

Reds Mop Up In Vilna, Push On for Baltic East Prussia Looms As Battleground

MOSCOW, July 10 — The Red Army, fighting less than 100 miles from East Prussia on both sides of Vilna, has cut the rail line between Daugavpils and Kaunas, the prewar capital of Lithuania. The Russians, mopping up in the battered streets of Vilna, reported captured yesterday, had that city surrounded on three sides. Radio Berlin said Nazi defenders barricaded themselves in the center of town and that house-to-house fighting was in progress for every foot of ground. The broadcast said the Russians were sweeping northeast past Vilna toward Kaunas, 50 miles to the west. Tilsit, in East Prussia, and Riga, the Latvian port on the Baltic, appeared to be the main objectives of the offensive.

London heard the Germans already had declared East Prussia "an area of operations" and were planning swift withdrawals from Psyonarvo, a sector of Estonia in the Northern Baltics. The Nazi plan called for evacuation of all Estonia and most of Latvia in order to conserve forces for the defense of East Prussia, cradle of Junkerism.

With Vilna virtually encircled, the Russians also swept south, taking 150 towns on a front of more than 100 miles, including Lida on the Vilna-Baranowicz railway.

German news commentators admitted the Reds, attacking with ten infantry divisions and three tank brigades, had broken through the German lines on the east bank of the Bug River, west of Kowel, but added the customary claim that penetrating units had been destroyed.

Tank 'Darlings' Make a Hit With Their Pea Boom

A TANK UNIT, Normandy, July 10—They gave John Derden a tank fitted with a retrieving boom instead of a gun, but that didn't keep him out of combat. He and his repair crew figured if they couldn't fight, they could fix tanks that would—and that's how "Derden's Darlings" have been operating since early in the invasion.

During one battle near Carentan, the Ellijay, Ga., warrant officer and his men went into the middle of the fight to pull out five crippled mediums and one banged-up light tank. Then their tank retriever was knocked out. Within hours "Derden's Darlings" had three of the tanks and their vehicle back in the fight.

Another time they went behind the German lines to bring in a white-starred armored car, light tank and assault gun lost out of their outfit some time before.

The "Darlings" are Sgt. Frank Hans, of Baltimore; Cpls. Loren Colo, and Walter Kirbauer, of Chicago; T/4 Dan Juhl, of Burbank, Cal., and T/5 Kenneth Beckham, of St. James, Mo.

BOLIVIAN LEADER SHOT

LA PAZ, BOLIVIA, July 10 (Reuter)—Joe Antonio, leader of the left-wing revolutionary party, was wounded by a bullet fired by two unidentified men. His condition is serious.

Majority of GIs in France Are Eating B Rations — And Some Get Oranges!

The majority of Yank soldiers in France are now eating B rations—such as chicken, sweet potatoes, white bread and cherry cobbler—the First Army Quartermaster officer disclosed yesterday.

Fresh fruit has been on the menu for men in the front lines, he said. American troops at the front have received two issues of oranges.

Fresh frozen meat will be added to rations as quickly as possible, the officer promised.

He said besides the 50 per cent of troops on B rations, 25 per cent are being fed the "10-in-1" food, 15 per cent are issued C rations and the remaining 10 per cent are still eating K rations.

The "10-in-1" rations are issued in large cans so that one issue will feed 10 men. Containing canned vegetables and a variety of meats, they are distributed to men who are not at the front, where the troops eat on C and K rations.

Here's a typical breakfast of B rations: stewed prunes, rolled oats, milk which is canned or dehydrated, pork sausage, plain omelet, toast, apple butter, coffee.

The dinner menu consists of corned beef, baked macaroni and cheese, buttered peas, peach shortcake, bread and jam, lemonade.

Chicken with cranberry sauce tops the supper menu, with steamed rice, spinach, bread and butter, coffee and sliced pineapple for dessert.

The First Army QM said bread is being issued in Normandy on the basis of 25 pounds per 100 men. This will be increased as additional equipment arrives.

The CO of the Quartermaster office presented the first loaf of bread baked here to a wounded soldier in a Normandy hospital on July 4.

Besides getting fresh bread, the front-line soldier will get first crack at cigarettes, smoking and chewing tobacco, shaving cream, razors and razor blades, tooth powder, brushes and hard candy, the QM said.

Chocolate candy and other soft confectionaries are not authorized for free issue but will be sold as soon as the first PX supplies arrive in France. However, GI Joe can munch on a some vitamin-packed bars of chocolate in his K ration.

Jerries in Normandy Are Learning Our 'Big-Gun Serenade' the Hard Way

By Earl Mazo
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
A FIELD ARTILLERY BATTALION, July 10—Like their cohorts in Africa and Italy, the Germans facing American artillery in France have learned the hard way that a Yank "big-gun serenade" is anything but sweet music.

Here are some reasons: Sgt. James W. Byrd, a Tampa, Fla., infantryman, noticed something moving in a tree several thousand yards in front of his line. He pointed it out to Lt. Dick Moses, of Brooklyn, who was forward artillery observer that day. Moses decided it was a German observer, and ordered the spot shelled. The first battery burst ringed the target.

Capt. Ralph Slaine, of Columbus, Ohio, a battery commander, was up front looking over the situation when he noticed some enemy movement in and out of a farm house. The first five shells he ordered obliterated that house. That day Capt. Slaine's battery also accounted for an enemy ammunition dump.

The little incidents of artillery accuracy add up; German prisoners attest to that. One captured officer asked if the Americans

46,819 Captives Taken by Yanks

General Bradley's headquarters disclosed last night that American troops have captured a total of 46,819 German prisoners since D-Day. A staff officer announced that the American Army since the invasion started has buried 5,030 dead Nazis, but cautioned against attempting to calculate losses from that figure. "I presume the Germans buried a lot more than that themselves," the spokesman said.

had sniper sights on their big guns.

He might have known about a Tiger tank which Capt. Slaine's battery knocked out. After the tank was hit, some Germans went forward to bed the remains down as a pillbox. A battery burst killed them all. Some more went forward; they, too, were blown to bits. That went on for half a day until the Germans abandoned the idea.

Just Rows of Hedges, Eh? — Like Hell They Are!

By William Stringer
Reuter Correspondent
"So that's a hedgerow," said the GI as he poked through the bushes and saplings lining the road.

Pfc John Lepore, of Jersey City, N. J., was having his first close-up look at hedgerows — those tangled matings of brush, trees and dirt which delayed the American push through Normandy.

"Beats Hell"
"It beats the hell out of me," Lepore said. "I had heard about this fighting from hedgerow to hedgerow and I wondered what was so tough about it."

"I thought they were just rows of hedges and I couldn't figure out why we didn't just spray them with lead and blast out the Jerries."

But now, after walking through the heavily-fortified underground maze which constitutes a hedgerow, he knows what makes it virtually impregnable to every-

thing but the infantry's bayonet and hand grenade.

Lepore, like hundreds of other Yanks with behind-the-line jobs, had no idea what hedgerow battles were like. In weeks of living in the front lines and watching scores of hedgerow fights, I've seen some of the toughest the Germans have built — some that mortars or even tanks with 75s couldn't crack.

The hedgerow is more than a mere line of hedges—usually it is a dirt embankment three to four feet high covered with a tangle of bushes and trees which often make it a total height of six feet or more.

Boundaries

Most hedgerows are two to four feet thick. In Normandy they bound each field and road and alongside each is a shallow drainage ditch two or three feet deep and about three feet wide. Almost every ditch has been dug out by the Germans into protect-

Yanks 3 Miles From St. Lo; British Attack S.W. of Caen

6 Robot Planes Are Shot Down; Some Fall Short

LONDON, July 10 — German robot planes were directed at southern England again last night and in daylight yesterday. A British anti-aircraft battery was reported to have shot down three of four flying bombs engaged while an RAF Coastal Command plane and two Polish fighter planes brought down one apiece. Several of the missiles were said to have dropped into the English Channel before reaching the coast.

Gen. Eisenhower, in a statement on the use of robot planes, termed them "the makings of a cheap air force," and added that every one was aware of the trial undergone by people in London and southern England during the flying bomb raids.

Early yesterday morning a strong force of RAF Lancasters raided what was announced only as military targets in France after Mosquitoes had struck at enemy oil installations at Gelsenkirchen for the eighth time in ten days.

Allies Advance Slowly in Italy

ROME, July 10—Overcoming bitter German resistance, U. S. troops who yesterday captured the German stronghold of Volterra have knifed forward another four miles and driven a wedge in enemy defenses fronting the so-called Gothic Line.

The American advance was described officially as "a setback" to the enemy's intention of imposing maximum delay on the Fifth Army's drive along the Arno River toward Florence and Pisa.

Progress was slow along the entire Italian front as German troops continued to mass guns and troops to fight desperately from every vantage point.

On the west coast, American doughboys made an advance of three miles to within ten miles of Leghorn despite heavy enemy fire of all kinds. Another Yank force moved up to Pomaja, eight miles inland and 14 miles southeast of Leghorn.

45,000 Germans On U. S. Front

Spearheaded by tanks, American troops bursting the German bulge south of the Vire River drove to a point a little more than three miles northwest of St. Lo yesterday while German forces began to withdraw south of La Haye du Puits, Reuter reported.

In the British-Canadian sector around Caen, Gen. Montgomery yesterday launched a fresh attack southwest of the city. The assault was preceded by a heavy artillery barrage and air support by rocket-firing Typhoons of the RAF. The drive threatened to outflank German forces still defending the city's southwest fringe.

An official spokesman at Gen. Bradley's headquarters disclosed last night that some 11 or 12 German divisions—a total of probably 45,000 fighting men—are now facing the entire American front.

Two counter-attacks around Caen yesterday afternoon were beaten off, one by British Churchill tanks. The first counter-blow came at noon, the second at 1600 hours.

Tanks Support Doughboys
Grinding through a misery of mud, tanks helping doughboys deepen an eight-mile-wide bridgehead swept through a number of villages and hamlets to reach the northern edge of Pont-Herbert, about five miles due south of St. Jean de Daye. Pont-Herbert is on the main lateral road leading from St. Lo to Carentan.

Other American forces were already poised at a point about three miles northeast of St. Lo. Simultaneous with the expanding of the Vire bridgehead, the Germans, having lost dominant high ground in the La Haye area, began withdrawing as the Americans raced forward to a point about two miles south of La Haye.

The German withdrawal was being made through a seven or eight-mile bottleneck, flanked on either side by swamps, and was believed to be a move to avoid being trapped and also to establish shorter defense lines.

Nazi Thrust Repulsed

The fight between the Vire and Taute rivers was the heaviest of the entire front. The Germans threw in some tanks—principally Mark IVs—in an effort to check the American sweep southwestward, but in the words of a staff officer, the counterattack "slowed but didn't halt the advance."

Principal gains made in the day's drive were an advance to the north of Le Desert, about two miles southwest of St. Jean, engulfing Meauffe, some four miles southeast of St. Jean, and a thrust to the northern edge of Pont-Herbert.

The Vire bridgehead now extends more than three miles west of the Vire where the original crossing was made and nearly five miles south from the Vire et Taute Canal where that stream was first bridged.

Meanwhile, German artillery fire increased all along the Americans' offensive front, probably because better artillery is attached to crack units such as Das Reich Division now in the line.

Stalin Cites Son, Ace Soviet Flier

MOSCOW, July 10 (AP)—Col. Vassily Stalin, 24-year-old son of the Marshal, led a fighter force which operated in mass raids on Lida before that city fell, Pravda disclosed today. A few hours later the Soviet supreme commander cited his son in an order announcing the city's capture.

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Army Notes

A mess sergeant in Normandy with the First Army is using GI tooth powder in his biscuit dough. The sergeant discovered the powder was nothing but plain, old-fashioned baking soda.

Cpl. Ernie Lasley, of Los Angeles, a member of the 82nd Airborne Division, tells of the telephone operator in his group who has connected a radio to earphones so that now a half-dozen units are listening to music in their slack moments. Other groups pick it up on the headphones and transmit it to still other doughboys via the field amplifier.

Allied and German planes were mixing it up in a dogfight over an Infantry division's camp somewhere in Normandy. A jeep ambulance roared out when a parachute blossomed from one of the planes. Alert MPs gave the returning jeep a 50-m.p.h.-escort. "Best ride I ever had," quipped Pvt. Oakie L. Asher, of Pineville, Ky., not the parachute-passenger but a cannoner with the division who had thrown his shoulder out of place when he jumped into his foxhole.

Paratroopers are the last people in France you would expect to be writing poems but Pvts. Robert H. Bryant, of Detroit, and Ray Cready, of the 101st Airborne, have penned a poem commemorating the 101st's memorable bayonet charge that led to the capture of Carentan. The piece is called "Purple Heart Lane."

Lt. John H. M. Reed, of Hickory, N. C., and a squad of Engineers in support of an Infantry unit during the push on La Haye du Puits, were traveling in a truck laden with TNT, bangalore and other HE. The truck hit a teller mine, catapulting the occupants from the vehicle, but because the TNT took three minutes to go off there were no casualties.

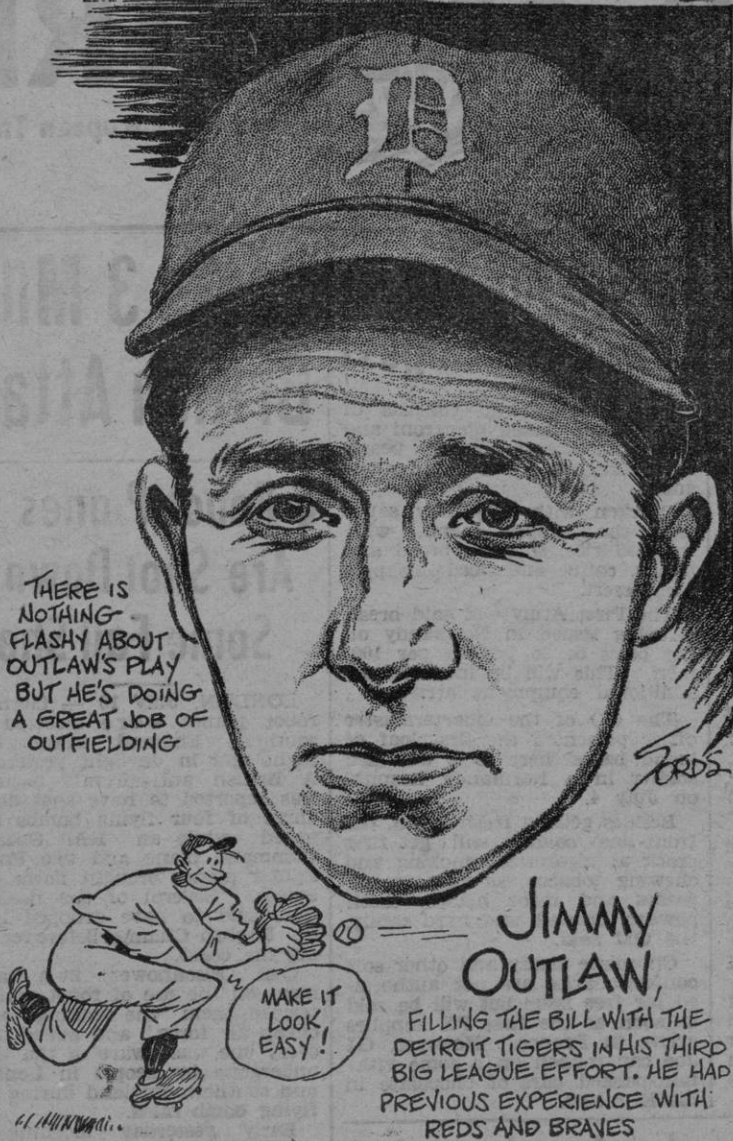
"It is hard to lose such a man even for a short time," was the citation by an infantry division commander to S/Sgt. Tracy A. Waskington, of Acto, Ga., reported to be the first man in his division to be decorated in France. Tracy received a Bronze Star after refusing to be evacuated when he was shot in the groin and thigh during his unit's first day of combat. He received the medal as an ambulance was about to take him to the rear.

Cpl. K. A. Wanamaker, of Youngstown, Ohio, isn't taking any chances. Anything that looks like a bomb is one until proved otherwise. An anti-tank gunner, Wanamaker watched a dogfight between a German and American plane until he saw a black object falling in his direction. A hop, step and dive landed him in a foxhole from where he saw the object, an auxiliary gas tank, score a direct hit on his gun.

Pfc Arthur Broadnax, of Autaugaville, Ga., No. 1 man of a 155mm howitzer crew commanded by S/Sgt. George A. Benjamin, of Millin, Ga., claims to be the first man to fire a round by a Negro artillery outfit in France.

Thirty-six-old Pfc Albert L. Boesch, of Union City, N. J., who went to America from his native Austria in 1931, wonders if he will meet any of his five brothers in the German army. Boesch, in Normandy with the Second Infantry Division says his brothers were drafted by the Jerries following the occupation of Austria.

BACK AGAIN



News From Home

Walker Goes On Warpath Again For Varga Girl and Her Esquire

WASHINGTON, July 10—Postmaster Gen. Frank Walker, an upright man who doesn't know much about cheesecake but knows what he dislikes, will begin the defense of his tastes in district court here today. That buxom Varga girl and all her little sisters who nestle in the sheets of Esquire are haunting the postmaster again.

The magazine's attorney is seeking an injunction against Walker to prevent him from enforcing the ban on Esquire from second-class mailing privileges.

Three Walker-appointed post office judges heard three weeks of testimony several months ago. Walker's solicitors contended the Varga girl and a lot of other matter in Esquire was obscene and everything that isn't nice.

The judges voted two to one that their boss was wrong and that Esquire was okay, but Walker went ahead and issued the ban.

NEW CARGO CARRIER
AKRON, Ohio, July 10—Development of a small cargo-carrier weapon for use on Arctic reconnaissance or Commando raids was announced by Army Ordnance. The weapon will operate in mud, snow, swamp lands or on paved roads.

GARBO ROUTS BURGLARS
HOLLYWOOD, Cal., July 10—With a shout for help, Greta Garbo routed burglars from her home yesterday. However, they got away with \$40 in cash and her ration book, Miss Garbo said.

CIRCUS DEATH TOLL
HARTFORD, Conn., July 10—The deaths resulting from the Ringling Bros.-Barnum and Bailey circus fire here last Thursday mounted to 165 when two children and an adult died Sunday of burns.

STORK FOR FREE
WASHINGTON, July 10—Uncle Sam will pay the hospital expenses etc. for the wives of about a half-million new GI fathers in the next year, Katherine F. Lenroot, head of the Labor Department's program for wives and children of servicemen, disclosed.

Congress has appropriated \$42,000,000 for the program. The appropriation provides for care regardless of the servicemen's ability to pay, Miss Lenroot said.

ATTENTION CARTOONISTS
INDIANAPOLIS, July 10—A contest open to members of the U. S. Armed services has been announced by the American Legion News Service. The service will pay \$10 for each drawing used in its weekly news sheet and \$25 to the contest winner. Deadline for entries is Aug. 31, 1944. Cartoons should be sent to the Cartoon Contest Editor, American Legion News Service, 777 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis.

IKE A MAIL-CALL GI
FORT BENNING, Ga., July 10—Gen. Eisenhower's morale, says Mrs. Eisenhower, is "no different from that of a GI. He keeps his ear cocked for the mail call too." The wife of the Supreme Allied commander came to Fort Benning today with her son, 2/Lt. John Eisenhower, who has been assigned to a special basic officers' course at this infantry school.

The war-time life of an Army wife, she said, was "very disconcerting. It is no different for the wife of a general than for the wife of a private."

BRITISH STEEL FOR U. S.
WASHINGTON, July 10—England has agreed to ship 10,000 tons of steel a month to the U. S. to head off an impending critical shortage, William L. Batt, chairman of the combined Production and Resources Board, announced. The transaction was arranged at the request of military and war-production officials faced with the threatened curtailment of tank, ship, heavy truck, and artillery manufacturing this fall because of insufficient steel output, Batt said.

Meanwhile, Leo T. Crowley, Foreign Economic Administrator, disclosed that U. S. shipping had received more than \$66,400,000 worth of repairs, fuel, stores and services from Britain under reverse Lend-Lease.

Majors & Minors

AMERICAN LEAGUE

New York 4, Detroit 3 (1st)
New York 8, Detroit 2 (2nd)
St. Louis 10, Washington 0 (1st)
Washington 4, St. Louis 0 (2nd)
Cleveland 8, Boston 2 (1st)
Boston 4, Cleveland 2 (2nd)
Chicago 4 Philadelphia 3 (1st)
Philadelphia 8, Chicago 2 (2nd)
W L PCT.
St. Louis 45 34 .570
Boston 42 36 .538
New York 39 35 .527
Washington 38 39 .494
Chicago 34 37 .479
Cleveland 37 41 .474
Detroit 36 42 .462
Philadelphia 35 42 .455

NATIONAL LEAGUE

St. Louis 1, Boston 0 (1st)
St. Louis 9, Boston 0 (2nd)
Pittsburgh 10, Brooklyn 1
Chicago 6, New York 2 (1st)
Chicago 1, New York 0 (2nd)
Cincinnati 9, Philadelphia 5 (1st)
Cincinnati 7, Philadelphia 5 (2nd)
W L PCT.
St. Louis 51 21 .708
Pittsburgh 39 30 .565
Cincinnati 42 33 .560
New York 37 39 .487
Philadelphia 32 41 .438
Brooklyn 33 43 .434
Chicago 29 40 .420
Boston 30 46 .395

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE

Newark 10, Syracuse 1 (1st)
Syracuse 9, Newark 3 (2nd)
Baltimore 3, Jersey City 2 (1st)
Jersey City 9, Baltimore 1 (2nd)
Rochester 2, Buffalo 1 (1st)
Rochester 3, Buffalo 2 (2nd)
Toronto 4, Montreal 0 (1st)
Montreal 3, Toronto 1 (2nd)
W L PCT.
Montreal 42 33 .560
Jersey City 43 35 .551
Baltimore 40 34 .541
Buffalo 41 35 .539
Toronto 37 42 .468
Rochester 37 42 .468
Newark 35 43 .449
Syracuse 31 42 .425

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

Toledo 9, Indianapolis 3 (1st)
Indianapolis 2, Toledo 5 (2nd)
Louisville 8, Columbus 6 (1st)
Columbus 14, Louisville 3 (2nd)
Milwaukee 5, St. Paul 4 (1st)
St. Paul 6, Milwaukee 2 (2nd)
Kansas City 6, Minneapolis 1 (1st)
Minneapolis 14, Kansas City 5 (2nd)
W L PCT.
Milwaukee 55 25 .688
Columbus 46 28 .622
Louisville 47 31 .603
Toledo 45 30 .600
St. Paul 33 37 .471
Minneapolis 30 44 .405
Kansas City 24 49 .329
Indianapolis 20 56 .236

Yanks Humble Tigers Twice; Browns Split

NEW YORK, July 10—The New York Yankees picked up a full game in their slow but steady climb to overhaul the American League-leading St. Louis Browns and second-place Boston Red Sox by capturing a doubleheader from the Tigers, 4-3 and 3-2.

While the Yanks were picking up ground the Browns and Sox were sharing Sunday doubleheaders with the Senators and Indians. A pinch single in the ninth with the bases loaded by Russ Derry, rookie outfielder, broke a 3-3 tie in the first game and enabled the Bronx Bombers to climax an uphill climb that lasted from the first frame when the Bengals rapped Walt Dubiel for three tallies. The second game was a different story as the Yanks bombed Rufus Gentry for all of their runs in the first five innings. George Stirnweiss, Yank second baseman, hit a three-run homer in the fifth and later stole his 21st base to take the major league lead in base thefts.

The Browns and Senators swapped shutouts with Luke Sewell's men taking the opener, 10-0, behind Al Shirley's two hitter and the Senators copping the nightcap, 4-0, with veteran Dutch Leonard in the role of master. Joe Vosmik, attempting a major league comeback with the Senators, cleared the bases with a double in the first inning of the second game to give Leonard a handsome lead.

The Indians beat the Red Sox, 8-2, in the first game of their twin bill before succumbing in the afterpiece, 4-2. An argument on the field with Manager Lou Boudreau in the opener cost Ed Klie-man, Indian pitcher, \$100 for his outburst.

After errors enabled the White Sox to whip the Athletics, 4-3, in the first of their two games, the A's came back in the second with some hard hitting by Catcher Frankie Hayes to win, 8-2. Hayes hit a two-run homer and a three-run double.

Cards Cop Two
 In the National League, the Cardinals added another game to their long lead by shutting out the Braves twice, 1-0 and 9-0. Mort Cooper, winning his eighth straight game, outpitched Jim Tobin in one of the best mound duels of the season in the opener. Two of the four hits off Tobin came together in the sixth and produced the winning margin for the Cards as Stan Musial doubled and Walker Cooper singled him home. Johnny Hopp's single, double and triple, together with Harry Breechen's sterling mound work enabled the Cards to win easily in the second game.

The Brooklyn Dodgers, after losing their 13th straight game in the opener of their twin bill with the Pirates, 10-1, escaped further humiliation only because of a Sunday curfew law. The Brooks also were losing the second game, 9-7, at the end of eight innings when the game was stopped. It will be completed at a later date.

The Cubs came to life and won two from the Giants in another double bill, 6-2 and 1-0. Bill Vosselle, hard-luck Giant righthander, was the victim of poor support at the plate in the nightcap when he bowed to Claude Passeau.

The third-place Reds picked up a game on the Pirates in the fight for second place by winning twice from the Phillies, 9-5 and 7-5.

NELSON-McSPADEN WIN
MINNEAPOLIS, July 10—Byron Nelson and Harold (Jug) McSpaden, the two top money winners in golf for 1944, yesterday won to win the Golden Valley championship with a three-point margin over Bill Kaiser and Bob Hamilton in the four-ball match play competition.

STARS LOSE LANIER
ST. LOUIS, July 10—Manager Billy Southworth said today that Max Lanier, Cardinal southpaw hurler, would not play in tomorrow's All Star game because of an arm injury received last week. Lanier will be out for 10 days.

This B17 Gunner Beat the Germans At Hide and Seek

By Bud Kane
 Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE, July 9—The story of a Fortress tail gunner, S/Sgt. Kenneth N. Hougard, who bailed out over France almost two months ago and was fed, clothed and sheltered by the French until invasion troops reached his area, is an underground saga. Hougard was in a wagon going toward St. Sauveur when M/Sgt. Harold L. Smith of Civil Affairs Intelligence Interrogation, stopped a French peasant woman to inquire directions. Unable to understand Smith, the woman turned to Hougard, whose wagon had drawn abreast, and began to expostulate in French. To Smith's amazement the man blurted out, "Hell, don't ask me, I'm not French, I'm an American."

Hougard later told authorities he had bailed out on May 12, was sheltered by several French families and on a few occasions was seated at the dinner table when German military police came to the house to question the occupants.

He was a little shaky, he said, and more than once "thought my number was up."

Military authorities accompanied Hougard to homes where he had hidden his watch, identification tags and bracelet, one in each place. "I thought if I left them in several places the French could say they found them," Hougard explained.

Authorities said Hougard probably would be sent back to England to rejoin his unit after a short rest.