxhole that had a sort of roof over it and an old tin can in the corner. There was a fire in the can and red-headed Leland Jukes, the platoon guide, of Niles, O., referred to it as "the stove."

### Better Than It Was

"It ain't so bad," Riley Bruner said. "It's better than we had for a while in the last few days."

Al Zimmerer, the radio man from Altoona, Pa., said, "Seems like we've been trying to keep the whole damned German army from busting through us. There was times when it didn't seem like we'd see another five minutes."

The ground shook heavily as mortars thumped in from the German slope and frozen dirt from the foxhole's side sifted down the necks of the doughs who huddled there.

"We got mail," said T/4 Don Roof, of Lexington, S.C. "Christmas mail. Fruit cake. We're eating it today, though. We're eating them with our K rations. Want some?"

"What the hell," the fellow who'd just come in said, "Why not eat it? It's Christmas Eve, isn't it?"

The men in the foxhole looked at each other, and Jukes let his breath go out and said, "The hell you say," in a sort of tired way.

The field phone rang. Bruner answered it and his mouth drew down and he whistled. He rang off and said, "They say it's Christmas Eve and I can go back to battalion rear and get washed. You guys are next."

### Lost a Day Somewhere

A couple of fellows left the foxhole with him. They walked briskly across the slope, past the fresh earth the 88s had thrown up. An airburst cracked above them as they came to the hole in the ground which was the command post of Olinto Barsanti, the front-line kind of lieutenant colonel from Tonopah, Nev.

Barsanti stuck his head out when somebody hollered. They asked him if he knew it was Christmas Eve. The colonel shook his head. "Must have lost a day," he said, "somewhere back there." He waved his hand toward the east, where the Germans were, and put his palm over his eyes the way people do when there has been a lot of fighting for a long time. Barsanti turned to another hole in the snow and hollered down it, "Hey, call all the platoon and tell them it's the twenty-fourth. Tell them it's Christmas Eve," he said as an afterthought.

### The Same Old Story

Bruner went down the back of the slope past other men in foxholes. They were as cold and dirty there as the first one had been. Two of them stood in the snow, their breaths steaming, and watched a column of smoke from the shell burst down the draw climb toward the evening sky.

Barsanti looked down the slope to where his battalion lay and shook his head slowly. "We didn't even know what day it was," he said.

### First Army Train

The first army passenger train operated for civilians of a foreign country, the Cherbourg-Carentan line, was opened on July 11. The "Yankee Clipper" now makes two round trips daily between Cherbourg and Lison. Civilians require a special pass.

## Airborne Santa Greets French Tots



A new kind of Christmas is brought to these wide-eyed French children when a GI Santa Claus lands by parachute to visit their party and give them presents. Santa is S/Sgt. Oscar J. Michaud, member of an Air Transport Group.

## Soldiers Give Yule Party In Luftwaffe Hall for 200 Children

An airborne GI Santa Claus dropped out of the skies yesterday to bring a new kind of Christmas to 200 excited children who live near an Air Service Command base somewhere in France.

Santa Claus—or Father Christmas, as the wide-eyed French kids called him—calmly stepped out of a cargo plane, parachuted to earth while the children below cheered lustily, and was escorted by jeep to a former Luftwaffe banquet hall nearby.

There he distributed chocolate, cookies and sandwiches saved from rations and packages from home, and entertained the children with Christmas stories told in the best GI French.

When dressed in ODs, Santa is S/Sgt. Oscar J. Michaud, member of an Air Transport Group. The gifts were presented by members of the group.

## D-Day Invader Awarded DSC

WITH FIRST ARMY.—Pfc Otto K. Stephens, of New Castle, Ind., landed with the initial assault wave on D-Day. After crossing the beach, he scaled a 100-foot cliff to secure ropes for other men to use in climbing.

Without waiting for his comrades to reach the top, Stephens attacked enemy positions. He was wounded by sniper fire but continued to fight until evacuated for injuries the following day.

Stephens, who is with a First Army Ranger battalion in Germany, recently received a DSC.

## Diver Trades Boots With Obliging Major

T/Sgt. Lemuel C. Goodrich, of San Pedro, Calif., got a pair of combat boots for helping an engineer unit hurry through a new bridge. Goodrich, with the 1055th Eng. Port Construction and Repair Gp, and other divers cleared debris at the site of a bridge blown up by the Germans. The major in command of the engineer unit commended the divers and asked if there was anything he could do for them in return.

Said Goodrich, "I'd sure like a pair of boots like the ones you're wearing."

The major swapped footgear with the sergeant.



Just landed after his jump, "Santa" is still entangled in the shrouds of his chute, and GI leggings show from beneath his red cloak.

## Legion Service Club Delays Opening Date

The opening of a service club for U.S. enlisted personnel at Paris Post No. One of the American Legion has been postponed until January, it was learned yesterday from the Special Service Office, Hq. Command, Com. Z.

## St. Nick 'hecks Subdiv Lines in ETO



With St. Nicholas as their guide, two 9th AF soldiers and their young friends watch the toy trains go round in a Christmas preview somewhere in Belgium. The soldiers are Pfc Ross Budden, of Seattle, Wash. (left), and S/Sgt. Vodre V. Thompson, of St. Joseph, Mo.

## Kiddies' Joy Rewards GIs For Yuletete

SOMEWHERE IN ALSACE, Dec. 24.—Over a loudspeaker came the music of "White Christmas" but it meant nothing to these 150 German-speaking Alsatian kids. They stared with wide eyes at four beautifully-decorated Christmas trees, a huge pile of presents and a big table filled with doughnuts, candy and hot chocolate.

The kindly-looking burgomeister said that this was their first real Christmas party in four years and the older people applauded loudly.

These kids had been chosen because they were orphans, because their fathers had been killed or captured by the Nazis or just because they were the poorest kids in town.

### Donated PX Rations

"We've been planning this thing for more than a month," said S/Sgt. Frank Caserta, of Trenton, N. J., in charge of arrangements for both the 12th Tactical Air Command and the signal battalion men. They had chipped in \$500 for presents and donated their PX rations and Christmas food packages. The general had oranges flown from Africa in his private plane.

A Punch and Judy show panicked the kids. It had to be in German because the schools under the Nazis had not been teaching French. As the puppets began beating each other the kids squealed with joy and Pvt. Charles Baranco, of Chicago, said, "It's a long time since I've heard children laugh like that."

### Look at Their Faces

"Just look at their faces," said Pvt. Donald Whitmer, of McFarland, Calif., as a Santa Claus came out on the stage to hand out presents. First came the kids in the black uniforms of the orphan home. They sang "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" in high-pitched voices and one little girl whispered in German that she hoped she'd get a doll with blue eyes.

"This is worth all the money in the world to me," said Pvt. Laverne Wollington, of Decatur, Ill. "I've got a kid of my own back home."

## Holiday Spirit, Not the Nazis, Rules Aachen

By Jules Grad

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer  
AACHEN, Dec. 24.—Fifteen thousand German "traitors" in this skeleton city of rubble were back to normal today after quaking with fear of reprisals from Von Rundstedt himself.

The "traitors"—so called because they refused to evacuate into the Reich with 60,000 others last October—were panic-stricken early this week when Von Rundstedt announced that Aachen had been selected as Hitler's Christmas present to the Fatherland.

Goebbels screamed over the radio that the Aachen civilians were doomed. They'd refused to leave before the Americans entered. They were traitors in the eyes of "loyal" Nazis and on Christmas morning they would be shot.

For the next few days they listened wild-eyed to British and German radio reports telling of the Wehrmacht's advance. The roar of Luftwaffe planes droned in their ears. Finally they could stand no more. They rushed through their bomb-pocked streets to the city's military governor.

"They were terrorized and their burgomaster was badly shaken," said Maj. Jack Bradford, of St. Paul, Minn. "We talked to them quietly and soothingly of the might of the American armies. They calmed down and walked back to their shattered homes."

Late this afternoon they were dragging home battle-scarred Christmas trees and talking about Christmas services in their world-famous cathedral. It was less than 72 hours before their promised execution by a German firing squad.

## Broadcast Aids Rout of Nazis

WITH THE 80th INF. DIV.—A psychological warfare sales talk with unrehearsed Air Corps sound effects helped 80th Division troops to capture Nomeny by convincing the Nazi garrison that the jig was up.

While S/Sgt. William H. Stevens, of New York City, S/Sgt. James E. Tracy, of Los Angeles Calif., and Driver Cpl. Johnny Carraway, of Columbia, S.C., were readying their half-track mounted PA System in the town, the Wehrmacht sponsored a pre-broadcast small arms show.

Stevens and Tracy replied by firing their script at the Nazis, telling them further resistance was useless. Just as they finished, hundreds of American heavy bombers swarmed overhead.

Taking advantage of the coincidence, Capt. Martin J. Wegman, of Pemberville, Ohio, a Regimental S-2 officer, grabbed the mike and warned the Germans the bombers would return to wipe them out unless they surrendered.

When troops entered Nomeny later that afternoon they met only feeble resistance. Prisoners said most of the Nazis had been scared out of town by the broadcast.

## German Women Fined For Military Violations

WITH FIFTH INF. DIV., Dec. 24.—Eight German civilians, six of them women found guilty of violating the Movement of Persons Notice by a summary military government court at Bistern, Germany. It was the first trial of its kind by the Fifth Inf. Div.

## GI Joes Learn Combat Savvy Close to Front

By Ed Lawrence

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 29th INF. DIV. IN GERMANY.—Everybody listens to the professor at this front-line college because final exams are held on the battlefield. If you flunk you die.

The 29th Inf. Div. Training Center campus is muddy German farmland in a coal-mining region near the Roer River. Enrolled here are lieutenants and sergeants fresh from foxholes or hospitals, officer and enlisted replacements and combat exhaustion cases. The professor is always an old soldier with beaucoup battle savvy—one like young Lt. Paul D. McClain, Millsboro, Pa., whose Purple Heart ribbon bears five studs.

The classroom is leaky and draughty. The wind sobs and gray skies weep as Lt. David S. Barkley, of Racine, Wis., lectures a shivering band of non-coms in a turnip field.

### Course for Replacements

The school commandant is Maj. Charles A. Custer, of Monroe, Mich. His institution, which moves with the campaign, grew up around a recuperating center for mild battle exhaustion cases run by Maj. David I. Weintrob, of Brooklyn.

Inevitably a 36-hour course for replacements was inserted in the curriculum.

The school plan was elaborated for replacement officers after a letter by Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley was sent to the armies. It sends green second johns and first loeys forward to be shot at for 24 hours with troops other than those to which they will be assigned. They can dive for a ditch anytime without thought of the impression they are making. After a taste of fire they return for a week to pick up tips from experienced scrappers, such as S/Sgt. Charles N. Seibert, of Cumberland, Md.

### Like Football Signals

All pupils are taught a set of battle ABCs called "Uncle Charlie's battle drills" in honor of their author, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gerhardt, the division commander. Sgt. Robert V. Weaver, an instructor from Memphis, Tenn., explains that they work like dummy football scrimmages. The quarterbacking non-com calls the signal, "Battle drill number one! Twenty-nine, let's go!" and the squad breaks forward in assault formation.

## '1-Man Task Force' Wins Service Cross

WITH XV CORPS, France. —

With the initials 2/Lt. Albert A. Alop has, he had to get in an AA battery. He didn't have to win a DSC but he did.

Alop, who comes from Chicago, was at a forward gun position when he saw the Germans setting up for business. He ran back to cause a small Yank tank movement to be re-routed in his direction. Then, he doubled-time ahead and, armed with a carbine, kayoed an enemy machine-gun crew, and barged into a nest of Germans yelling for them to surrender. When they were slow in responding, he signalled for the tanks to open fire, ducked their burst and fought his way in.

In all, 100 were killed or wounded, 30 frightened prisoners taken, and several machine-guns and bazookas captured.

### Medics Captured

Three German medics wearing knee-length aprons on which a large red cross was painted surrendered recently to Co. K men of the 11th Inf., Fifth Inf. Div.

## Foxhole Johnnies Meet USO 'Line Dolls'



## 5-Footer Does Man-Sized Job

WITH FOURTH ARMORED DIV.—Five-foot Sgt. Louis Schoenherr, of Yankton, S.D., does better than a man-sized job against the enemy.

While guarding a crossroad to protect a Moselle River crossing, Schoenherr and the crew of his medium tank captured a German captain, a first lieutenant, a first sergeant and a German of undetermined rank clad in American fatigues.

Schoenherr, who speaks German fluently, was busy interrogating the prisoners when a fast-moving enemy convoy came into view. Before Schoenherr could mount his tank, the lead Nazi vehicle started swapping small-arms fire with the American tank's radio operator.

Stepping away from the tank, Schoenherr opened up with his tommy gun and got three occupants of the vehicle before it turned over in a ditch. The rest of his platoon destroyed the 12-vehicle column with their tank guns.

## Glider Injuries Cut By Anti-Crash Nose

An anti-crash nose for U.S. gliders, developed to reduce landing-operation casualties, is now in use, the Air Service Command revealed yesterday.

The modified gliders are equipped with ten bars of light metal, drawn to a peak around the nose of the ship.

Air Service chiefs also disclosed that vulnerable parts on U.S. combat plane engines are now protected by a lightweight armor.

## So That Others May Live—

By Harry J. McLaughlin

Stars and Stripes Special Writer

WITH 94TH INF. DIV., Dec. 24.—The small figure crawled forward, edged close to a hedgerow and started digging in. At his side was the telephone with which he was to observe the enemy's artillery fire and report back to his company.

Suddenly the Jerries opened up with 88s and mortars. A piece of shrapnel hit him in the abdomen.

Gritting his teeth he called back to the CP: "Sarge, there is someone wounded up here. Send an aid man quickly."

Half an hour later he interrupted his observations to repeat: "Sarge, I'm dying, please hurry."

The aid man arrived but the observer refused to stop work while aid was being given. He was credited with neutralizing seven 88s and saving many lives. His own, though, could not be saved.

The posthumous recommendation for the DSC for Pfc Dale T. Proctor, of Bruno, Neb., reads: "He was a credit to his outfit and his country."



GI Joes from the Ninth Army became Stagedoor Johnnies after the USO show finished its act near the lines. June Clyde, right, and Mary Brian, left, are enjoying it even though the guys did carry rifles instead of flowers. Bottom picture shows Mary autographing a Nazi flag for members of the 310th Sig. Ogn. Bn., while June and Frank McHugh look on.

## SS Men Confess to Butchery Of Belgian Women, Children

By Russell Jones

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH AMERICAN FORCES IN BELGIUM, Dec. 24.—Seven members of the SS—Hitler's elite—today signed sworn statements that they had participated in the Dec. 18 massacre of more than 20 civilians in the Belgian town of Parfondruy, three kilometers south of Stavelot.

The men were among the nine prisoners captured from the engineer platoon of an SS armored reconnaissance battalion. They freely admitted their part in the slaughter and added that mem-

bers of the same unit were responsible for the slaying of 23 old men, women and children at Stavelot on Dec. 19.

The statements, which were witnessed by an SS officer, offered only the explanation that the platoon commander—also captured but so severely wounded that he died in an American hospital before he could make a statement—had given the order that the soldiers should shoot anyone who got in their way.

The group killed at Parfondruy included all the civilians the Germans could find in the town.

The only crime of the 23 murdered at Stavelot had been that they were in the basement of a house which the Germans had captured and the crying of the five small children annoyed the Nazis.

Prisoners said that they were first ordered to kill the civilians with clubs to save ammunition. One Nazi calmly asked for a cigarette as he finished his testimony.

## 'Hybrid' Unit Serves as Eyes For 41st Tanks

By G. K. Hodenfield

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH 41ST ARMORED INF. REG.—In 1941, when we were preparing for a war that nobody thought we'd ever get into, Lt. Gen. Ben Lear was having a lot of trouble during the Louisiana maneuvers. And one day he gave vent with one sentence: "That 41st armored infantry is a damn nuisance."

Today every Nazi who has met the 41st in action is saying the German equivalent of the same thing.

To carry out their assigned functions—serving as an "extra pair of eyes" for the tanks is one of them—the men of the armored infantry must be able to fight from half-tracks, ride tanks into battle, go into action on foot, and—most important of all—must know just what a tank can and can not do.

### Know Their Tanks

The basic role of the armored infantrymen is to take out the anti-tank guns. A tank is usually helpless in the face of AT fire. And few AT gunners will waste a round against foot troops. By way of showing their gratitude, the tanks take out the automatic weapons that can be such a hell of a nuisance to a Joe with nothing but a field jacket and helmet to protect him.

The armored infantrymen generally ride as far as they can in half-tracks, debarking in a deflated area near enemy positions. They advance on foot, until they spot the AT guns. They either wipe out the position themselves, tell the tanks where to fire, call for artillery fire, or direct the tanks around the position.

### Ran Hog Wild

It's not often an outfit gets to go hog wild like the 41st did in the big push across France. Dashing helter-skelter down the roads in their half-tracks, the men of the 41st stayed ahead of the tanks, and traveled from the Seine to the Belgian border in three days—an average of 50 miles a day.

## Saves Tokens Of Crack Ups

A NINTH AF BASE.—M/Sgt. Malvan D. Falk, of Brooklyn, a B26 radio gunner and veteran of 65 Fortress missions in the South Pacific before coming to the ETO, has saved 14 radio keys—salvaged from each of the 14 bombers in which he has made forced or crash landings.

In his 2,000 hours of flying time, Falk has bailed out twice and rode down ten Fortresses, a Liberator, a Lockheed Hudson, a Douglas B18 and a Marauder He started saving radio keys from forts in 1941, when he crashed for the first time. His lone forced landing happened near Abbeville when a B26 ran low on gas. The pilot spotted a highway and the bomber landed.



M Sgt. Malvan Falk

### And Points, Too

It was a busy week for Pvt. Edward A. Schehr, Hq. Btry., XV Corps Artillery. First he celebrated his birthday. Then he received word from his wife in Louisville of the birth of twins. His CO next gave him two stripes—one for each of the new arrivals.

This Was America on Christmas Eve:

## Holiday Inspires Nation To Spur War Activity.

By Joe Fleming  
Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—Americans, fully aware that the day would be grim for frontline doughboys, today awaited a Christmas dawn—a dawn filled with deeper concern than probably any in history.

But surging over this spirit of anxiety Americans quietly were expressing determination to provide every possible support from the homefront.

Americans read Ike's order of the day and accepted it as a Christmas message far more potent than any they would ever again receive.

In New York the Manpower commission's regional labor committee put into words what most Americans were thinking. It cabled this to Ike:

"We feel your communicate was a direct message to the home front as well, and so we accept it. We cannot match the sacrifice; we cannot equal the contribution the men on the battlefield are making under your gallant leadership, but we can and we do pledge to you and to them to rise to new heights of effort in bringing you the tools of war with which you are waging the fight."

### New Christmas Spirit Inside Homes

AMERICANS were confident, too, in the usual quiet expressions of the Christmas season. Nativity music of Handel and Bach was heard from the choir lofts of churches everywhere. There were special services in many churches. Women wore holly on the lapels of their coats and they filled vases with poinsettias, just as they have always done. Next to the service stars in lighted windows across the land there were the same traditional holly wreaths with the same gay red ribbons showing. But inside several million homes there was a new Christmas spirit—a spirit that said in effect, "Victory is the only Christmas present we want, victory and the family all together again next year." There was confidence in this.

In the midst of all the traditional observances, Americans knew that "Some will fight and some will sigh; some will eat and some will die." It was clear that in their hearts Santa Claus was secondary to the war news, and the attention of young and old was fixed on dispatches from the Western Front. Americans took the only means available to say Merry Christmas to GIs; they were heeding FDR's appeal to "back up the fighting forces with sustained concentration on the efforts which will help win the war quickest." War plants were turning out munitions as usual.

### Nation Remembers Wounded Veterans

AMERICANS turned to soldiers still at home or those furloughed from combat or wounded and in hospitals. All over the nation gifts were distributed to convalescent veterans. Phone calls to their homes were arranged for wounded men, and canteens and fraternal organizations scheduled turkey dinners and entertainment.

Christmas was celebrated as always in Boy's Town, but there was a special interest in the 700 "grads" in the armed services. (Twenty-eight have been killed in action.) Father Flanagan has sent gifts to each of the 700 and already has received a letter of thanks from Pvt. Johnny Novotny, somewhere in France. The Father will preside today in his year-round role of Santa Claus and there will be a special movie.

In Denver 24 soldiers decided to show civilians that doughboys are not always on the receiving end. They took over the serving job from the volunteer hostesses at a canteen, saying: "We thought we'd do what the hostesses' sons would do if they were home for Christmas."

And another surprise Christmas deed was chalked up to Ben Marx, Armonk, N.Y., druggist who donned a red suit and whiskers and then stood on Main Street presenting cigarettes to passers-by. He said he was tired of trying to ration fags so he decided to give away his entire stock of 22 cartons.

### Newspaper Defends Sports Program

THE NEWSPAPERS: Before Jimmy Byrnes cast a disapproving eye on the athletic world, the New York News had already considered the subject, reporting a 15 percent increase in sports attendance in 1944 over 1943. Editorially the News saw no justice in the complaints that the boost indicated the nation didn't know there was a war. "People who go to fights, ball games, horse races, theaters and so on in war time are mainly seeking temporary escape from worry about the war," it said. "This is not only legitimate, but sensible because it is good medicine for mind and spirit and because if you worry all the time you cut down your personal efficiency and you may go nuts."

Just how close to Section Eight you can get on the home front was indicated by Frederick C. Othman of the UP, who wired the following from Washington:

"Twas the night before Christmas and all through the capital nothing much was stirring on account of no gas.

"No pajamas, either. I tried to buy a pair, but the ladies had snapped 'em all up for gifts. Most of the government big shots were out of town; federal departments were closed until Tuesday, and the White House was getting ready to switch on its Christmas tree in the backyard.

"Where'd the President get his colored lights? That's what I want to know. Everybody else's tree was dark because of no bulbs.

"Twas cold as Billy-get-out. Traffic jams piled up for blocks around those few filling stations that had gasoline and I never did get a black nightgown for my bride and there aren't any pink gowns for sale in Washington, either."

In America today there is a little bit of everything that ever was a part of the Yule season before. There was humor. There was warmth. There was happiness—and sadness, too. There was hope and there was faith—faith in God and in ultimate victory. MERRY CHRISTMAS.

## Discuss Smoke Situation



Col. Fred Foy, director of purchases for the Army service forces, talks with Sen. Joe Ball, of Minnesota, in Washington, where last week the Senate heard testimony from Army leaders and cigarette manufacturers about the shortage of smokes.

## Travel Routes Swamped As U.S. Celebrates Holiday

NEW YORK, Dec. 24 (ANS).—Railway stations, bus terminals and airports up and down the country were crowded with holiday travelers today as the nation began celebrating its fourth wartime Christmas.

A good half of the travelers were servicemen homeward bound on leave from battle zones, hospitals and training camps. Among them were thousands of war wounded.

### Fliers' New 'G-Suits' Prevents 'Blacking Out'

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (ANS).—"G-suits," designed to keep fighter pilots from "blacking out," are the latest togs for Army and Navy fighter pilots. It is described as an improvement over the one previously used.

The G is for gravity, and in steep dives and other sharp maneuvers the new flying suit, which consists of a pair of high-waisted pneumatic pants with built-in suspenders, girdle and air bladders over the abdomen, thighs and calves, keeps the blood from piling up in the lower extremities and helps the heart to pump blood to the brain.

### Bill of Rights Aiding This War's Vets Now

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (ANS).—Speaking at an American Legion dinner in honor of National Commander Edward N. Scheiberling, Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines, Veterans Administrator, said that discharged veterans are already receiving loans under the GI Bill of Rights for purchasing homes and farms and this week will begin receiving financial assistance for establishing small businesses.

Hines revealed that more than 300,000 veterans of World War II are on the Veterans Administration's pension rolls and more than 112,000 "have passed through the Veterans Administration Hospital alone."

### Rome, Paris Editions Urged for U.S. Papers

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (ANS).—Rep. J. Parnell Thomas (R-N.J.) of the House Military Affairs Committee said he planned to suggest that Americans newspapers issue editions in Paris and Rome.

### Col. Canella Convicted

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 24.—Col. Joseph J. Canella, a West Point graduate and formerly quartermaster at the Santa Ana, Calif., Army Air Base, was sentenced yesterday in Federal Court to a two-year prison term on conviction of fraud in connection with U.S. air base jobs and concessions.

## Group Studies Plan to Revise U.S. Congress

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (ANS).—A special joint committee of senators and representatives has set out to transform Congress into a "modern smoothworking organization," under the chairmanship of Sen. Francis Maloney (D-Conn.) who has long advocated such a plan. Its formation was one of the last acts of the 78th Congress, which adjourned Tuesday.

The committee's first step was to send out a circular letter to members of both Houses, seeking suggestions for improvement of the present cumbersome legislative machinery.

One suggestion is more adequate staffing of committees by experts. Many lawmakers belong to six or more committees and cannot be familiar with every detail of legislation that comes before them.

"By spending a reasonable sum to give our committees expert guidance we could save tax-payers millions—perhaps billions," Maloney said.

## U.S. Tonnage Seen as Tops

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (ANS).—America will be the foremost post-war maritime power with three times the tonnage of her nearest competitor, Great Britain, Basil Harris, president of United States Lines, said last week.

He predicted that one month after the war in Europe ends, trans-Atlantic passenger travel will be resumed.

"Business travel will be authorized almost immediately after the armistice is reached and the Atlantic will be opened for pleasure cruises within a year after that," he said.

"By the end of the war we will have 2,300 Liberty Ships alone with 23,000,000 tons, enough to fill Navy and commercial replacement demands for 20 years, with millions of tons left over to sell to needy foreign nations or for scrap."

### N.Y. Butchers, Mayor Strike at Black Market

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—New York City's 10,000 butcher shops were pledged yesterday to join with Mayor Fiorello H. LaGuardia and representative meat packers to wipe out the black market in meat. At the same time they agreed to help persuade federal agencies to relieve the meat shortages. The butchers called off their threatened strike scheduled to start Tuesday in favor of LaGuardia's plan to force action from the federal control agencies.

### French Seek Lend-Lease Arrangement With U.S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (ANS).—Jean Monnet, French economic envoy to Washington and London, will begin talks with American officials this week with a view to obtaining 7,000,000 tons of goods and shipping space during the next eight months, offering in return the services of 600,000 Frenchmen to produce critically needed war goods, such as ammunition and textiles.

Although the negotiations will be aimed primarily at arriving at a huge lend-lease, and a reverse lend-lease agreement, and an allocation of adequate shipping for essential French imports, they will also cover prospective direct purchases by the French.

### Consumers Chalk Up New Spending Record

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24 (ANS).—By year's end American consumers will have rung up a new spending record for 1944, the AP reported. The Department of Commerce estimates that \$97,000,000,000 will have been spent for goods and services this year—six percent more than last year.

Part of the increased spending was due to rising prices, though, in the case of food, prices averaged slightly less than in 1943.

Behind The Sports Headlines

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The late Judge Landis always leaned backward to keep out of his ball parks anyone who bet on or had any connections with a racetrack.

Don Meade's little brother, Dickie, graduated from the apprentice jockey class last week and took on five pounds. . . Track fans are looking forward to Gunder Haegg's American visit, hoping the Swedish runner will break the 4.06 indoor mile mark set by Gil Dodds.

COL. WALLACE WADE, FA, now with Gen. George S. Patton's Third Army, can view the outcome of the Sugar Bowl with pride, for he coached both Duke and Alabama to football prominence.

Cecil Spittler, ex-Newark Bears' pitcher, Joe Hitt, ex-Cleveland Ram and Mississippi Stater, and Joe Routt, former Texas Aggies football star, were reported killed in action in Germany.

TULSA, Okla.—Ellis Jones, one-armed Tulsa guard, will be playing in his third bowl game New Year's Day, when the Golden Hurricane plays Georgia Tech in the Orange Bowl at Miami.

NHL Leaders Gain on Foes

Montreal's Canadiens, National Hockey League leaders, nosed out the Chicago Blackhawks, 2-1, at Montreal Saturday night.

Meanwhile, at Toronto, the Detroit Redwings strengthened their hold on second place by beating the Toronto Maple Leafs, 5-4.

Hockey Standings

Table with 5 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts. Rows include Montreal, Detroit, Toronto, Boston, New York, Chicago.

American League

Table with 5 columns: Team, W, L, T, Pts. Rows include Providence, Hershey, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Hershey, Providence, Indianapolis, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, St. Louis.

Government Hits Wartime Sports

On Their Last Legs—By Uncle Sam's Order



These nags at the Gulfstream (Fla.) Park racetrack don't know it, but War Mobilization Director Byrnes has put the stop sign up for them, beginning Jan. 3, 1945.

Byrnes' Order Asks Check on Pro Athletes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Wartime sports in America were caught in one of the most drastic manpower acts of the war today after James F. Byrnes, War Mobilization Director, started a move to close all horse and dog racing tracks by Jan. 3 and called on Selective Service Director Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey to review qualifications for military services of all men known to be engaged in professional athletics.

Byrnes' action, made with the President's approval, left the future of sports throughout the country in doubt and capped a week of intensive activity aimed at stepping up the war effort.

The virtual ban on racing was ascribed to the need of conserving manpower and transportation facilities. While there was no official comment from major and minor league baseball and football officials, the crackdown on transportation also was seen as the end to most, if not all, minor league baseball as well as the formation of new football circuits, for the duration of the European war, at least.

Racing Heads Co-operate

Almost immediately after Byrnes announced his new campaign to aid war production, racing officials swung in behind the request.

Byrnes, in his request to Gen. Hershey, said he "understood" some professional athletes were 4Fs and others had medical discharges.

"In either event," he said, "they prove to thousands, by their great physical feats in football and baseball, that they are physically fit and as able to perform military services as are 11 million men in uniform."

With the possibility of a severe curtailment of professional sports, it appeared to raise grave doubts whether most major professional sports could continue.

May Suspend Minor Leagues

Unless the move is rescinded it appeared almost certain to force the suspension of numerous minor baseball leagues, professional football, hockey and golf, all of which have a large percentage of physically deferred athletes.

The statement, issued from the White House, did not formally order the race tracks to close but made it clear that Byrnes would use weapons at his disposal to "prevent racing until war conditions permit otherwise."

Most horse owners were caught by surprise after they had shipped horses to California, Louisiana and Florida for the winter season and indications are they will have difficulty getting transportation to return the horses to home stables.

With the gates of the country's 80 tracks closed in 1945, at least 16 states figure to lose more than 50 million dollars in revenue. During 1944, approximately 55 million dollars went into state treasuries as the result of taxes on racing.

DePaul Blasts LIU, 74-47

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—DePaul's veteran "Blue Devils" defeated Long Island University, 74-47, racking up the young season's highest basketball score at Madison Square Garden last night.

The Blackbirds held George Mikan, DePaul's six-foot seven-inch center, to 14 points, his lowest total of the season, but the rest of the Illinois team took up the scoring slack.

Iowa Beats Notre Dame

IOWA CITY, Ia., Dec. 24.—Iowa's flashing scoring machine snapped Notre Dame's winning streak and made it five triumphs in a row by whipping the Irish, 63-46.

Wolves Top Wyoming

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Dec. 24.—Walter Kell scored 21 points to pace Michigan's Wolverines to a 38-33 victory over Wyoming for their seventh straight victory.

Boudreau's .327 Mark Wins AL Batting Honors

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.—Lou Boudreau, 27-year-old manager and shortstop of the Cleveland Indians won the American League batting championship with a .327 average, official figures released by the league office revealed today.



Lou Boudreau

The Cleveland pilot's average was the lowest to cor American League honors since Ty Cobb was a champion with .324 in 1908.

Ben Johnson of the Red Sox with .323, George Stirnweiss of the Yankees with .319, and Pete Fox of Boston with .315 rounded out the first five hitters.

Collado's Hamilton Found in Germany

Lou Collado (rank unknown), former Seton Hall College trackman, can retrieve the Hamilton wristwatch he won by taking first place in the 1942 Millrose A.A. 1,000-yard event by contacting Capt. Richard Van Horne through The Stars and Stripes sports department.

by the Yankees' Nick Etten, who hit 22 in the game league that once boasted Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, Hank Greenberg, Jimmy Foxx and Ted Williams.

Dick Wakefield's .355 average with the Detroit Tigers was disallowed because he appeared in only 78 games and batted fewer than 400 times.

CAGE RESULTS

- CNY 74, Trinity 49. DePaul 74, Long Island 47. Eastern Illinois 39, Indiana State 33. Holy Cross 41, DePaul 35.

Pacific Carrier Duty For Navy's Wickhorst

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—Another outstanding Annapolis athlete has pulled up stakes and prepared to set sail. Cmdr. Frank Wickhorst, tackle and captain of the Middies' great 1926 eleven, will go to the Pacific for carrier duty, it was revealed today.

Wickhorst has been in charge of Naval Aviation's physical fitness program for the last 18 months.

Pirates at Muncie Again

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 24.—The Pittsburgh Pirates announced today they'll train for the third straight year at Muncie, Ind.

The Question Box

Cpl. A. D. MacDonald.—Minnesota defeated Missouri, 26-13, in football last year, and 39-27 this year.

Sgt. H. P. Childress.—Tennessee defeated Tulsa, 14-7, in the '43 Sugar Bowl, the fourth bowl game for the Vols, excluding next week's Rose Bowl affair.

Cpl. J. T. Coale.—Cecl Travis of the Washington Senators is six feet-one-and-a-half inches tall and weighs 195 pounds.

Pvt. Bill Hefner.—The Second Air Force did not field a football team in 1943.

Pvt. W. E. Furr and Pfc P. A. Mongillo.—Harvard and Yale football teams did not meet in 1943.

Pvt. R. V. Norman.—Joe Louis fought Tommy Farr only once, winning 15-round decision in New York City, Aug. 30, 1937.

Cpl. P. K. Thomas.—Jerry Dalrymple was almost unanimous All-America end in 1930-31.

Sgt. H. B. Avenoff.—Nebraska's only appearance in Rose Bowl, 1941, resulted in a 21-13 defeat by Stanford.

Col. R. A. Murchison.—Thompson Stadium at Annapolis (Navy's) has a maximum seating capacity of 18,962.

S/Sgt. C. F. Day.—Georgia Tech defeated Navy, 17-15, this year.

Cpl. Frank Burns.—Record books don't give Chet Jaworski's scoring marks, but another Rhode Island State basketball player, Stutz Modzelewski, ('40-'43) scored 1,730 points in four seasons, breaking Hank Luisetti's record of 1,596.

Mary College and prepped at Bordentown (N.J.) Military Institute. Home town: Dover, Del.

T/4 Sligar.—The official world's running high jump record is 6 feet, 11 inches, credited to Lester Steers and made in Los Angeles, June 17, '41.

Pvt. J. J. Quinn.—Buddy Knox was knocked out in first round by Tami Mauriello, Feb. 22, '42, in New York City.

Pvt. L. Christiansson.—Records of Olympic Games in Berlin, 1936, show Finland and Germany each won three events. No Swedish athlete named as winner. Results of Germany-Sweden annual games unobtainable.

Sgt. G. Eagle.—University of Southern California never lost a Rose Bowl game, defeating Penn State, Pittsburgh twice, Tulane, Duke, Tennessee and Washington.

Cpl. F. E. Coleman.—Correct score by quarters in 1944 Army-Navy game: First, 0-0; second, Army 7; third, Army 2, Navy 7; fourth, Army 14. Final score: Army 23, Navy 7.

MaM3/c. B. Robinson.—Tommy Henrich was at the plate when Mickey Owen dropped the third strike in the 1941 World Series game between Yankees and Dodgers.

T/3 H. J. Kehl.—Had the Giants lost to Washington and the Eagles lost to Cleveland, a playoff for the Eastern Division title in the National Football League would have been necessary.

Pvt. Louis Marcanello.—West Point Military Academy (Army) is considered a college football team, not a service eleven.

Pfc J. J. Mullen.—Official basketball rules permit a player to alternate hands while dribbling if he does so without violating the dribbling rule.

# THE B BAG BLOW IT OUT HERE

## War and God

Many suggestions have been made relative to the achievement of a lasting peace when this conflict is over, but one of the best considers religion of paramount importance.

Religion is a potent force in the world today, and it should continue to play a leading role in world affairs in the future. Without a strict adherence to religious ideals, the world cannot hope to avert another war in a generation or so.

As we prepare to observe another Christmas Day we cannot help but wish that the whole world would be reconciled to God and there would be peace among men. Instead of men living in harmony with one another we see human beings destroying other human beings. Bitter hatreds and various destructive influences such as Nazism and Fascism abound in the world today, attempting to undermine our spiritual foundations. Even in our own America, which has always symbolized equality and tolerance, we find racial and religious antipathies.

The eradication of these hatreds and the substitution of Christian ideals is absolutely necessary if nations are to be at peace with one another. As long as hateful germs thrive and are propagated, then the recurrence of another war is inevitable.

The renunciation of Christianity by a large portion of the world has been a major contributing cause of the present war. Only by a return to the teachings of Christ can we hope to have a genuine peace in our time.—Pvt. James A. Decker.

## Dear Mom:

Just cancel that request of mine for some home-made candy and send me more shells for Christmas.

D-Ration chocolate will substitute for the candy but nothing can take the place of more shells.—Lt. B. W. Brink.

## Dear Ole Santy:

All we need this year is a pipe and a few cigarettes... a few flashlight batteries... An extra blanket because it's getting awful cold here.

Another thing we need is wool liners for our boots. We aren't allowed to have any fire on guard duty and our feet get pretty cold.—Cpl. Earnest Marlow, and three others

## Dear Santa Claus:

We have been good boys all this year and obey all orders given to us by our officers and non-coms.

When you come down our chimney will you please bring us each an overcoat.

Thank you, Santa, and Merry Christmas to you.—Four Frigid Midgets.

## A Friend in Need

We are an ack-ack outfit attached to a division which has been spearheading since Cherbourg.

This division was the first to cross the Seine River.

The outfits which we are protecting are always ready to pat us on the back when their tail is in danger, but when we are inactive they never fail to give us the dirty end of the stick.

We wonder if this is true with all attached units, or are we just an exception?—Pfc J. H. McGeowan.

## Cold Water on Salt Water

I have noticed many vehicles and heavy equipment being washed with salt water.

Salt water will shorten the life of tires, brakes and cause metal parts to rust.—Lt. E. Finkel, Engr.

## Regular Army Talks

With great interest, I read Lt. Col. Reg. Army's request that rear echelon regular Army men be placed in front-line TOs for experience in future wars.

This man wants to have his cake and eat it, too!

Because of their background, Reg. Army officers are offered many, many jobs. The variety is almost limitless.

This man took the easy way, went to headquarters, fiddled with staff jobs, and is now obviously in a G2 section, a Lt. Col., and wants to go to a combat command. Did he have in mind a battalion? I hope not!

If a man wants to command a battalion, let him start in a front-line company and know the painstakingly slow advance under fire as a platoon leader or company commander; what it is to be soaked to the skin without his now ever present change of clothes; the sheer terror involved in a night combat patrol deep into the enemy lines; the utter confusion in a rifle company when the officers are knocked off; what the remaining officers must do to regain contact and control. Let him know this and the thousand other things that enter into the hearts and minds of the men he hopes to command before they even think of putting him in a battalion.

If necessary, send us replacements who have commanded battalions before; if only on maneuvers. Please don't train a battalion commander with my blood.—1/Lt. Inf., Reg. Army.

## An Editorial

# Good Hunting

SOME day we'd like to spend another Christmas like this. In the woods. In the snow. With a pal or two, and good hunting.

\* \* \*

This Christmas we hope for good hunting, too. The gifts we seek are clear skies and hard ground. The chance for our planes to take the air. Good visibility for our guns. Good targets. Good hunting.

\* \* \*

With Nazis as the quarry. With intolerance and hatred and greed and inhumanity fallen to our guns.

\* \* \*

And, with the hunt over—a warm home, unbroken and secure. With windows open to the world, and a hearth to which strangers



always will be welcome. With peace in our hearts—toward men of good will. For Christmas Day. And

every day. For ever and ever. Meanwhile—good hunting!



# SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE



## Christmas Party

St. Nicholas came early for about 200 Belgian kids this month. The preview included candy bars, movies, a tree and singing arranged by the 120th Gen. Hosp. with the co-operation of the Red Cross and Special Service. Candy was donated by GIs, officers and nurses who had saved it from their rations. Capt. Jesse M. Frankel, chief of general surgery, played Santa.

## Personnel Problem

Lt. Col. Cyril E. Williams, 90th Div. G-1, has no quarrel with the APO, but he's seriously considering using a carrier pigeon or a milk bottle for his personal communications to his wife in the States.

He was advised by his wife

that she had just received two letters from him, dated Dec. 31, 1943 and Jan. 6, 1944.

\* \* \*

## Things Are Tough

The letter waiting for Sgt. Jimmie O. Hunsaker, of Cairo, Ill., at the IX AF bomber base postoffice was from a buddy stationed at an air base in Florida. Hunsaker plodded through ankle-deep mud to get it, and then read:

"I just got back from a furlough and find that the whole base is restricted for two weeks. There isn't a damn thing to do here except go to the post theater every night or spend the time dancing at the service club or drinking beer."

## Puppy Ten

They couldn't have picked a better name of pup-tents, according to Pfc Isadore Schwartz, of Philadelphia, and Pvt. Frank B. Wilson, of Boston. The two were sitting under their hunk of canvas at a replacement depot, griping about the mud and rain, when they heard a dog whining outside. They let her in, bedded her down on a blanket, and continued griping. Sometime later they heard more whining. Their guest had given birth to a litter of seven pups.

\* \* \*

## Penal Battalion

WITH FOURTH INF. DIV.—A 39-year-old Austrian, taken prisoner by the Fourth Inf. Div., told 12th Regt. interrogators he was a member of a Wehrmacht "penal" battalion.

His outfit, the prisoner said, was composed of political offenders. The Austrian was transferred to the unit for listening to an English news broadcast.

\* \* \*

## 41st Gets in Print

After fighting from the beaches of Normandy to the Roer River in Germany, the 41st Armored Inf. Regt. of the

Second Armored Div. has been released from the censor's secret list. The 41st participated in African and Sicilian campaigns and hit the beaches in France on D plus 3.

\* \* \*

## Hitler Gives Monument

A large dud was found in the courtyard of a newly-selected 80th Div. CP. "Put some white tape around that," the commandant told Pfc Joseph Mesics, of Bethlehem, Pa. "Mark it with a sign, and you'd better fence it in, too," said an



Ordnance captain. "Better get some sandbags, my boy," advised a field artillery colonel.

The next day a crowd of Frenchmen gathered at the fenced and festooned projectile. They carried flags and flowers. The village mayor made a fine speech dedicating the new American war monument.

## Births

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

- Lt. Joseph A. Riggi, New York—boy, Dec. 12; T/Sgt. Frank T. Enders, New York—boy, Dec. 13; T/Sgt. Louis Deamicis, New York—boy, Dec. 2; 1/Sgt. George Enders, Brownwood, Tex.—girl, Dec. 14; Cpl. Leonard Roberts, New York—girl, Dec. 10; Pvt. Alfred H. Schwarz, Mandan, N.D.—Ardell, Dec. 9; Cpl. Sidney Wiener, Brooklyn—girl, Dec. 14; Pvt. Frederick J. Weckerle, Bayonne, N.J.—girl, Dec. 7.
- PVT. Havlin S. Pritchett, Baltimore—Joann Loretta, Nov. 27; Lt. N. J. Marilton, New Orleans—girl, Dec. 14; Pvt. Russell Leroy Smith, Paulina, Ia.—Karen Ann, Dec. 14; S/Sgt. Charles Raymond Kierstead, Arlington, N.J.—Linda Ann, Dec. 13; Lt. Floyd O. Gold, Far Rockaway, N.Y.—Miriam Carol, Dec. 8.
- PVT. Albert R. Athorne, Guilford, Conn.—Marc, Nov. 24; Pfc William F. Agan, Los Angeles—Joseph Irving, Dec. 7; Pfc Frank O. Sorgatz, Macedonia, O.—Frank, Nov. 19; Lt. Col. Ernest O. Majure, Gainesville, Fla.—boy, Nov. 29; Pvt. Lester O. Jenkins, Roanoke, Va.—Ronald Edward, Nov. 28.

## HUBERT by SGT. DICK WINGERT



"Hey! Guess what day it is!"

## THE STARS AND STRIPES

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Well, here's wishing you a Merry Christmas and an ETO-Happy New Year!

GI philosophy. A woman's best asset is a man's imagination.

We just figured out a way to pay off the national debt in a hurry. Raffle off a discharge every day.

The little moron's daffynition of heredity. "Heredity means that, if your father didn't have any children, and your grandfather didn't have any children, you won't have any children."

On the beam department: A player was upset over missing three flies in a row in a rear echelon GI softball game. Coming in



at the end of the inning he mentioned he'd have to get glasses to help him see those balls.

"You're too far gone for glasses," a buck sergeant scoffed. "There's only one thing that will help you."

"What's that?" inquired the blind guy. "Radar," was the answer.

Our spy on the home front says that on the infiltration courses they're singing, "Crawl or nothing at all."

And up around the Siegfried Line, the smash hit is "Come out, come out wherever you are."

Who said that? She was only an usher's daughter, but she could put a fellow in his place.

Conversation. Happy prospective bride to a girl friend: "I don't know a thing about him—except he wants to get married."

New approach. A Pfc stepped up to his CO and said, "Pfc Jackson



has the first sergeant's permission to speak to the young lady."

GI comment on civilian life: "Long ago and far away."

A sweet young thing looked up at her GI guy and asked, "Why is beauty more important in a woman than brains." The Joe replied logically, "Because no matter how stupid a man may be, he is seldom blind."

J. C. W.

AFF-RADIO-AFN Program -AFN

- Time TODAY
0815-Dinah Shore.
1001-Christmas Stocking.
2015-Fred Waring.
2207-Command Performance.
TOMORROW
0925-Music America Loves.
2015-Ali Sack and the 40 QMs.
2105-Charlie McCarthy.
2207-Hit Parade.

Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features



Terry And The Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate



Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune Syndicate Inc



Abbie an' Slat

By Courtesy of United Features



Popeye

By Courtesy of King Features Syndicate



Blondie

By Courtesy of King Features Syndicate



By Al Capp

By Milton Caniff

By Chester Gould

By Raeburn Van Buren

By B. Zaboly

By Chic Young

# Tiny Tree, With Tin Can Star, Tells Joe It's Xmas

By Jimmy Cannon  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH AMERICAN FORCES, Dec. 24.—Long-leaved mistletoe hangs in snow-dusted clusters from the trees along the frozen road to the replacement center in this combat area. Firs taller than any Christmas trees these replacements had ever seen darken the slopes of the hills above the broken town. And on Christmas Eve these rootless men of the army, who know lonesomeness more intimately than any other soldier, counterfeited a Yuletide spirit that was sombre in its desperate ingenuity.

In the German barracks, where they wait for

other men to die, they sat around a toy Christmas tree and a sad Santa Claus that Pvt. Robert C. Mastin, of Detroit, had modeled from mud and clay.

The mud St. Nicholas was barrel-bellied and double-chinned, but his features were blurred and slack like an old prize fighter's. Santa's beard and cap were medical cotton and his cheeks were healthy with iodine from the dispensary. The snow on the little tree was flour sparkling with salt from the mess.

Stars cut and hammered from the tops of condensed milk cans testified by their perfection to Mastin's skill as a tool maker in civilian life.

Tiny bulbs and electric light shades the Germans had left behind were painted whatever hues the supply sergeant had on hand.

But there were no gifts beneath the little tree with the milk can stars because these homeless men of the army hadn't received any mail for months.

"I got a wife, and kid I've never seen," said Mastin. "I put the tree up for them. You know, to keep up the spirit. I couldn't get a present to send the kid on his first birthday. All I could get was a French postcard. But English or French, what difference does it make? He can't read anything anyway."

## Nazi Columns Halted 29 Mi. Short of Sedan

(Continued from page 1)

war's sixth Christmas came to the Western Front, it appeared that the German tide had reached its full flow. But there was no indication that it was beginning to ebb.

Fierce fighting continued in Eastern Belgium where German forces smashed again and again at American defenses. In Luxembourg, some gains were made at the Belgian frontier far behind the westernmost points of the Nazi thrusts.

Allied pressure on Von Rundstedt's left flank mounted. Other Allied forces hammered the northern flanks of the bulge. In the center of the claw of Von Rundstedt's crowbar, Allied lines stiffened.

Americans, recovering from the first shock of Von Rundstedt's great blow, managed to block German forces driving toward Aachen, Verviers and Liege. At St. Vith, the Nazi wedge was split in two, although north and south of the St. Vith area, where Americans made one of the war's epic stands, enemy columns plunged on.

The southern thrust encircled Bastogne, drove northwest to Laroche and west to St. Hubert, farthest point of penetration in Belgium. Then Allied forces drove up through Luxembourg against the German southern flank and made gains north of Mersch, 15 miles north of Luxembourg City.

### Attack by 3rd Unconfirmed

Germans reported U.S. Third Army troops were attacking on their south flank. This has not been confirmed by Allied sources.

Northward, Allied forces struck at Germans in the Duren sector. Allied troops attacked at Maubach, nine miles south of Duren, and gained against local resistance.

The Allied line held firm in the Monschau area and to the immediate southeast as well.

In the Stavelot breach—northern claw of the German wedge—Germans hammered at American lines, which held. It was reported officially that the enemy was building up forces in this sector. This was interpreted as indicating that Von Rundstedt was consolidating what strength he had there and was not necessarily bringing up fresh troops.

SHAEF, which had reported Saturday that Stavelot had been captured by Nazi troops, corrected its reports yesterday and stated this key Belgian city was still held by Americans up to Friday night.

The Allied defense in this sector was determined and German attempts to counter-attack were smashed, SHAEF said. Northeast in the Malmedy sector, Germans attempted infiltration through American positions, but were

## 5,500 Planes Pound Enemy In War's Mightiest Air Attack

(Continued from page 1)

chen to Trier and blasted 11 airdromes in the Frankfurt area. Bombing was visual and Eighth fliers reported excellent results as they unloaded 5,250 tons of bombs.

The Forts and Libs were escorted by more than 900 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, raising to a total of approximately 3,000 the striking force sent out by the Eighth alone. Incomplete reports last night said that more than 70 German planes had been knocked out of the air by fliers of the Eighth.

The Eighth air armada split into three striking forces as it roared across France. The Second Bombardment Division of Liberators hit the road, rail and supply targets, while the Forts, comprising the First and Third Bombardment Divisions, blasted fields of the Luftwaffe both north and south of Frankfurt. All the heavies used 100, 250 and 500-pound high-explosive bombs to smash their targets.

RAF Lancasters, keeping the Nazi forces reeling, followed up the Eighth later in the day with strong attacks behind the area of the German drives.

### Down 27 Planes

Fighter bombers of the Ninth flew more than 1,150 sorties to pummel Nazi armor, foot troops and artillery, supply concentrations, and communications. Luftwaffe opposition, still fierce, was considerably lighter than Saturday. The fighter-bombers shot down 27 German planes encountered, according to incomplete figures.

U.S. fighter-bomber losses were 23 planes missing. Ninth AF headquarters explained that most of the losses occurred because Amer-

ican pilots were concentrating on the enemy ground forces, while the Luftwaffe was flying mainly a covering action.

During the day, Mustangs, Thunderbolts and Lightnings of the Ninth destroyed 116 armored vehicles or tanks, 778 motor vehicles, 56 railroad cars, ten gun positions, 20 barges on the Rhine, and cut rail lines in 20 places and highways at 11 points. Two bridges were destroyed and another two damaged, a fuel dump knocked out, and 61 fortified positions bombed.

In one attack, a single flight of Thunderbolts led by Capt. Warren F. Woiof, of Cleveland, destroyed 420 vehicles. Ninth pilots reported that the Germans were painting the tops of their vehicles white in an attempt to blend them with the snow, to avoid the punishing fighter-bomber attacks.

### 9th AF Hits Vital Points

The Ninth AF threw approximately 400 Marauders, Invaders and Havocs against bridges, road junctions and railheads behind the area of the Nazi counter-thrusts. Direct hits were scored on two rail bridges in the Trier area, and feeder railheads at Nideggen and Zulpich were pounded. No enemy aircraft were encountered by the Ninth bombers.

On the Seventh Army front, planes of the first TAF, flying more than 500 sorties, concentrated on a key railroad bridge near Lake Constance, on the Swiss border. Photographs indicated the bridge had been destroyed. Formations of Nazi fighter planes were encountered and French pilots, flying Spitfires, scored their first kills, knocking down two FW190s and two ME109s.

## Franc Revaluation Reported In Offing

The Paris edition of the New York Herald Tribune reported in a dispatch from London yesterday that the franc was "expected to be revaluated in relation to the pound sterling, and presumably to the dollar," as a result of discussion in London between British and French financial experts.

The dispatch said "it is believed" that the rate would be changed from the present 200 francs to the pound to 275 or 300 francs.

thrown out after some penetrations were made in what amounted to company and platoon strength.

St. Vith, center of the U.S. defense which split the German wedge in two, fell to the enemy after a heavy attack which began last Wednesday night.

American forces, besieged in Bastogne, still held the town up to last official reports. South of Bastogne, Nazis advanced to the town of Rosieres, a gain of about seven miles southwest.

## Pope Fears for Change In Peoples' Character

ROME, Dec. 24.—Pope Pius XII, in his annual Christmas Eve message, expressed fear that war-time changes in the character of peoples might cause world-wide social revolutions and civil wars following the end of World War II.

## Shipbuilders Offer GIs Christmas Gift

BRUNSWICK, Ga., Dec. 24 (ANS).—Over 500 local shipyard workers have volunteered to work on Christmas Day "without pay, as a gift to the boys overseas" and to assure the launching of the seventh merchant ship built in December.

## U.S. Acts to Spur War Production

(Continued from page 1)

been in one of the services and had been discharged.

In earlier moves this week, the government had ordered the increase of the draft rate for January and February from 40,000 to 80,000; raised production goals to plan on a basis of heavy fighting for a year or more on the European fronts; froze the production of civilian goods at current levels for an indefinite period, and cut sharply the output of automobile tires for civilian use.

### To 'Squeeze' Manpower

Mobilizer Byrnes said these actions were necessary to "squeeze" every ounce of manpower out of non-essential activities and into war production before military setbacks would make it necessary to revamp the production setup.

Because Byrnes' manpower office has no authority itself to set and enforce production levels, it was necessary for him to ask the War Production Board to take the action. The WPB did this by invoking for the first time in the war its broad priority powers. These permit the WPB to withhold from any business materials, transportation and any other products subject to priority control, thus making it virtually impossible for concerns who defy manpower regulations to continue operation.

### Busmen's Holiday

A IX AF SERVICE COMMAND UNIT, Dec. 24.—Veteran crews of Ninth AF medium bombers are being granted combat leaves to ferry B26 Marauders from an airfield in France to other continental bases.

## Liberators Hit Jap Planes on Manila Airfield

NEW YORK, Dec. 24 (ANS).—American Liberators destroyed or damaged scores of grounded planes in the first daylight raid by heavy bombers on Clark Field, Manila's main airdrome. On Leyte, Yanks wiped out the last Japanese trapped in the Ormoc corridor.

Gen. MacArthur's Sunday communique did not name the airfield used by the B24s for the assault on Clark Field, but it was believed the planes used fields on Mindoro Island.

The majority of 100 planes on Clark Field were destroyed or damaged in an attack Friday, a communique disclosed today. Eight of nine planes which attempted interception, were shot down by the B29s' fighter escort.

### Count 3,788 Dead

On Leyte, the 77th Div. pressed toward the enemy's sole remaining escape port of Palompon. The Americans counted 3,788 more enemy dead. MacArthur revealed for the first time that the 11th Airborne Div. has been aiding in the Leyte cleanup.

Superforts, of the Saipan fleet, blasted installations on the Island of Iwo Jima early Sunday for the second time this month.

## Tanks Bag Towns Without Firing Shot

WITH TENTH ARMORED DIV., Dec. 24.—Two light tanks of the 11th Bn., Tenth Armored (Tiger) Div., took two towns in eastern France on the same night without firing a shot.

The tanks, commanded by S/Sgt. Philip C. Almond, of Woodstock, Vt., and Sgt. Emery Osborn, of Ashville, Ala., first captured Chemery-les-Deux without opposition. Then they rejoined their column and after reconnoitering the route, led it into Freistroff.

The Nazi garrison consisted of two soldiers, one on either side of a bridge. The first man surrendered and told the Yanks his comrade was waiting to set off a charge to blow up the bridge. The Jerry himself cut the wires leading to the detonating apparatus.

## Judges Ponder Entries In Tire Slogan Contest

A flurry of last-minute entries in the Tire Conservation Slogan Contest, arriving just before the midnight Dec. 22 deadline, has necessitated a delay in announcing the contest prize winners.

Com Z Ordnance, Transportation and G4 chiefs, judging the entries, said last night that the winners of the \$100, \$50 and \$25 bond prizes will be released immediately and will be printed in The Stars and Stripes.

## And a Tankman Was Born...

ON THE BELGIAN FRONT, Dec. 24 (INS).—Anything can happen to tankmen in the fluid fighting that is swirling hereabouts, and it frequently does. But Lt. Col. William Duncan, of Sioux Falls, S.D., thinks he has the topper.

Duncan was placing his tanks in position to stem the Nazi tide when an elderly woman tugged at his arm and pleaded for aid to her daughter who was having a baby in a nearby town and was in a critical condition.

Duncan naturally suspected that it was a Nazi trick to lure him into a trap, and paid no attention until he had finished disposing his tanks. But the woman insisted so fervidly that he yielded and went toward the town—but riding in a tank for protection.

The tank officer was perplexed. He finally solved the problem by helping the girl into the tank and sending it back to the nearest hospital where a baby boy was delivered. Then Duncan went back to the war.

Both the mother and her little tankman are doing well.