

B.D.I.C.

"To date you have done exceedingly well. . . We will renew and redouble our efforts."
—Gen. Plank.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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

"If every one of us can do one tenth more, we can give ten percent more men and materials to the front lines."
—CO in France.

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Thursday, Dec. 28, 1944

Yanks Reach Bastogne

From Mouth of Hell Came the 400

By Ken Dixon
Associated Press Correspondent
EAST OF MARCHE, Belgium, Dec. 27.—Their faces blacked, their helmets and iron horses left behind, the fighting 400 of "Task Force Hogan" came out of the woods through ten miles of enemy lines this morning.
Isolated and encircled, far from help, they had been given up as lost. All but about 20 returned, led by Lt. Col. Samuel Hogan, of Pharr, Tex.
This is what they had done:
Penetrated enemy lines more than 30 miles.
Been trapped by three Panzer divisions outnumbering them hundreds to one;
Until their gas ran out, fought a mobile, cagey battle that kept the encircling Germans confused and at bay;
Dug into a village highpoint and, as "forward observers," radioed information from

the midst of the enemy that enabled American artillery to smash a major counter-attack along the whole sector;
Refused to surrender despite almost certain annihilation;
Rendered their armored vehicles useless to the enemy and made a bold Christmas night escape afoot, just as the German trap was being sprung;
Hiked over timbered hogback 10 miles to safety.
They had jumped off one afternoon with 60 vehicles, ranging from medium tanks to jeeps. After 30 miles of easy, swift going, they hit a road block and tangled with anti-tank and small-arms forces. They cleared it that night, and next day were forced to draw away from armored infantry shooting down from a mountain precipice.
Probing north and south, they found they

had been sucked in between overpowering enemy forces.
After trying again and again to break out, they finally spotted a village perched on a high, barren hilltop. They uncorked their reserve punch to hammer through tough opposition to the village, where they used their last gas to roll tanks, half-tracks and artillery to the seven-road entrances.
During the next two freezing days, they beat off attack after attack, meanwhile directing American artillery by radio on the Germans below. The artillery also attempted to fire medical supplies in and failed. Capt. H. P. Cardon, of Tuscon, air liaison officer, asked for C47s to deliver supplies by parachute, but some were shot down, and parachutes released by others fell out of reach.
When the Germans asked for the unit's
(Continued on Page 8)

Nazi Drive Is Blunted Once More

BULLETIN
American forces attacking the German south flank established ground contact with beleaguered U.S. troops in Bastogne, whose garrison has made one of the epic stands of the war, according to late official reports last night.

Westernmost spearheads of Field Marshal von Rundstedt's drive 55 miles into Eastern Belgium have been blunted for the time being.

United Press reported yesterday from Brussels that the Belgian government received formal Allied assurance that the enemy's westward advance had been contained.

American forces met two advancing German armored forces which had thrust toward the Meuse near Ciney and Celles and halted them by Christmas night, official reports from Gen. Eisenhower's headquarters indicated.

Enemy tanks and half-tracks, reported milling around in an effort to find a soft spot in U.S. lines, were shoved back a mile or two southward. Up to latest reports Christmas night Americans still held Ciney and Celles.

Belgian Officials Assured
In Brussels, according to United Press, Belgian Premier Paul Pierlot told the Chamber of Deputies: "Today at noon I received from high Allied authorities formal assurance that the situation is well in hand and that the enemy's advance westward has been contained. The enemy is being attacked with success from the
(Continued on Page 8)



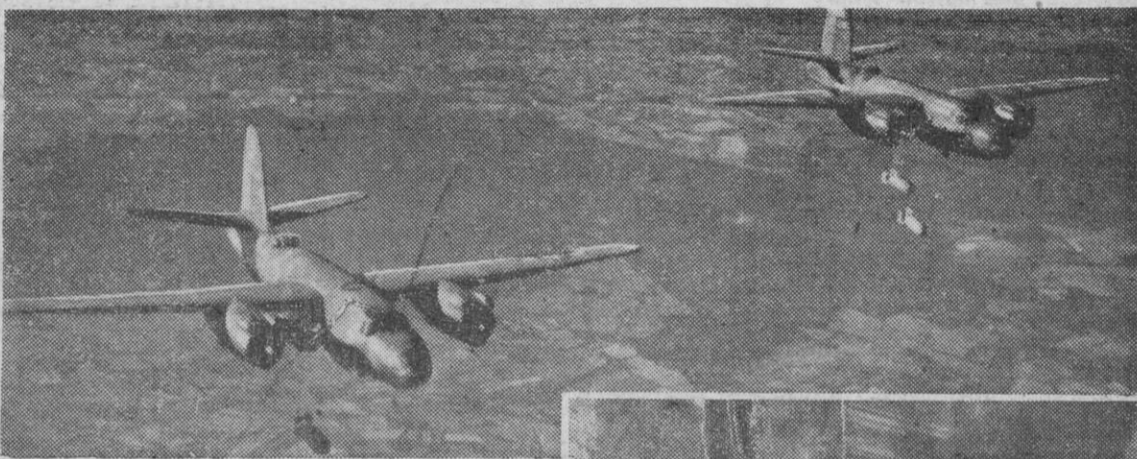
Gen. Eisenhower

Nazis' Losses Mount to 600 In Aerial War

The total of German planes destroyed over the counter-attack zone since the winter fogs lifted Saturday rose to more than 600 yesterday. Yesterday's attacks by an estimated 3,500 Allied planes sent the ceaseless onslaught against the Wehrmacht through its fifth straight day.
Sorties flown by Allied planes during the five days mounted to more than 21,500 on the Western Front, as British fighters of the Second TAF and U.S. fighter-bombers of the Ninth AF's Tactical Commands converged again on the German bulge to bomb and strafe seething columns of troops and vehicles.

Strong heavy-bomber forces of the Eighth AF and the RAF, and medium and light bombers of the Ninth AF blasted marshaling yards, railheads, communications and supply lines feeding Von Rundstedt's forces. The Eighth announced that, with its attack yesterday, the seventh assault since the counter-offensive began, more
(Continued on Page 8)

'Clear Weather'—And the Air Force at Work

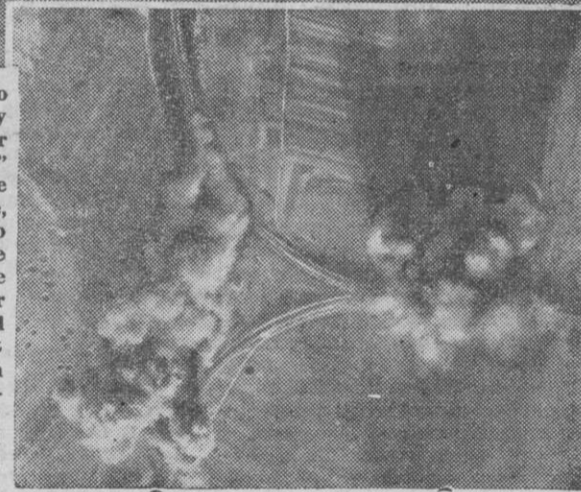


Churchill Asks Greek Leaders To End Strife

ATHENS, Dec. 27.—Warring Greek political factions, called to a conference table by Prime Minister Churchill, held a stormy session last night and another today and adjourned without reaching a settlement of their differences.
Churchill, thumping the table in the cold conference room, dimly lit by hurricane lamps, assured the initial session that the British were in Greece only to fulfill their obligations. He said they had no interest, except to see a government established in the liberated country until secret-ballot elections could be held.

Little Progress Evident
He told the Greek politicians, who sat huddled in overcoats, that the eyes of the world were on them, appealed to them to settle their difficulties, and then left the room, leaving it up to them to thresh out their problems.
But little progress was apparent immediately after the four-hour meeting and a second session was called today. The Liberal party leader, M. Sofoulis, withdrew from the conference, taking the stand the EAM (resistance front) party members were "rebels" and that
(Continued on Page 8)

Objective: "To isolate enemy units from their supply sources."
Result: the scenes above, showing two B26s of the Ninth Air Force dropping their bombs (top) and scoring direct hits (right) on the Konz-Kartaus railway bridge, a vital funnel for troop movements to Nazi forces.



U.S. Air Force Photos.

Nazis Using One-Man Subs In U.S.-Held Mediterranean

By George Dorsey
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
ON THE MARITIME ALPS FRONT, Dec. 27.—The Germans have been using one-man submarines in Mediterranean waters behind the Allied lines, it was revealed today.
Several of these pocket-sized underwater craft have been captured by American troops holding the coastal sector of the Maritime Alps front. The submarines appeared to be converted Italian torpedoes. They are long, cylindrical affairs equipped on the top side with a plexiglass bubble which resembles the gun turret of a bomber. The one-man crew sits on the bottom of the tube looking out of the turret as he operates the sub.
It is believed by American officers here that the submarine goes into action with a regular torpedo attached below the craft. If the operator can sneak up to an Allied vessel, he can then release his torpedo, turn around and beat it for home.
One sub and its operator were captured in a bay of the French Riviera by an anti-tank platoon

commanded by 1/Lt Alvin J. Mejer, of St. Mary's Pa. The Nazi who was pulled out of the sub said that he thought he was sailing into a German-held Italian port.
"When the men first saw the submarine from their OP, they thought it was a large fish" said Lt. Mejer. "They were going to take a couple of hand grenades and go fishing when one of them decided it was a sub. They got excited and called me, saying 'There's a submarine coming into the bay.'
"I had visions of a full-sized submarine coming in and shelling everything in sight. I called up battalion headquarters and then went to see what was going on. By this time, the sub had come in close to shore and was stuck on a sandbar. We brought a 57-mm up and watched the thing from cover for a minute or two. We realized that the sub had no weapons, so one man waded out to it.
"The man inside was a little guy. He was loaded down with so much equipment that he looked like a man from Mars. I called the battalion and reported 'Sighted sub, captured same.'"

Little Boid Saves Ex-N.Y. Barkeep From Awful Fate

"The Bowery, The Bowery . . ." Humming softly to himself, Sgt. John (Pop) Mapelli, 29th Div. infantryman, was thinking about the wonderful place where he used to tend bar as he unwrapped a Christmas present from "the boys." It said that on the card.
But all he drew forth was a loaf of mouldy bread, a hunk of green



Salami. Damaged in shipment. Those were not the words Pop used, however. They were rich, scintillating Bowery words. Or words.
He took his stance, prepared to heave the Bowery loaf into the bush. It was heavy, and might have gone far, had not a Little Boid whispered ever so gently in the sergeant's ear.
He broke it open. There was a pint of whisky inside.

Germans Claim U-Boats Torpedo Passenger Ship

The German communique yesterday claimed that U-boats had torpedoed and probably sunk a 14,000-ton passenger vessel off Cherbourg and had sunk eight small warships accompanying it.
Berlin also claimed two steamers totaling 12,000 tons sunk and a third torpedoed. The locale of this action was not specified.

Tokyo Bombed For 5th Time

Superfortresses slugged Tokyo industrial areas for the fifth time yesterday. Officials disclosed that the B29s had dumped 3,000,000 pounds of bombs on Honshu, largest of the Japanese home islands, in the first 30 days of their operations from the new Saipan Island bases.
Brig. Gen. Haywood Hansell Jr., chief of the 21st Bomber Command, announced on the basis of reconnaissance photographs that his Superfortresses had completely knocked out Japan's largest twin-engine
(Continued on Page 8)

27 Jap Ships Sunk

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—U.S. submarines have sunk 27 more Japanese ships, including a large aircraft carrier, a light cruiser and a destroyer, the Navy announced today. The latest sinkings brought the bag of U.S. submarines alone to 3,500,000 tons since Pearl Harbor,

THE B BAG BLOW IT OUT HERE

Fickle Franc?

I agree with Rep. Thomas when he says: "Dollar exchange rate a crime."

The lowered value of the dollar has a dual function other than the one which we are griping about. Firstly, a cheap dollar stimulates foreign buying, offers to the French or Belgian importers the rare chance or getting first-class merchandise at very cheap rates, which certainly must be taken advantage of. On the other hand, the American exporter gets full value in return for his goods and that means good business as far as he's concerned.

Theoretically, this is all supposed to be equalized by returning merchandise to our country, otherwise the value of our money is pushed up. Another method is for foreign countries to set up a protective tariff, protecting the local merchant against this competition. Under the present chaotic conditions it's pretty difficult to get the necessary machinery moving for that.

I don't know just what is being sold to France, if anything. But this is one of the potential uses of the present rate of exchange. It suggests—if nothing more—a "business as usual" attitude.

The second possible factor is perhaps the necessity of buying up a weak French money, which may without help turn into inflation and bankruptcy. The GI's situation is merely an incidental factor. The little wage cut that is indicated, helps balance outgoing merchandise—that is, his spending keeps the money flowing evenly—which, ironically, supports the present exchange rate.—Another Replacement.

Wouldn't it have been admirable if The Stars and Stripes had the courage to expose the dollar-franc exchange farce, as the attached article does, instead of producing that recent editorial, which professed complete ignorance of "such matters?"—Lt. W. Reynold Ratz, QM.

(The attached article was from S & S, giving Congressman Thomas (R-N.J.) criticism of the franc.—Ed.)

Thanks to the value set on the franc by the Allies, the GI has been doing his bit on the financial front as well as on the fighting front. He is paid on the basis of approximately two cents per franc, whereas its actual worth has been no more than half a cent, so that he's been doing his share in helping the French stabilize their currency.

I've heard tell that an American dollar bill sells for anywhere from 150 to 250 francs in some large cities in France.

If more of these visiting Congressmen would give a little thought to some of the problems of the GI, which these representatives are in a position to remedy (I refer to such questions as the value of the franc and the mysterious cigarette shortage), these war-time Cook's tours may not be in vain.—T/3 Joseph J. Loomis, Sig. Center Team.

...wondering if our famous dollar is all shot to hell in international exchange—or whether, of all people, the soldier boys have been selected to provide the initial prime for the pumps of France, Belgium and Holland.—Sgt. Leonard Kraft, QM Laundry.

I have just read your editorial "The Value of the Franc" and also the letter in the B-Bag entitled "Wants Dope on Franc."

As far as the letter is concerned, I think it expresses well the thought

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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that many of us have concerning our money.

The editorial, however, is a different matter. To quote the third paragraph: "In fact, not being any J. Pierpont Morgan, we can't answer the questions raised in the letter. It's all mixed up with supply and demand, lend-lease, the post war purchasing power of France, and other matters too complicated for financial dimwits like us to figure out."

To me that smells very similar to a 212-degree puff of air. I believe that the soldier is entitled to at least an explanation of the rate of exchange on the franc and an answer to the questions raised in the infantryman's letter.

The Army has done pretty well so far in simplifying explanations of nearly everything necessary for a man to know to get this far along in a war.—T/Sgt. E.F.M., 12th Army Gp.

...frankly, some of my pals and I can't make ends meet.—Cpl. Albert H. Rees.

How Can You?

We can't help but comment after reading in The Stars and Stripes how the Nazis massacred 150 American prisoners. It makes our blood boil to have to recall the past letters in B Bag of fellows complaining that they can't feel harshly toward the Germans. How can you use humanitarian methods with butchers like that?—Ack Ack Boys.

Lastest With Leastest

We are all impressed with the importance of supply discipline. On conserving supplies of all classes and how there is a shortage of fuel, gasoline and tires in the ETO.

I was told to get something for our battalion which was pretty important, I went to our Corps Hqs and saw a major, who in turn referred me to a captain. He said I would have to requisition Army Hqs and called a captain there, so he would approve my requisition. I traveled 52 miles to Army Hqs to see the second captain, who wrote a note and attached it to my requisition and then referred me to a master sergeant in the Engineer Section.

On finding the sergeant he stamped the fa of my worn-out requisition and said I would have to go to the depot after it. When he showed me on a map where the depot was located I saw red, for it was less than ten miles from our Hqs.

I had traveled over a 100 miles and spent an entire day, just to get 20 map boards.

All of which makes me a disgusted and run-down battalion supply sergeant in the front lines.—T/Sgt. Norris, TD. Bn.

Private Breger



"Why can't you be satisfied with ordinary souvenirs like everybody else?"

An Editorial

Greek Papers Please Copy

YESTERDAY'S paper carried this same picture in this same spot. With it went the story of the Greek crisis. Something that might have been added—and this is purely by-guess and by-gosh—is this:

When the provisional government was formed, big shots from all the Greek parties went to the meeting. Try to imagine it—a ritzy palace, fancy flunkies, and a wonderful feeling of liberation in the air. Then the boys got down to business—and right off the bat up came the question of disarming resistance fighters.

One of the boys said: "No arms." Another lad said: "The hell you say." The first guy snapped back: "You do—or else." Shouted number two: "Try and make me." The first guy: "Why you dirty so-and-so." The second (slapping on his cap): "Come on outside and say that again."

Then came the mass meetings, the strikes, the shots.



And this man and woman—plus a few hundred more—rubbed out because somebody blew his top.

What this world needs are grocers who know their groceries. Doctors who know their medicines. Farmers who know their onions. And diplomats, negotiators and politicians who have learned to see a little farther than the end of their nose. Men

with low boiling points. Men on whose hearts are indelibly engraved pictures like the one shown here.

Churchill and Eden are in Athens today. Says the paper: "Their first step was to get all the Greek leaders together round a conference table."

Greek papers—papers all over the world—please copy.



Led Bayonet Attack

Lt. Col. John P. Stopka, of Sheridan, Wyo., and the 101st Airborne Div., has been awarded the DSC for extraordinary heroism in combat during the Normandy campaign.

When numerically superior enemy forces caused heavy casualties and made the battalion's position at a Carentan causeway extremely precarious, Col. Stopka ordered a bayonet attack, and was the first man to move forward when the assault started. The enemy was routed.

It Wasn't a Dream

When Sgt. Thomas E. Gilbert, of Huntington, W. Va., and B Co., 25th Armored Eng. Bn., Sixth Armored Div., whipped into the town of Diebling, three miles from Germany, he and his squad seized a bridge

wired for demolition. Gilbert cut the wires and traced them to a building where he caught two Germans sleeping near the exploder apparatus.

Money to Burn

The big box took up space in the room of the little French house just captured from the Germans so that Sgt. Dennis P. Alsbury, San Antonio, Tex., 36th Cav Recon Trooper, couldn't spread his bedroll. He gave it a shove and it wouldn't move. Lifting the lid he found wads of German bills, totaling about 160 billion dollars, and all he learned, worthless since 1923.

Pineapple

The regiment had just taken over the town and was mopping up. As they moved cautiously between buildings, infantrymen tossed grenades down cellars and sprayed windows with automatic weapons fire. Pfc John D. White, of Utica, N.Y., finished munching an apple and threw the core down a cellar stairway. A couple of seconds later a scared Jerry came running out, hands high, yelling "Kamerad."

Artillery Report

A few nights after the Hurtgen Forest battle, Pfc Thurman Paulk, of Ocida, Ga., was standing by one of the 229th FA Bn's 105mm. guns. He pulled the lanyard to send a harassing round toward the enemy. Instead of the usual loud report, all he heard was a muffled "pouff."

Cpl. Robert Houlihan, of Pittsburgh, Pa., ran his hand along the gun barrel and discovered that about three feet of the tube had disappeared. Ordnance inspectors said the gun had become overheated through constant use and the barrel had lost its temper. The harassing round blew three feet of the tip into fragments and scattered them around the site.

Good Luck in Bunches

On the same day that he received a 44th Div. citation for heroism, T/Sgt. Emanuel S. Aronis, of

Salina, Kan., also got the first letter in four years from his mother who had been in Greece during the Nazi occupation.

Hit It on the Head

The shell missed its target but the results were satisfactory for the mortar crew of the Third Platoon, H Co., Second Inf. of the Fifth Inf. Div. Observer Lt. Joseph Moorehead, of Marion, Ind., reported that the shot fired by S/Sgt. N.W. Crim, of Glenville, Ill., and P.C. Bagutis, of Detroit, landed smack on top of the helmet of one member of a German mortar team which was just starting to set up its weapon.

Grapeshot Drunk

The 81mm platoon section led by T/Sgt. Walter Billingsley, of San Antonio, Tex., has proof that it has fired its share of mortar shells at the Jerries. After firing 1,600



rounds in one day, the tubes of three of the mortars were burned out and the baseplates so warped that they had to be salvaged. During the day a prisoner came in so groggy from the barrage that he kept swinging his hand and saying: "Boom."

AEF-RADIO-AFN Program-AFN

Time TODAY
1230—Music of Basin Street.
1430—Allan Young Program.
1901—Hollywood Music Hall.
2207—Rudy Vallee Program.
TOMORROW
0925—AEF Ranch House.
1901—Command Performance.
1930—Kate Smith.
2030—Moonlight Serenade.

Worker Shortage Delays Threshing in Michigan



Critical manpower shortages in Michigan put such a crimp in threshing that some farmers were still at it late this month. With snow on the ground, a crew turns out the golden grain at the farm of L.A. Verhage, near Kalamazoo. Neighbors pitched in to help Verhage.

WPB Gearing U.S. Output to Long ETO War

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 27 (ANS).—The War Production Board is still operating on the theory that the war in Europe will go on indefinitely, Chairman J. A. Krug, said here today.

Acknowledging that war production had been affected by overly-optimistic statements by "wise boys" in Washington, Krug disclosed that new factories have to be built to supply demands for trench mortars. The new plants will cost \$200,000,000 and will not go into operation until next August.

Krug declared that before he left Washington yesterday he had received a cable from the ETO asking for six million yards of material for blankets, jackets and underwear, which ordinarily is expected to last soldiers five months.

The aircraft program, the WPB chief said, has been upped between four and five percent in the last week and fighter aircraft for the Navy has increased heavily.

'More Mortars'



WPB Chief J. A. Krug Assails Washington 'wise guys'

34% of Gotham Butchers Strike

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (ANS).—Approximately 34 percent of Manhattan's butcher shops were still closed this morning following yesterday's walkout in protest against OPA price regulations. Butchers are protesting the fixing of price ceilings on meat but not on livestock.

Mayor LaGuardia made a tour of markets yesterday and found meat supplies low in the wholesale market, a shortage which he attributed to holiday buying and also to bad weather, which had delayed deliveries from the west. The mayor said the situation "justifies action by the government in controlling prices all the way up or all the way down."

Cold Wave Moves Into Eastern States

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—A cold wave which pushed the mercury down as far as 26 degrees below zero, in Illinois, Minnesota, and Wyoming was moving into the Eastern states today.

For Easterners the cold was moderating a little as it came in their direction. Up state New York however, was bundled up in 10-below-zero weather and Pennsylvanians were told to expect their thermometers to hover around the zero mark.

Meanwhile, Florida and California Chambers of Commerce were making the most of 80-above temperatures in Tampa and 68-degree comfort in Los Angeles.

Woman Elected Mayor By Portsmouth Voters

PORTSMOUTH, N.H., Dec. 27 (ANS).—A ballot recount last night gave Portsmouth its first woman mayor in history. She was Mrs. Mary C. Dondero, attractive widowed grandmother who once won the title of "Miss Portsmouth" in a beauty contest.

Nazi PWs Flee Arizona Camp

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 27 (ANS).—FBI announced today that 25 German prisoners escaped Christmas Eve from an internment camp near here. They disclosed for the first time that Germany's ace submarine commander, Guenther Prien, is a PW. He did not escape, but 19 are still at large, including Lt. Col. Jurgen Wattenburg, believed to be an admiral off the Graf Spee.

Prien was credited by Germans with sinking the British battleship Royal Oak, and more than 50,000 tons of British shipping. On May 23, 1941, the German High Command admitted Prien was missing.

WAC Recruits to Learn Special Hospital Work

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (ANS).—Emphasis of WAC recruiting next year will be on obtaining hospital technicians, the "War Department announced today.

The WD also reported an acute need for medical and surgical technicians and said that WACs will be given such specialized training.

Michigan Politician Dies

DETROIT, Dec. 27 (ANS).—Former Lt. Gov. Frank Murphy died Christmas night of a heart ailment. Murphy, who served under Gov. Murray Waggoner, was under a grand jury conspiracy indictment at the time of his death.

Former Sen. Lee Dies

NORWOOD, Md., Dec. 27 (ANS).—Former Sen. Blair Lee, 87, leader in Maryland Democratic circles for more than 60 years and the first U.S. Senator ever elected by popular vote, died at the home of his son here Christmas night.

Bombsight Gadget Teaches Airmen Combat Technique

CINCINNATI, Dec. 27 (ANS).—The Army Air Forces lifted the veil of secrecy today from a revolutionary method of training air crews—a gadget which, employing the Norden bombsight, a strip of film and a mirror, enables the student-bombardier to simulate almost any situation of combat.

The device, known as the A6 Bomber Trainer and brought into production four months ago, is in use in many schools both here and overseas. The trainer is designed primarily to teach the use of the Norden bombsight.

The new device is the brainchild of Maj. Eduard Parn McKaba, of the Midland, Tex., army flying school. It can simulate bombing missions with a wide variety of targets. According to Major McKaba it is to the bombardier what

the link trainer is to the pilot. It is a portable life-size model of a bomber nose, complete with rack, controls and instruments.

The terrain is recorded on film and projected upward through a small hole in a six by eight-foot screen—placed below the bomber—onto an overhead mirror and back to the screen where, thus enlarged, it "unrolls" exactly as would the earth if he were actually flying.

Direction of travel is co-ordinated with the position of the bomber at any speed from 12 to 250 miles per hour and at altitudes from 2,000 to 20,000 feet.

Bombs are represented by tiny lights to the left of the student as he crouches over the bombsight. The bombs are releasable as they would be aloft, singly, in train, or in salvo.

This Was America Yesterday:

War News Not Sugar-Coated; Combat Pay Raises Discussed

By Phil Bucknell

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—The punchiest line to the Home Front over the holidays came from George Hicks, Blue Network reporter in Belgium: "From the front lines, where the Germans are attacking, soldiers wish you a Merry Christmas!"

U.S. newspapers are pulling no punches in covering the counter-offensive. Editorial attitude is one of optimism about what the situation may be a few weeks hence. Somewhat grim, it's a solid, hopeful American press.

If war news was slightly chilling, the nation's weather reports were colder. Temperatures 20 below zero and colder were reported in the Midwest.

THE death of Lupe Velez isn't quite off front pages. . . . Relatives, now, are maneuvering around the casket for best legal positions in the final skirmish over the diva's money. . . . Court battle upcoming. And from the funeral of Harry Langdon, oldtime star of the silent screen, comes a nostalgic list of names. Mourners included El Brendel, Andy Clyde, Chester Conklin, Jimmy Finlayson, Harry Edwards and Snub Pollard.



The last picture ever taken of Lupe . . . with her lover, Harold Ramon,

FROM Fort Belvoir, Va., comes a GI ingenuity tale. It was payday. One soldier stood at the exit line with a box labeled "Furlough Fund." Before it was realized that the fund was strictly private, he had collected better than four bucks.

THE money front looks fine. They're discussing pay raises for combat soldiers along Capitol Hill again. UFW announced a campaign for raising the base pay of all combat soldiers 50 percent, and their bill goes before the new Congress next Wednesday. It doesn't include paratroops, airmen and others already drawing hazard pay, but would apply to "forgotten" infantrymen, engineers, signal corpsmen, tankers, medics and TD men.

And the combat-pay-for-medics bill, which died on base in the last Congress, will go up for action again, according to Rep. Frances P. Bolt (R-Ohio), who's mothering it.

ANOTHER important problem before the 79th Congress will be permanent compulsory peacetime military service. The Army claims that a poll taken among field troops shows a two-thirds majority favor such a measure.

MORE fun in Hollywood: Cpl. James D. Slaton, of Gulfport, Miss., most decorated GI, has been busy since he went there to act in "GI Joe," film version of Ernie Pyle's war book. Cpl. Slaton, who went through Mediterranean campaigns virtually unscathed, winning the Congressional Medal of Honor as well as British and Russian decorations, was hit by a car while crossing Hollywood Boulevard. He was cut and bruised.



AS soon as he got out of hospital Cpl. Slaton waited no longer; he got married to Nelda Marshall, of Hollywood, whom he met two months ago in Washington. They eloped to Las Vegas, and returned to Hollywood for a brief honeymoon before the corporal goes back before the cameras.

AND if you're interested in polls, another Gallup job says 52 percent of civilians smoke. . . . and they smoke more in town than in the country. . . . but nobody says where they get them. With the ponies. The coming clamp down on racing is making a lot of people unhappy, with gamblers looking for race tracks in Mexico and Havana and maybe even Canada.

"It could happen here" is mood of the nations Office of Civilian Defense, which has alerted wardens and other volunteers as to possibility of enemy robots and rockets flying that far. . . . but the Washington cabmen don't mind. The local traffic court is broadcasting its trials, and the hackies just keep busy listening to that. They've got radios in their cabs. . . . Remember?

17 Years in Army, Refuses All Leaves

KEARNEY, Neb., Dec. 27.—Sgt. Ralph Patters, stationed at Kearney Field near here, has served 17 years in the Army without a furlough.

"I didn't have any particular place to go," Patters said. His service record shows duty at Hawaii and Panama.

Senate Group Maps Its Foreign Policy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—"B2H2" is title of a resolution sponsored by four Senators headed by Sen. Ball (R-Minn), whereby the Senate would announce its foreign policy principles in advance of the President. The "H" in B2H2 stands for Sen. Hatch (D-N.M.). Others are Sen. Burton (R-Ohio) and Hill (D-Ala).

Sen. Ball said what he had in mind was an effort to frame a resolution which would strengthen President Roosevelt's hand in efforts to get an international peace organization functioning before the war ends.

"The Senate ought to be willing to say what principles it stands behind—how far it will go in committing the U.S. to participation in an international organization," Sen. Ball said.

Christmas Rush Over, PO Plans for the Next

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (ANS).—The Post Office Department had the Christmas rush licked again yesterday, tanks largely to an estimated 150,000 women volunteer helpers and the fact that many people mailed early.

In only a few isolated cases did gifts remain undelivered, the Department reported. No employees were required to make deliveries on Christmas Day and those volunteers who did work delivered only perishables and Christmas packages.

Plans for the 1945 Christmas mailing season will begin tomorrow, officials said.

U.S. and Russia Plan New Lend-Lease Pact

NEW YORK, Dec. 27 (ANS).—Secretary of State Stettinius said today that the United States is working on a new lend-lease protocol with Russia but that meanwhile war supplies have continued to move to the Soviet.

Officials said the delay in renewing the protocol, which expired last June, was due to revisions in request for supplies and in designations of available stocks. One of the complications in reaching an agreement on the document, lend-lease officials said, is the difficulty in determining precisely what materials are directly needed for the war effort.

Negro Ack-Ack Men Keep 'Em Falling' for 3rd

By Allan Morrison
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer.

WITH THIRD U.S. ARMY, Dec. 27.—Negro ack-ack gunners with General Patton's forces have bagged their share of German planes, and when the Luftwaffe became scarce they turned their 40mm. Bofors guns on ground targets.

Over a one-month period the Section credited the 452nd AAA battalion with the highest "batting average"—percentage of planes knocked down of total aircraft engaged—of all non-self-propelled outfits in Third Army.

Mainly assigned to protecting artillery areas of the Fourth Armored Division, these ack-ackers have operated closer to the front than the average AA man normally expects to get.

Took Nazi Prisoners

When Fourth Armored elements smashed across the Moselle River into Arracourt, one battery helped turn back a German counter-attack. The ack-ack men depressed their guns and, using small arms, killed and captured 30 Germans.

Led by Lt. Angelo Brigo, of Somerville, N.J., the crew included: 1/Sgt. William Harris, Chicago; T/5 Isaac Gabriel, Miami; T/5 Shirley Reed, St. Louis, and S/Sgt. M. M. Malone, Rochdale, Tex.

During another fight in the Moselle Valley one gun crew was attacked by a patrol. They captured 42 Nazis. Crew members included: Sgt. Verge Riley, Malden, Mo.; Cpl. John Smith, Richmond, Va.; Pvt. Calvin Jamison, Houston; Cpl. Huston Hill, Kansas City, Mo., and Pvt. Benjamin Harrison, New Orleans. The crew later brought down three ME109's.

Fought All Night

Then there's the story of the all-night battle near Arracourt by Cpl. George Cary, Houston, and Pvt. Arthur Newsome. It was highlighted by their capturing of a Nazi colonel.

One gun section, directed by Cpl. Warren Barker, Mermentau, La., brought down one ME109 with four rounds.

In another skirmish, a JU52 transport was brought down by machine gunners. The crew surrounded the crippled plane as it crashlanded nearby and flushed out 17 German soldiers and nine Nazi nurses.

Moon Rocket Plans Ready, Briton Says

LONDON, Dec. 27.—Plans and navigational instruments are already completed for a rocket passenger flight to the moon, Prof. A. M. Low, British scientist, said today.

He described the German rocket bomb as the most far-reaching development of this war and said that it was already possible to fire rockets from such light craft as a sportsman's outboard motorboat.

Low said the rocket "needs almost no launching rigging which makes it one of the most convenient weapons of war—and of peace."

He asserted rocket flights to the moon are not at all unreasonable. "It would be far more foolish not to talk about such a trip than to consider it."

Tanker Routs Nazis To Protect Wounded

WITH FIFTH ARMORED DIV.—The only member of the crew to escape without a wound when his tank was hit, Pvt. Thomas G. Costanzo, of Ridgewood, N.Y., remained alone in the vehicle to provide protective cover for Fifth Armored Div. engineers clearing mines from the approaches to the Siegfried Line.

When the engineers reached the shelter of his tank, Pvt. Costanzo returned to get a new tank. It had just been placed in firing position when Costanzo noticed a peep containing wounded pinned down by enemy fire. He maneuvered to protect the peep and helped to rout the enemy force. Costanzo was awarded a Silver Star.

German Refugees, Defying Gestapo, 'Go Underground'



German refugees from the Saarlautern area who defied the Gestapo order to evacuate their homes on the Franz von Papen estate fled to an unused mine for shelter in their "minor revolt." They are waiting for a meager meal, cooking on the stove behind the crowd. The refugees were freed by units of the Third Army.

Battle Buddies, Pals on Pass, —They're Together in Death

By Ed Lawrence
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH SECOND ARMORED DIV., Germany.—They were buddies for a long time by war standards—a year and a half through the North African, Sicilian and Normandy campaigns. It seemed that one couldn't do enough for the other. They met in a spearhead outfit, the 82nd Armored Recon Bn., in the Mediterranean theater and found they had many things in common.

FA Guns Crush Ft. Schiesseck

WITH SEVENTH ARMY.—Things were even gloomier than usual on the foggy front southwest of Bitche when the doughfests found themselves stalled by heavy fire from Ft. Schiesseck, Maginot stronghold.

Shells from 155mm "Long Toms" bounced off the eight-foot-thick walls. Eight-inch howitzers chipped off their outer surface. S/Sgt. Irving Sunshine, of Brooklyn, and his 240 mm. gun crew of a FA battalion placed their piece 8,000 yards from the target. S/Sgt. Vernon C. Lamm, of Wilson, N.C., set up his gun at the same range.

With forward observers, 1/Lt. William T. Kennedy, of Tallahassee, Ala., 1/Lt. Joseph G. Deprimo, of Dunmore, Pa., and 1/Lt. Darcy W. Bradsher, of Roxboro, N.C., out in front the two guns went to work.

Two days and 200-odd rounds later, the infantry took possession of the crumbled remains of Ft. Schiesseck.

Capt. Frank H. Jordan Jr., of Pulaski, Va., was a lieutenant then and had already won his battle spurs.

He and Lt. Morton C. Eustis, a magazine writer from Washington, D. C., became an inseparable team.

Combination Broken Up

A few months ago the combination was broken up when Lt. Eustis' tank was hit by a German shell. He was pulled out of the crippled tank by his buddy, but died on the way to the hospital.

Some weeks later Capt. Jordan heard from the executor of his comrade's estate. Lt. Eustis had willed him \$5,000 which was to be used toward the purchase of a law library, for which Jordan, a law graduate, had been saving. An additional bequest specified "four cases of high-class Scotch whisky."

The Germans spoiled that, too. Shortly afterward the captain and his men stormed a German artillery emplacement. He was killed in the battle.

Kids' Pennies Give Wounded In States Free Calls Home

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau
WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Wounded servicemen arriving here from overseas duty get free telephone service to their families in any part of the U.S. Calls are paid for by the "First Call Home Fund," established by the Washington Post from contributions from residents of the capital and surrounding area.

More than \$13,000 has poured into the fund to enable wounded who have been back not longer than seven days to make calls from Walter Reed General Hospital and Bolling Field Hospital in Washington, and the Naval Medical Center at Bethesda, Md.

For those whose families do not have phones, operators contact neighbors who are asked to pass on information that the serviceman is back. A garage operator in the Tennessee mountains recently drove 68 miles to get the wife of a soldier, bring her back to make the call to Walter Reed Hospital.

Contributions to the fund range from pennies sent by individuals to \$500 checks from individuals.



Evacuated from France to a U.S. hospital, Pvt. Warren Alpert, of Chelsea, Mass., makes long distance call to the folks.

B24's Bomb Bays Again Tote Death After Load of Joy

Its bomb bays now loaded with high explosive, the B24 "Liberty Run" is blasting enemy concentrations with the blessing of 200 French children for whom these same bomb bays were piled high with toys, dolls and candy on Christmas Day.

In a gesture of Anglo-American-French friendship, those Christmas presents were the gifts of British children and of GIs at the 453rd Bomber Group base in England.

T/Sgt. Rueben Brockway, of New York City, acted as Santa Claus when the Liberator flew over to Paris Dec. 25 and unloaded its joy-filled bomb bays at the Rainbow Corner Red Cross.

AMG Says Nazi People 'Grim'

WITH SEVENTH ARMY, Germany.—German civilians in the seven Reich towns taken thus far by the Seventh Army are "shocked and grim," American military government authorities said.

While no open civilian hostility has been reported, PWs have said that in the days before the Seventh's border crossing, German army officials conducted twice-weekly classes in sabotage and the use of small arms for all males over 16.

An officer in the Haardt Mountain sector, northwest of Wissembourg, said half the civilian population of one village left with the retreating Wehrmacht. The rest took to the hills, returned a day after the troops took over and withdrew again when they found Americans in the town.

"We won't supply food except in cases of actual starvation," one AMG official said. "We know of cases where the retreating army stripped towns of foodstuffs hoping to stick us with the job of feeding the people while supplying themselves. We won't do it."

93rd Bomb Group Sets Mark of 300 Missions

LONDON, Dec. 27.—The Germans have felt the punch of Liberators of the 93rd Bombardment group 300 times, the Eighth Air Force revealed today.

The 93rd, first bomb group of the Eighth to complete 300 combat missions, began hammering at Germany from the air before Allied ground forces had even launched their invasion of Africa. In its two-year history it has dropped twice as many bombs on Germany and her satellites as the whole German Air Force rained on London during the blitz. The group is now commanded by Col. William R. Robertson, Jr., of Charlotte, N.C.

Seventh Army Front Provides Variety Aplenty

By Wade Jones

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
WITH SEVENTH ARMY, Dec. 27.—Being "with the seventh Army" can mean nearly anything.

It can mean that you're farther east than any other Allied soldier on the Western Front. At Lauterbourg, in the northeast corner of the Seventh's sector, you're 80 miles farther east than Yank troops east of Aachen.

It can mean you're in the Siegfried Line, on the Rhine River in a boat, perched on a Vosges mountain or, far to the south, shaking hands with somebody across the neutral Swiss border.

Covers Long Front

It means that if you walked—and rowed—the entire length of this army's front you would walk and row 140 miles. Which is a lot farther than you would have to go on any other Allied army's front between Switzerland and the North Sea.

You can be fighting through the dragon's teeth, wire, pillboxes and tank traps of the Siegfried Line along the 40-mile east-west front west of the Rhine. Or you can be digging Germans out of the Maginot Line ten miles away.

Wehrmacht in Bad Shape

You have your choice—if you're mobile and AWOL—of fighting against the crack German 11th and 21st Panzer Div. in the Siegfried or against an assortment of deaf Wehrmacht, Wehrmacht with ulcers, and Stuttgart city police and air-raid wardens. The latter are to be found in the Germans' Colmar bridgehead some 35 miles south and west of Strasbourg.

While troops along the Siegfried are sweating all the stuff that tough line can dish out, men in Rhine River outposts 20 or 30 miles away are thinking of taking correspondence courses to while away the evenings.

People in Strasbourg, a front-line country club of 170,000 population on the River Rhine, complain that the noise of our batteries' firing keeps them awake at night. The city proper hasn't been hit by an enemy shell in days.

Fuel for Conversation

But just to give Strasbourgeois something to talk about between drinks, the Boche pulled a couple of Rhine River crossings 11 miles above the city two days ago. Not much came of the river raids, but there have been few conversational lapses in Strasbourg since.

Thus far, Seventh Army forces, first Allies to reach the Rhine, have not yet crossed it. Officially at least. There's been talk of boat patrols reaching the other side, and one infantry division CO got it in his head that an admiral was coming to replace him. Not really. Just some more of that Strasbourg small talk.

Wrote Sex Book



This is Gloria Jeanne Heller 18, the LSU co-ed who was asked to resign from school because her pamphlet on "free love and campus kissing" was disliked by the school's president. Action by school groups to have Gloria reinstated was postponed over the holidays.

Glider Carries Medics to Aid Trapped Yanks

By Jimmie Cannon
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer
WITH AMERICAN FORCES, FRANCE, Dec. 27.—Nine rear echelon medics volunteered and went to the aid of wounded in the Bastogne pocket by glider. Towed by a C 47 and protected by Thunderbolts, they had an unexpectedly calm flight to the surrounded area, as neither the supply-packed glider or the C 47 was marked with a Red Cross and they went over many enemy ack-ack batteries.

Their only disappointment was that they didn't get to jump, although some hadn't even been in an airplane before.

"Too bad we're not going by parachute," complained Capt. Edward Zinschlag, of St. Louis.

Never in Glider Before

"Can you handle a 'chute, Mac?" asked a pilot.

"No," said the captain. "I've never jumped, but it's something I've always wanted to do. None of us has been up in a glider, either."

T/3 Jack Donahue, of Newark, N.J., admitted he was excited because he had never been up in a plane before.

"But I'm not worried," he said. "I'm one of the lucky Irish. We can do a lot for those wounded guys. I'll bet they'll be glad to see us."

Lawrence Rethwisch, a T/4 from Jersey City who also was making his first flight, stalked the snow-patched field as he waited for the takeoff.

"My main concern is to get there and start to work on those wounded guys," he said. "I think flying is really something," said T/4 Clarence Metz, of Chicago. "I've only been up once back in the States, but I wouldn't miss a flight for anything."

Someone asked Sgt. John Knowles, of St. Joseph, Mo., why he had volunteered for such a dangerous mission.

Someone Has to Go

"The way I figure it is this," he said gravely. "Someone has to go and it might as well be me."

"You're right, Jack," said Capt. Henry M. Hills, Jr., of Iowa City. "Some fellows need help and someone has to help them."

Maj. Lamar Soutter, of Boston, and Capt. Foy Moody, of Corpus Christi, Tex., completed the two teams. As they clambered into the supply-crowded glider the ground crews shouted at them above the hurricane roar of the tow ship. Capt. Zinschlag looked back at them and yelled: "If anything happens, all you have to do is put a handkerchief over your head and make out you're a bird!"

Lieutenant and Nurse Married in Belgium

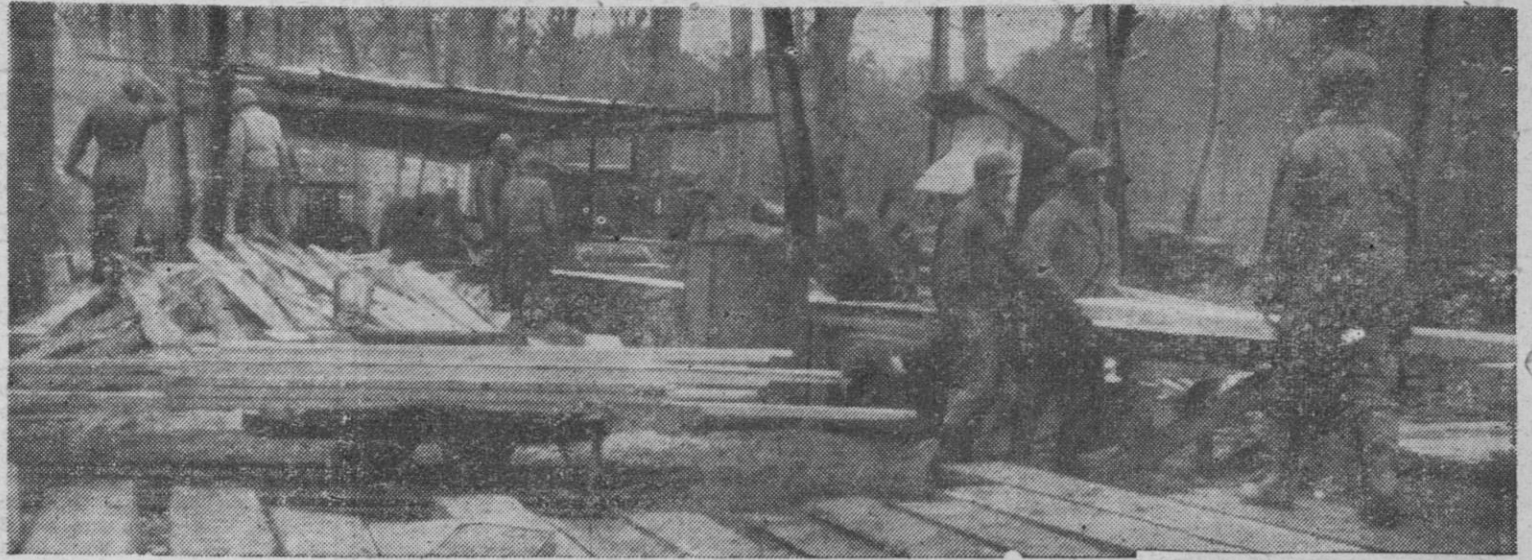
The marriage of 2/Lt. Isabel C. Glomb, of Wilkes Barre, Pa., and the Ninth Field Hospital nurse, and 1/Lt. Jerome McElhany, of Indianapolis and the 16th Special Service Co., took place Dec. 21 at a private home in Belgium. The service was performed by Chaplain J. E. McEvoy, of Long Island. 2/Lt. Madeline C. Gowler, of Brockville, Ont., was bridesmaid and 1/Lt. Robert M. Standley, of Chicago, as best man. Lt. Col. Saverio C. Franco, of Brooklyn, gave away the bride.

Crew of Fallen B26 Honored by French

A NINTH AF SERVICE COMMAND UNIT.—In the dense tangle of a French forest where a Ninth AF Marauder had crashed and burned with its crew of six, a rescue party, after searching 36 hours to find the plane, discovered fresh flowers placed on the charred skeleton of the B26.

Capt. W. B. Itz, of San Antonio, Tex., the party leader, said: "We couldn't get a jeep within four miles of the crash, yet we found six fresh bouquets."

Timber! GI Lumberjacks Swing Axe



GI lumberjacks, such as those shown above, turn out a daily average of 18,000 board feet of lumber for the U.S. Third Army,

enough for two and a half miles of railway track. Axe-swinging makes for big appetites, too, so they get double rations.

Women of France Play Large Role In Brittany Battle

By Harry J. McLaughlin
Stars and Stripes Special Correspondent
WITH 94th INF. DIV., Dec. 27.—

French women—women who have fought through four years of German occupation—play a large role here where French forces are fighting beside this division to hold the Nazis pocketed in the besieged Brittany ports of St. Nazaire and Lorient.

Women from all parts of France, from 14 to 40 years old, nurse wounded guerrilla fighters and act as messengers, providing the only communication system between underground fighter groups. All carry weapons and many of them are credited with important acts of sabotage.

They work as a part of the AFAT, women's branch of the French Army.

Before D-Day they worked under even greater difficulty than did the men. Many were mothers of small children whose husbands had either been killed or transported to the Reich as slave labor.

Flak Finally Stops Ninth's Jenny Rebel

Jenny Rebel, Ninth Air Force Thunderbolt credited with 168 missions without turn-back caused by mechanical failure, has retired.

While strafing Rhine River traffic north of Bone, the P47, piloted by 2/Lt. Harris W. Mani, of Milwaukee, was hit by a 40mm flak shell which exploded in the rear of the armored cockpit, severing control cables and setting the plane ablaze.

Mani wrestled the fighter back to its base where inspectors found it unfit for further combat service.

Jenny Rebel's ground crew included: S/Sgt. Vernet F. DeHave, of Mt. Clemens, Mich., and Hector MacDonald, of Richmond, N.Y.; Sgt. Edward Sutowski, of Lorain, Ohio, and Cpls. William P. Nye, of Barton, Vt. and Waino Mathila, of Townsend Harbor, Mass.

Army's Paul Bunyans Do Things In a Big Way, Whether Its Felling Trees or Eating

WITH A THIRD ARMY FORESTRY COMPANY.—The black-booted Paul Bunyans of this war, GI lumberjacks who daily fell, haul and mill an average of 18,000 board feet of beech lumber for Third Army use, have one complaint to make: shrapnel, imbedded in tree trunks, is dulling their saws and axes and slowing down production.

When the outfit, commanded by 1/Lt. Maurice C. Reeves, of Edwardsport, Ind., starts clearing a stand not previously laced by Nazi 88s and U.S. 105s and 90s, production can climb to 35,000 board feet, according to S/Sgt. Raymond F. Price, of Ashland, Ore., logging super and field foreman of 15 years' experience.

Keeping up with the steady supply of dulled tools, T/5 Harold J. Liesch, of St. Paul, Minn., works nine hours a day, seven days a week filing, grinding and honing the loggers' double-bitted axes and 60-inch saws.

200 Trees a Day Is Average

S/Sgt. Ralph C. Dobbs, a master sawyer who has been running sawmills in and around Fayette, Ala., for ten years, said that the unit's 30 loggers averaged about 200 felled trees a day.

Dobbs' two mills produce more lumber than 20 French sawmills which are working under contract to the Army, according to Engineer office estimates.

Since landing in France in late August, the loggers, under Sgt. Mathias M. Warrington, of Block Duck, Minn., have cleared about 50 acres of timber—which after milling has amounted to approximately one million board feet.

A board foot is a piece of wood

a foot square and an inch thick. The daily average of 18,000 board feet is enough lumber to supply railroad ties for more than two and a half miles of U.S. gauge track.

The Paul Bunyan theme, which has influenced loggers since the time Paul used dynamite under the giant frying pans to flip over his flap jacks, is strong with Reeves' men. To say they eat a lot is putting it mildly. Quartermaster supply, wearying of the screams from the ravenous lumberjacks, finally made it SOP to supply them with double rations.

Terrific Appetites

On the Brest Peninsula, the loggers' appetites were terrific after a 16-hour day of avenging a double-bitted axe. Close to the Metz front, however, and without the use of lights at night, the men only work nine hours a day. But their appetites haven't read the situation maps yet.

The only GIs issued black boots, the lumberjacks, who haven't lost a man despite mines, booby traps and other handicaps not encountered in the redwoods of California or the slash pine stands of the deep South, supply Gen. Patton's combat engineers with finished lumber for bridges, hospitals, railroad ties and telephone poles.

Blood Appeal Made

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27 (ANS).—In response to urgent pleas from U.S. Army headquarters in France, the Red Cross has issued an emergency appeal for donations of "O" type blood, which will be immediately flow over in whole form. Red Cross officials stated the demands were made because of the prospect of heavy casualties during the current German counter-offensive.

Gavin Wins Promotion

WITH 82nd AIRBORNE DIV.—Brig. Gen. James M. Gavin, commanding officer of the 82nd Airborne Division was recently promoted to major general. Gen. Gavin led the 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment through the Sicilian campaign, during which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and the Purple Heart. He was awarded the Oak Leaf Cluster in Normandy.

'Lucky' Tankers Discover Ammo Cache in Church

WITH TENTH ARMORED DIV., Dec. 27.—When tankers of Co. D, 11th Bn. captured the Lorraine town of Kalemberg they found the church piled high from door to altar with mortar ammo.

Tanks, commanded by Lt. John J. Maher, of Jackson Heights, N.Y., roared through the little town at night, shooting up strong points, then turned round and came back. Near the church they met another unit of their tanks and the whole bunch got bogged down in a traffic jam—perfect targets for the stock of mortar ammo. But nothing happened, the jam was unscrambled, and the platoon moved out.

Next morning they came back in, accepted the surrender of 98 Nazis, and found mortars were set up everywhere. Mines were strewn around, and a German staff car was loaded with ammo.

Their buddies call them "the Lucky Third" now.

Holland Port Now in Ruins

SOMEWHERE IN HOLLAND, Dec. 27 (AP).—Rotterdam, once a proud commercial city, is only one of the many places in Holland where German demolition squads were so thorough that years and untold sums of money may be required to restore conditions to normal.

Rotterdam residents were compelled to sit back in silent fury while the Nazis destroyed the harbor, which once was among the busiest in Europe and the foundation of Dutch security.

The huge drydock, capable of handling ships up to 30,000 tons, was sunk square across one of the main portions of the harbor at Maas haven.

Thousands of barges which formerly plied the Rhine River deep into German territory were filled with machinery ripped from major factories and taken to the ship canals and sunk.

PWs in Stalag Hospital Found on Starvation Diet

WITH XII CORPS.—An indication that the Nazis may be practicing a policy of slow starvation of unemployable PWs was found by XII Corps men who captured a hospital at Sarreguemines.

The hospital, a subsidiary of Stalag 12 at Forbach, housed 995 Russians, Italians and Serbs, more than 100 of whom were seriously ill. Their diet had been potatoes and barley water.

Lieutenant's a Grandma

The 103rd Evac. Hosp. claims a nurse on its staff is the first lieutenant to become a grandmother while stationed in France.

Lt. Olive H. Doyle has received word from her son, with a paratroop unit in the States, of the birth of his son.

Pop Quits Stove—Wins Silver Star

WITH TENTH ARMORED DIV., Germany.—It took two wars and 20 years' service as an army cook, but S/Sgt. William E. (Pop) Cline, 50-year-old mess sergeant of the Tenth Armored Div.'s Third Tank Bn., finally got away from his pots and pans long enough to win the Silver Star.

The Burlington, Vt., sergeant, a cavalryman from way back, has been with the same outfit since joining the Third Cavalry in 1913. After his discharge in World War I, he tried an 11-year hitch as a civilian, but finally got fed up and rejoined the Third.

Cline has a daughter in the WAC and a son in the AAF.

When Pop's outfit traded horses for tanks, he suffered—like most dyed-in-the-wool cavalrymen. But

he stuck, and the unit formed the nucleus of the Tenth Armored (Tiger) Div.

When the Tenth went into action a few weeks ago Pop was in his kitchen behind the lines.

With another mess sergeant, he moved up front, serving doughnuts and coffee within mortar range. But Pop still wasn't satisfied.

During the height of one drive, Cline hopped into a jeep with Lt. Earl Wallace, of Charleston, S.C., and Sgt. Henry J. Gendron, of Providence, R.I.

Nearing the advance positions, they were halted and told that over the next hill were two Third Div. tanks, knocked out and set afire, with their crews pinned down by enemy fire.

Lt. Wallace ordered Cline to go

back for infantrymen to provide covering fire for a rescue attempt. The lieutenant and the other sergeant went forward on foot.

At the top of the hill, inching their way along Wallace and Gendron found Pop at their elbow. He had made a dash for the infantrymen.

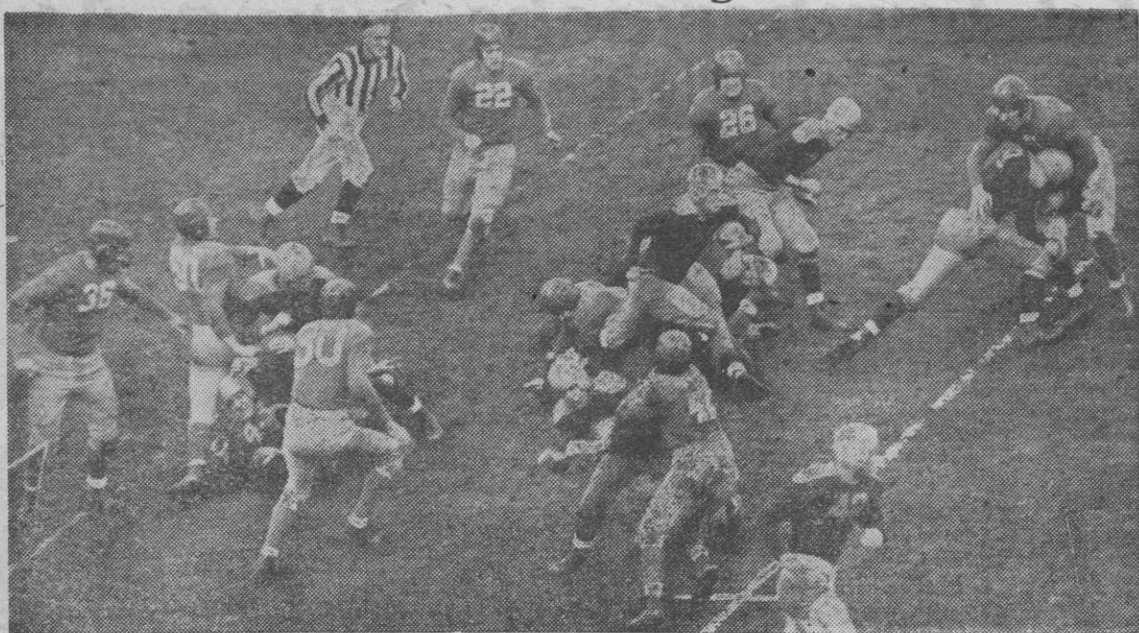
Through mortar and small-arms fire, the trio made its way toward the burning tanks. Four of the crew had extricated themselves, but were too weak to haul themselves out of range.

The rescue party dragged them to the friendly side of the hill.

Though badly burned, the tankmen lived. The rescue party received Silver Stars.

Pop doesn't wear his Star in the kitchen. "Fraid I'll get gravy spots on it," he says.

Ponderous Packers Blotting Out Giants



One of the biggest factors in Green Bay's victory over the N.Y. Giants in the National Football League championship playoff was the efficient blocking by Packers forwards for Halfback Joe Laws and Fullback Ted Fritsch. This picture shows Laws driving through a gaping hole in the middle for 17 yards in second quarter during a Green Bay touchdown drive. Tackle Paul Berezney rubs out Mel Hein (upper right), while another lineman checks Hub Barker, (No. 42), Giant backer-up.

Tropical Park Longshots Win

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 27.—Jockey Sterling Young, 30-year-old New Orleans veteran, gave longshot players something to holler about at Tropical Park yesterday with two winners, one at 76-1 and another at 118-1.

Young came home aboard Doc Donough in the feature race and returned \$219.20 to backers, scoring later on Smoke Puff, which paid \$154.70 for a \$2 ticket. A \$2 parlay on these horses would have paid \$16,955.12.

Florida Protest Withdrawn

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Dec. 27.—Florida State officials today decided to withdraw their protest over government action which will close racetracks through the United States, Jan. 3. Sen. Claude Pepper said he felt public opinion throughout the nation was behind WMD James F. Byrnes, who asked track operators to shut down.

Santa Anita Meet Off

ARCADIA, Calif., Dec. 27.—Santa Anita racetrack officials today canceled the 55-day meeting scheduled to begin Saturday. There are 1,350 horses stabled here and a lot of jockeys with no place to go.

Draft Review Hits College 4Fs, Too

WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 27.—Teenage players will carry the ball for most college football teams next fall, if the Army and Navy induct collegiate as well as professional 4Fs. The Office of War Mobilization said the New Year's bowl games will be secure and there is no intention here of slapping new transportation restrictions on football.

Asked whether instructions to Selective Service to re-examine 4Fs also applied to college athletes, the OWM said they cover everybody and there can be no discrimination.

Canadiens Loan Spare Goalie to Boston Club

BOSTON, Dec. 27.—The Boston Bruins obtained Goalie Paul Bibeault on loan from Montreal to replace 19-year-old Harvey Bennett, most scored-on goalie in the National Hockey League.

Bibeault was rated second only to the Canadiens' goalie, Bill Durnan. Bennett will stay with Boston as a reserve. The Bruins sold Forward Art Jackson to Toronto Sunday.

American Hockey League

Tuesday Night's Score

Indianapolis 2, St. Louis 1.				
EASTERN DIVISION				
	W	L	T	Pts
Buffalo	15	10	3	33
Hershey	13	10	3	29
Providence	8	16	2	18
WESTERN DIVISION				
	W	L	T	Pts
Indianapolis	15	7	7	37
Pittsburgh	13	12	3	29
Cleveland	12	8	5	29
St. Louis	5	17	3	13

PM Writer Charges Greed, Laziness Killed Racing

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Greed, laziness and a couple of newspaper stories killed horse racing, according to Sports-writer Tom O'Reilly of the newspaper PM.

Here are four major points he listed yesterday:

1. Greedy people climbed aboard Florida-bound trains flaunting black market tickets to the snobs' playground in the middle of the war.

2. Lazy people who, because of the terrible war emergency, were earning more money than they're worth, absented themselves from jobs for pleasant days at the races, while the boys abroad were dying for the safety of their homes.

3. News stories about automobiles parked at the tracks didn't help much, but the first really bad psychological rap received by racing was that tale of "inhuman suffering and privation" undergone by suckers who visited Florida last winter and couldn't get transportation north.

That "shame train" carrying people forced to sleep in their mink coats was as sound a blow to racing as the sport ever received. Under no circumstances could authorities allow another such story to appear this winter when the most terrible casualty lists of the war are expected.

4. The second newspaper story was just smart reporting. The racing associations had been cozily giving out betting figures separately. Orlo Robertson, sports editor of the Associated Press, just added the figures. His total was \$1,126,308,456. The announcement of that little sum knocked Washington bigwigs right off their feet.

O'Reilly also said tracks were just as guilty of greed and laziness as the public. The bigger the chumps, the more they bet, he reported. And greedy owners seemed to enjoy it. A few expressed fears the betting boom might have a bad

Sporting News Names Sewell

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 27.—Luke Sewell, who piloted the Browns to their first pennant, was named by Sporting News, national baseball weekly as Baseball's No 1 manager for 1944. The newspaper also selected Marty Marion, Cards' shortstop, as the best player; Aloisius "Wish" Egan of the Detroit Tigers, ace scout, and William Dewitt, general manager of the Browns, No 1 executive.



Luke Sewell

Top men in the minor leagues were Al Thomas, Baltimore Orioles' manager; Jimmy "Ripper" Collins, first baseman and manager of the Albany Senators in the Eastern League, and William G. Mulligan, business manager of the Seattle Rainiers of the Pacific Coast League.

reaction but were too lazy to do anything about it.

He also quoted Herbert Bayard Swope, chairman of the board of directors at Tropical Park, as saying that racing "still survives in England, France and Russia." But, as O'Reilly pointed out, people in those countries attend to their obligations.

"Over here," he concluded, "we have horse racing before the ammunition cart."

Newhouser, Trout Best AL 'Team' in 40 Years

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—Hal Newhouser and Paul "Dizzy" Trout, the Detroit Tigers' left and righthanded one-two punch, walked off with just about everything in the American League during the past season, official pitching statistics revealed today.

What one of the Tiger aces didn't bag, the other did with the result that no two pitchers in the last 40 years dominated the league so completely as did this pair. Newhouser, with 29 victories and nine losses, and Trout with 27 and 14, won 56 games between them for the best performance since Jack Chesbro won 41 and Jack Powell garnered 23 for the Yankees in 1904.



Hal Newhouser

Idaho Spuds Bring Kids ND Surprise

TWIN FALLS, Ida., Dec. 27.—Larry, Bob and Pat Goeckner, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Theodor Goeckner, received a novel Christmas present. When they awoke Christmas morning, there was a football under their tree bearing the signatures of 33 members of the '44 Notre Dame eleven.

Mrs. Goeckner got the football in exchange for a 100-pound sack of Idaho's well-known baking potatoes. She met the college purchasing agent and the swap was consummated.

Kentucky Five Tops Wyoming

BUFFALO, N. Y., Dec. 27.—Kentucky scored its sixth straight basketball triumph here last night downing Wyoming, 50-46, while Puerto Rico University turned back Canisius, 40-37, in the companion piece.

With seven minutes remaining, Kentucky pulled into the lead when Alex Groza and Jack Tingle scored goals in rapid succession. Each totaled 14 points during the game, Ted Rogers of Wyoming tying that mark.

Rafael Pinero paced Puerto Rico with 12 points. The Islanders led, 24-13, at the half and staved off a Canisius rally that cut that marginal lead to two points.

Idle Jockeys Still Will Follow Horses

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 27.—The forthcoming slowdown on racetracks will have little effect on some of the nation's leading jockeys who were sounded on the subject here yesterday by the Associated Press. The consensus is that they will continue to exercise horses and work around stables whenever possible.

Bobby Permane, one of the youngest of big-time jockeys, summed up the average rider's allergy to war work with, "What could I do in a war plant?"

Permane was frank enough to express for himself the feeling that seems to be general among the little fellows.

"All I know is racing," Permane said. "There isn't anything that I know how to do in a factory. By the time they trained me the emergency would be over and I'd return to racing. It would be a waste of time for the war plant."

Don Meade plans to go south of the Border and ride in Mexico City. Teddy Atkinson said he would hang around until April then take a vacation and go fishing. Eddie Arcaro plans to wait for instructions from Greentree Stables, for which he rides under contract, and Conn McCreary said he would rest in Miami until "something develops."

Al Robertson, former rider who now owns and trains horses, said his big concern was feed bills.

Army, Navy to Play 'Poi Bowl' Hawaii Tilt

PEARL HARBOR, Dec. 27.—The Navy, leading the Army in island sports championships, seven to three, is favored to win the "Poi Bowl" football game played here. The Navy line-up is headed by Andy Uram, Minnesota; Kl Aldrich, Texas Christian, and Russ Letlow, Green Bay, Jarrh, John Kimbrough, former Texas Aggies' All-America fullback, tops the Army cast.

Won 7 of 8 Titles
Moreover, Newhouser and Trout were the AL's only 20-game winners and between them won seven of night pitching titles.

The only one they missed was Tex Hughson's winning average of .783 on 18 won and five lost, compiled before the Bosox righthander went into the Army in August.

Trout grabbed the earned run crown with 2.12 with Newhouser's 2.22 close behind in second place. "Dizzy" also worked the most innings, 352, led in shutouts with seven, pitched the most complete games, 33, and pitched to the most batters, 1,323.

Newhouser was second in complete games with 25 and won strikeout honors by fanning 187. There wasn't even a close second to Hal in strikeouts but the No. 2 post went to Trout, who whiffed 144.

Behind Hughson in the percentage column was Newhouser's .763, followed by Nelson Potter, St. Louis, 19-7, .731; Joe Heving, Cleveland, 8-3, .727; Trout, 27-14, .659.



Dizzy Trout

No Hitless Games
For the fourth straight year a single no-hitter went on record. The best performance was a one-hit effort by the pennant-winning Browns' Jack Kramer. Bill Dietrich, Chisox veteran, and Washington's Early Wynn lost the most games, 17, and Rufus Gentry, Detroit, issued the most passes, 108. The league's "wild men" were the Athletics' Russ Christopher who hit nine batters and the Senators' "Dutch" Leonard, who made nine wild pitches.

Furlough for Pursuit
LAWRENCEVILLE, Ill., Dec. 27 (ANS).—The commanding officer at George Field near here yesterday received a telegram from a soldier on furlough reading: "Request seven-day extension. Am pursuing one I love. She requires seven days' more pursuing. Answer collect." The soldier got his additional seven days.

Jojo White to Minors
Sacramento of the Pacific Coast League has bought 35-year-old Jojo White from the Cinncy Reds. White started the '44 season with the Athletics.

Mexico Grid Coach Solves Trip Problem

EL PASO, Tex., Dec. 27.—The Mexico University football team, which plays Southwestern in the Sun Bowl here Monday, almost didn't make the trip.

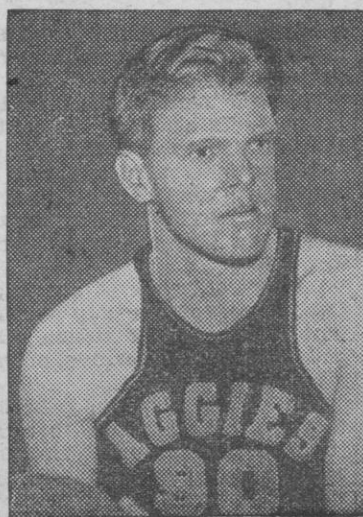
When a letter of credit from the bowl committee was presented in Mexico City, the bank refused to honor it, but Coach Bernie Hoban dipped down and wrote a check for 18,000 pesos (\$3,600) to purchase railroad tickets for 33 players, two coaches and the team manager.

Tall Centers Run Again

OKLAHOMA CITY, Dec. 27.—The three-day college basketball tournament involving eight teams starting here tonight should provide some interesting information on just what effect the anti-goal-tending rule has on those big guys who used to spend half the night knocking opponents' shots out of the basket.

Three of the nation's outstanding "goons" will be on display. They are Bob "Foothills" Kurland, Oklahoma Aggies' seven-foot center; George Kok, of Arkansas, six-ten, and Bill Henry, of Rice, six-eight.

Kurland formerly swiped an average of nine points per game from rival teams while scoring 13 himself. This year, with his pilfering activities curtailed, he has scored more than 16 points per game.



Bob Kurland

Li'l Abner AWOL

No, he's not a casualty. Not missing in action. Just AWOL, and at a time like this. When Li'l Abner gets here, he will be forced to make up for lost time, and will continue daily. Meantime, who's this? It's JANE, that girl who picks 'em up and lays 'em down, puts 'em on and takes 'em off. Jane will entertain you daily in The Stars and Stripes.

Hash Marks

Overheard in the blackout. "If there are any good 'teen age Germans they must be the ones who flunked their course in juvenile delinquency." Our spy in the Pacific reports that the Japs could heighten the illusion of advancing boldly in retreat by fitting their naval craft with a front on each end, like ferryboats. A Second Armored Div. regt. has opened its second recreation center on German soil, under the



name of "Club Adolph." Among the furnishings left by former occupants are six pianos and a cuckoo clock which always strikes 27 times.

Quip in the Milwaukee Journal: "A girdle is something to keep the WAVES out of the WACs."

They tell us that when Japanese kids misbehave their mothers say, "If you don't mind mama, a big American plane will drop a bomb on you."

After all, a goldigger is only a woman—after all.

A harried 2/Lt. at an advanced AAF reconnaissance base was getting more and more exasperated at the poor connections on long-distance phone calls. The straw that broke the camel's back came when an operator gave him the usual warning, "The enemy is listening."

"I hope to hell they can hear better than I can," he yelled, and slammed the phone back into the case.

J. C. W.

Births

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

- L. Roman J. Zwalsh, St. Louis—girl, Nov. 13; Sgt. Melvin R. Dillaplain, Sabetha, Kan.—boy, Nov. 22; Lt. Frederick E. Lucas, Worcester, Mass.—Barbara Ann, Oct. 25; Lt. Harry F. Patat, Royston, Ga.—Lydia Kay, Nov. 14; Lt. Howard O. LeShaw, Atlantic City, N.J.—Suzanne, Oct. 28; S/Sgt. John I. Foster, Bellflower, Cal.—John Allen, Nov. 14; Capt. Robert I. Kaplan, Philadelphia—girl, Oct. 26. CPL. Geo M. Guist, Redlynch, Wilts, England—girl, Dec. 13; Sgt. Earl Ohlson, Oxford, England—Michael David, Dec. 11; Pvt. Roy L. Taylor, Harrodsburg, Ky.—Anna Rose, Oct. 5; Pvt. Ralph Izzo, Iron Mountain, Mich.—Mary Rose, Nov. 5. CAPT. Robert B. Gentry, Dallas—boy, Dec. 9; Pfc Lonnie E. Crosby, Gretna, Va.—Bonnie, Sept. 11; Marvin Richard, Suring, Wis.—Marvin Richard, Dec. 16.

Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

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

APOs WANTED

- CLARENCE Anderson, Sparta, Mich.; Pvt. Merle Arthur, Ottawa, Pa.; Pvt. Paul Adams, Alabama; Pvt. Mary Joe Allen, ASC, Wagoner, Okla.; John Alexander, Richmond, Calif.; Lt. George (Cross-Cat) Adams; Lt. Charlotte M. Bader, N-756424; Ensign Bill Baynard; Pvt. Charles Burtner; Pvt. Ralph Brooks, Bronx; W/O William A. Babcock, Troy; Paul Blasius, Detroit; Mike Blassie, St. Louis. PVT. Robert Conley, Boston; Pvt. Robert Cox; Lt. Milton Dick, O-1546138; Cpl. Frank Danis, Ravenna, O.; Clyde R. Earnest, Logan, W.Va.; Pvt. Sam Goldfeder, N.Y.C.; Glenn Gordons, Alameda; Lt. Jack Green, N.J.; Sgt. Albert Hammer, Muskegon, Mich.; Bucky Harris, Foxboro, Mass.; Pvt. William H. Harris, Engr.; Pvt. Walter H. Hill, Birmingham, Ala.; Howard M. Hall; Joe Harrison, Bay City, Mich.

Terry And The Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate.

By Milton Caniff



Jane

By Courtesy of The London Daily Mirror

By Norman Pett



Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune Syndicate Inc.

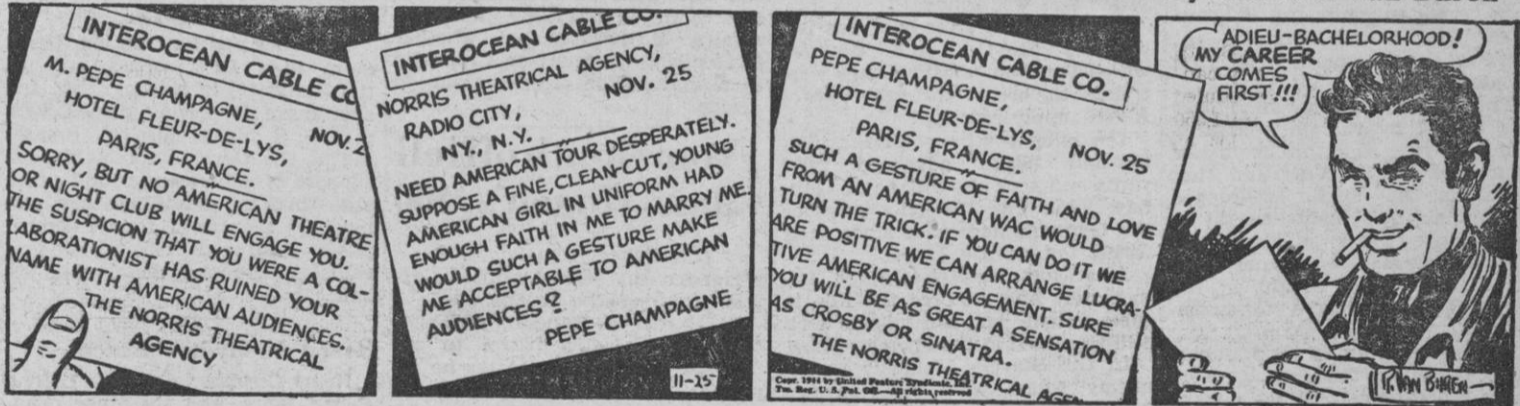
By Chester Gould



Abbie an' Slat

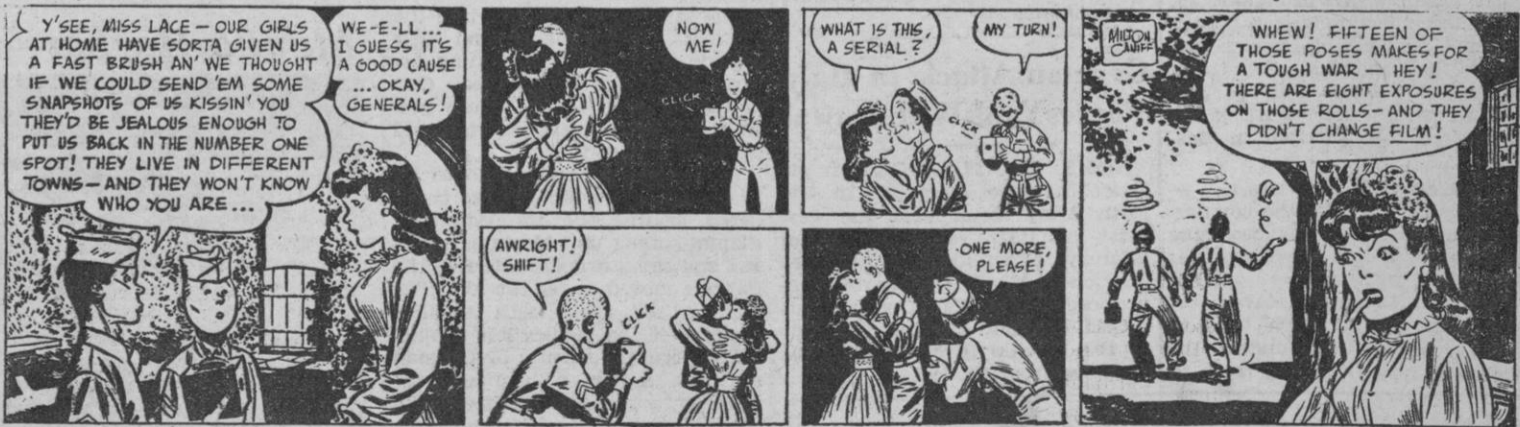
By Courtesy of United Features

By Raeburn Van Buren



Male Call

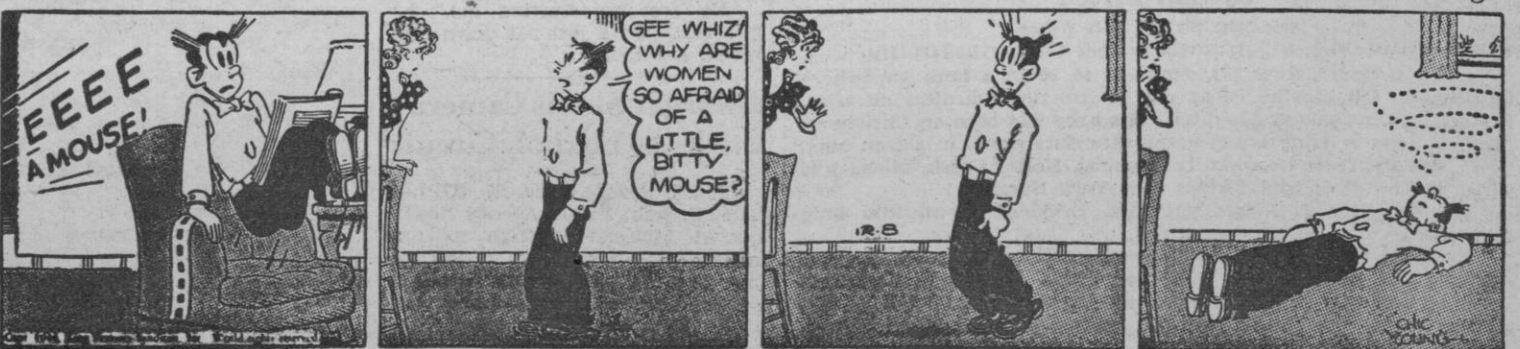
By Milton Caniff



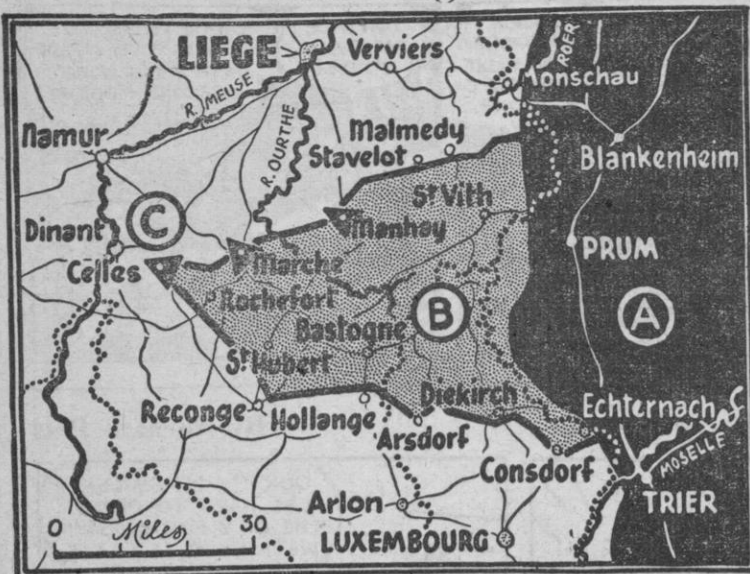
Blondie

By Courtesy of King Features Syndicate

By Chic Young



Where Battle Rages in West



Ground contact is made with beleaguered Americans in Bastogne (B), encircled by Germans' advance from inside the Reich (A) 55 miles to the Celles area (C).

Nazi Drive Stopped Again As Allies Press on Flanks

(Continued from page 1)

north and south and there is no reason for anxiety."

Allied planes ripped into German columns again yesterday for the fifth consecutive day.

Reports did not specify to what extent ceases air-pounding of enemy motor and rail supply trains had slowed Von Rundstedt's drive. But in the Celles-Ciney sector, Americans found 17 abandoned Nazi tanks and self-propelled guns—out of gas.

Americans pressed their attacks on the south flank of the huge enemy bulge and made slight gains.

German Transocean Newsagency, picked up in London by United Press, put out the information that British units are taking over U.S. Ninth Army positions in the Aachen sector.

The Germans have been hinting at this for two days in various unofficial news releases. These reports are generally considered feelers for Allied comment.

Nazis Using 'Atomic Bomb'

Associated Press from London said that Nazi radio, which has been trying to panic the Belgians since the counter-offensive cut loose, said the Germans were using an atomic bomb.

The German radio announcer was quoted by the press association as saying that this bomb had been used at St. Vith and that "wherever the missile is dropped all animals and plants ceased to exist, huge areas of land are scorched, woods are consumed and any human being caught in the hurricane is shattered to smithereens."

Whatever ordinary and super-science weapons the Germans were using didn't stop battling doughs pushing up through Luxembourg on the enemy's south flank.

Americans took the town of Holler, six miles west of Echternach on the Luxembourg-German border. On the other side of Luxembourg, near the Belgian border, they threw the enemy out of Hollange and Tintange in the drive to rescue the beleaguered U.S. garrison in Bastogne.

Heroic Stand at Bastogne

Outflanked early in the counter-offensive, Bastogne was becoming the greatest Alamo the Americans have staged in Europe.

There, U.S. forces staved off every Nazi attack which tried to dislodge them. Surrounded, the Americans inside the city were in

Encircled Yanks Get Ammo by Parachute

LONDON, Dec. 27 (Reuter).—Troop carrier planes of the First Allied Airborne Army yesterday dropped hundreds of tons of ammunition and supplies to American forces besieged in Bastogne.

The carrier planes were directed to the right spot by paratroop guides who dropped at dawn and radioed their safe landing. The planes, which had been standing by with parachute supplies, took off an hour after dawn from French and English bases.

wireless contact with forces five miles south smashing up to free them.

They were being completely supplied by air. Nazi forces had failed to give the city to Hitler for Christmas as for Christmas night. There was no indication up to last night that American resistance inside was weakening.

Heaviest enemy pressure was felt between Stavelot and Marche, where Von Rundstedt's forces were trying to break through toward Allied supply routes.

Ten miles southwest of Stavelot, German troops advanced 2,000 yards and took the village of Manhay. This was the only advance the Germans had made since their thrust toward the Meuse.

Americans counter-attacked immediately and restored the line to some extent, but the village itself still remained in the enemy's grasp.

In the Stavelot-Malmédy sector, enemy forces were reported less aggressive than elsewhere in the bulge.

Snow lay over most of the battle-front. Germans were reported using white snowcapes.

German Attack in Italy Forces Yank Withdrawal

ROME, Dec. 27.—A German attack "in some strength" in the Fifth Army sector near the west coast of Italy caused American infantry to "withdraw to prepared positions," Allied Headquarters announced today. The Germans attacked east and west of Galliciano in the Serchio River valley, some 15 miles from the coast.

Baby Is Born in Iron Lung

By Carl Larsen

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—If anybody sees Capt. Ghodart Hitchcox, ASN O-253612, APO 253, supposed to be in a tank somewhere in Belgium, tell him he is, by one of America's medical miracles, father of a three-pound daughter. The baby was born on Christmas. Mrs. Hitchcox is doing nicely despite the fact she is in an iron lung.

The story, from Community Hospital, Battle Creek, Mich., was wired to The Stars and Stripes New York Bureau.

Dr. Frederick J. Nelges put Mrs. Hitchcox in an iron lung 15 weeks ago for infantile paralysis.

Realizing that birth might be premature, doctors had a specially designed iron lung shipped from New York. It arrived Christmas morning and the baby was born by Caesarian operation at 11:20 that night. Dr. Nelges said the mother suffered no ill effects, and the baby will be healthy.

2 Red Armies Snap Budapest Trap on Nazis

MOSCOW, Dec. 27.—The pincers formed by two powerful Russian armies encircling Budapest snapped shut today on the banks of the Danube River, splitting in two the trapped German garrison unofficially estimated at 100,000 troops.

"One part was driven into the forest-covered mountains in the Danube fork north of Budapest while the other part was gripped in a vise in Budapest itself," said the Soviet communique with unusual detail.

The doom of Budapest was sealed when units of Marshal Rodion Malinovsky's Second Ukrainian Army forced the eastern arm of the Danube just north of the Hungarian capital and occupied the suburbs of Pest on the east bank after armor of the Third Ukrainian Army of Marshal Feodor Tolbukhin had stormed into the Buda district on the west bank.

The junction linked the two armies not only for the final reduction of Budapest itself, already pounded by Soviet artillery, but for a joint drive along the Danube westward toward Bratislava, 64 miles away, and Vienna, 98 miles away.

Churchill Asks Civil War End

(Continued from page 1) the government ought not to treat with them.

The EAM representatives insisted that the demands they previously had made could not be modified and would permit no criticism of the action of their partisans. The EAM delegates, who came to the meeting in white-flagged British armored cars, were the secretary-general of the EAM, the secretary-general of the Communist party and an ELAS general.

Outside, meanwhile, the fighting continued.

Churchill, who had flown to Athens on Christmas with Foreign Minister Anthony Eden, denied that the British sought any territorial or commercial advantages from Greece or to intervene in Greek affairs. He declared that "whether Greece is a monarchy or a republic is a matter for Greeks alone to decide."

From Mouth of Hell Came Hogan's 400

(Continued from page 1) surrender, the colonel refused. He was planning the escape.

Lt. Harold W. Randall, of Whiteoaks, Kan., led a patrol to see how the land looked. After he reported back, everyone blacked his face with soot or axle grease, and helmets were discarded because of the possibility of tell-tale silhouettes.

The task force crept out into the darkness. Three medics and their captain insisted on remaining behind to care for 12 wounded. One of the wounded held a Tommy gun on 17 Germans until the force could make its getaway.

As the men topped the hogback's first peak, a terrific barrage thundered against the trapped town. Flames sprang up. Mortars, bazookas and small arms sounded as the Panzers moved in for the kill. The men gritted their teeth as they thought of the medics left behind.

They brushed silently by German sentries. A few of them were arrested by suspicious doughboys. Finally, they all came in and were recognized with shouts of welcome.

The last man to return was Col. Hogan.

"My feet got hurting me," he grinned. "So I just sat down and rested a while."

Dietrich Shuns Camera; Sticks to Foxhole Circuit

LILLE, France, Dec. 27 (UP).—The French Press Agency today quoted Marlene Dietrich as announcing that she was giving up her film career for the duration of the war "to devote myself entirely to entertaining those who are far from their homes."

Reporter Rides 'Piggyback' In P38 on Prowl of Front

By Pat Mitchell

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

From 10,000 feet over Marche I watched from the piggyback seat on a Lightning piloted by 2/Lt. Robert A. Berry, of Los Angeles, as American soldiers battled the Nazis below in freezing weather.

We dodged 20, 40 and 80mm flak as other P38s of the group commanded by Lt. Col. Seth J. McKee, of Orlando, Fla., cart-wheeled at better than 250 miles an hour over the area.

While circling above St. Vith, I learned by radio that 1/Lt. William F. Osborne, of St. Petersburg, Fla., had spotted 11 FW190s south of Liege. A minute later I heard him say he had got one plane.

Osborne, who downed the first plane on the first day of the Nazi push, is now credited with three enemy planes destroyed.

South of the Meuse River, snow blanketed fields and brown earth showed through where shells or tanks treads had churned up the frozen mud.

P38 pilot groups, commanded by Col. McKee and Col. Clinton C. Wasem, of Dover, Ohio, were prepared to defend their own field as the Nazi drive came to within 15 miles of their runway. The crews slept in planes, taking turns walking guard along the wings.

While planes of the Eighth were heading home, strong forces of RAF Lancasters, escorted by Spitfires of the Second TAF, were keeping up the pace of the attack with a raid which concentrated on the rail center of Rheydt.

Down 39 Planes
Bombers of the Ninth AF flew more than 300 sorties during the day in a renewal of the efforts to delay troop movement and break up supply lines. Enemy planes were sighted but they avoided contact with the Marauders, Havocs and Invaders. Targets included road junctions at Laroche and Houffalize railroad bridge at Eller, Nonnweiler and Ahrweiler.

Ninth AF fighter-bombers, flying more than 1,200 sorties, engaged the Luftwaffe in six dogfights and shot down 39 enemy planes, with nine U. S. planes missing. Smashing in at the German forces in close support of American ground units, and "blasting anything they saw moving" the Ninth fighter-bomber pilots destroyed 140 armored vehicles, 590 motor vehicles and 300 rail cars.

Seven Vichy-ites Executed
Henri Chamberlain, alias Lafont, Pierre Bony, and six other members of the Vichy French Gestapo were executed by a military firing squad at Paris yesterday.

Tokyo Bombed For 5th Time
(Continued from page 1) bomber plant, crippled a second aircraft factory, damaged Tokyo's crowded waterfront and blasted Nagoya's shipyards and power plant. Losses were fewer than expected.

The new Tokyo raid was the first on the Japanese capital since Dec. 3, although other Japanese cities have been hit in the interval. Aircraft factories have been the principal targets in the Tokyo area.

Some 16 to 25 Japanese planes, presumably from the Bonin Islands, had made a Christmas Eve raid on the Saipan bases, it was disclosed yesterday, destroying one U.S. plane and damaging several others. Four enemy craft were shot down.

On Leyte Island, Gen. MacArthur announced a Christmas Day raid by his land-based bombers on Manila airfields, in which 39 of 50 intercepting Japanese planes were shot down and four destroyed on the ground. The bag raised to 214 the number of enemy aircraft destroyed or damaged in four heavy assaults at Manila within five days.

U.S. troops mopping up on Leyte killed 899 more Japanese and captured 14.

Manila Harbor—Ship's Graveyard



A cargo vessel begins to burn fiercely in Manila Harbor in the Philippines after a direct hit from a U.S. plane.