

ALLIES SECURE BEACHES IN SO. FRANCE AS INVASION MEETS SLIGHT OPPOSITION

Allies Closing Falaise Exit On 50,000

Hammering relentlessly from three sides, Allied forces in northwestern France yesterday intensified their squeeze-play against the German sack at Falaise and narrowed its neck to less than 10 miles, but front-line dispatches reported that half the German Seventh Army had escaped the trap.

Racing against complete encirclement, Field Marshal Von Kluge's forces were in the third day of their headlong dash to reach safety before the American, British and Canadian pincers could clamp shut and cut off the estimated 50,000 Germans with tanks and assault guns who remain in the pocket.

Retreat in Daylight

The Germans, using every conceivable means of transport from horse-drawn wagons to tanks, choked the highways from Tinchebray to Paris in their frantic flight from death. So urgent was Von Kluge's order to escape at all cost that the Nazis were retreating in full daylight, despite the Allied air threat.

The enemy's plight was desperate as the Americans, led by Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, smashed up from Argentan and the Canadians and British, under Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, crashed in from the north and west. Lt. Gen. George S. Patton Jr.'s Third Army headed the American drive.

While the Allied air forces, ranging the clear, sun-brilliant skies, pounded the escape highways toward Paris to the east, 2,000 American and Canadian tanks were reported hammering the German pocket from the south and north.

Meanwhile, Bradley's Yanks attacked on the entire 30-mile bottom of the sack from Domfront to north of Argentan, while Montgomery's forces pressed their offensive on the 30-mile stretch from Tinchebray to Falaise.

The Picture

These were the latest changes on the front.

The American armored force which stabbed north from Mayenne and northwest from Alencon reached Ranen, 11 miles southwest of Argentan, where they met resistance.

The British captured Thury Harcourt, wiping out the last German wedge between the Laison and Orne Rivers, and pushed within two miles of Conde from the northwest.

The Canadians, now in positions on high ground south of the Laison, captured Quilly le Tesson, Bout due Haut and Maizierex—all in the Laison valley—and Bray en Cinglais, two miles west of the highway north west of Potigny.

On the Canadians' left flank the British were advancing eastward toward St. Pierre sur Dives, a large town on the south bank of the River Dives.

Lear Sees GIs Returning Via Suez Canal, Tokyo

CINCINNATI, Aug. 15—Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, commanding general of the Army Ground Forces, predicted today that "much of the army now in Europe" would return home after years of absence "via the Suez Canal and Tokyo."

Hodges, Patton Lead 1st, 3rd Armies; Bradley Commands 12th Army Group

Lt. Gen. George S. "Old Blood and Guts" Patton has been placed in command of the U.S. Third Army and Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges has taken over command of the U. S. First Army, it was announced yesterday.

Both armies in France are now part of the newly-formed 12th U.S. Army Group, commanded by Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, who formerly led the First Army. Gen. Sir Bernard Montgomery is still commander-in-chief under Gen. Eisenhower of all Allied ground forces in northwest France which include four armies—British Second, Canadian First and U.S. First and Third.

Two other American commanders were identified—Maj. Gen. Wade H. Haislip as XIX Corps commander and Maj. Gen. Edward H. Brooks as leader of the Second Armored Division.

Gen. Eisenhower, announcing the appointment of "Old Blood and Guts" Patton, said that Gen. Patton was now in his accustomed role of a dashing man on a marching wing. Noted for his rough and tough tactics in the North African campaign, Patton has been leading his Third Army tanks in Brittany and lower Normandy.

Gen. Hodges, commanding the First Army, is 57 years old, and served in France during the last

war as a lieutenant-colonel. He enlisted in the Army in 1906, served for three years as private, corporal, and sergeant, and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry in 1909.

After the armistice, he took part in the advance of American troops toward the Rhineland, and later served in Germany and Luxembourg before returning home. From 1940 on, he was successively commandant of the Infantry School at Ft. Benning, Ga., chief of infantry in Washington, commander of the Ground Forces' Replacement and School command at Birmingham, Ala., and commander of the X Corps.

Gen. Haislip, leading the XIX corps, served as captain and major in the world war. In 1940, he was member of the War Department general staff, and in 1942 was assigned as commander of the 85th Infantry Division at Camp Shelby, Miss.

Gen. Brooks, commanding the 2nd Armored Division, served in five major engagements during the last war, and was in the Army of Occupation until 1919. He was on the War Department general staff from 1939 to 1941, and in 1942 was given command of the 11th Armored until called to England to become commanding general of the Second Armored Division.

U. S., RAF Heavies Hit Nazi Airfields In Holland, Belgium and Germany

In closely coordinated joint operations in which Eighth Air Force fighters for the first time escorted RAF bombers as well as their own Flying Fortresses and Liberators, Allied planes struck at enemy aerodromes in the Lowlands and Germany yesterday, while fighter-bombers maintained attacks on enemy communications in France.

2 Weeks to Mail Ballot Requests

Soldiers who want to vote in the November election will have to mail a postcard application for an absentee ballot before Sept. 1, just two weeks away.

The postcard application blanks, obtainable from unit commanders, are acceptable in all states except South Carolina, where a brief letter containing the same information as the postcard requesting an absentee ballot is required.

The Secretary of State to whom the card is addressed is supposed to send a ballot in return. If he doesn't, soldiers from 20 states can use a so-called "Supplemental Federal Ballot." Troops from the 28 other states are out of luck.

States which have authorized use of the federal ballot are: California, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nebraska, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, Vermont and Washington.

SECURITY TALKS NEAR

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15—Secretary of State Cordell Hull disclosed that Russia and China, as well as Britain, have been fully apprised of American plans for a post-war world security organization. A four-power conference on world security will open next Monday at Dumbarton Oaks, famous old Georgetown estate.

Halifaxes and Lancasters concentrated one of the heaviest attacks of the war upon nine airfields in Holland and Belgium, and Eighth bombers plastered Luftwaffe bases and aerodromes scattered from the Rhine to northwest Germany. More than 5,000 tons of bombs were dropped by the RAF.

Sixteen U.S. bombers and five fighters were missing from the raid. The bombers shot down 13 enemy craft while the fighters accounted for 22.

Ninth Air Force Marauders and Havocs attacked a railway center at Serqueux, 25 miles north of Rouen, and two bridges spanning the Oise, north of Paris.

Marauders, carrying 2,000-pound bombs, blasted heavy gun batteries guarding the port of St. Malo, splattering huts and other installations with incendiaries in the attack. No enemy fighters or flak were encountered.

An ammunition dump at Marseille en Beauvaisis, 50 miles north and west of Paris, believed to contain large German ammunition reserves, was set ablaze by Ninth Marauders.

19th Tactical Air Unit Here Under Weyland

Existence of the Nineteenth Tactical Air Command, operating along with the Ninth Tactical Air Command from French bases in support of American ground forces, was officially disclosed yesterday by Maj. Gen. Hoyt S. Vandenberg, commanding general of the Ninth Air Force. The Nineteenth is commanded by Brig. Gen. Otto P. Weyland, formerly leader of a pursuit group in the Panama Canal Zone.

'Fifth Front' Opens Between Marseilles, Nice; Airborne Units Strike Before H-Hour

Strong American, British and French assault forces, which landed yesterday at a number of places along the southern French coast between Marseilles and Nice, appeared to have won control of the beaches last night after encountering "only light ground opposition" and no resistance from the Luftwaffe.

Allied headquarters announced that two small islands off the French coast had been captured and there were unofficial reports that some Allied units had driven several miles inland on the mainland. However, the official statement gave no indication as to the disposition of the forces.

The landings, shepherded by the greatest naval fleet ever employed in the Mediterranean and preceded by wave upon wave of paratroops and glider units, confronted Adolf Hitler—the man who wanted to fight on only one front at a time—with his fifth front: Russia, western France, southern France, Italy and the air over festung Europe.

"By mid-morning," an Allied headquarters communique said last night, "all landings were proceeding successfully according to schedule against only light ground opposition and no air opposition. Supporting airborne operations also were successfully executed."

Attack According to Schedule

Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, Supreme Allied commander in the Mediterranean whose headquarters recently was moved from Algiers to Italy, proclaimed that his forces were invading southern France "to drive off the German and to effect a junction with the Allied armies advancing from Normandy."

The landings—carried out with an armada of 800 merchant and warships—were made in calm, clear weather and went off exactly as scheduled, it was officially announced. The largest number of airborne troops ever used in such an operation seized the high ground overlooking the beaches after dropping from hundreds of planes behind the coastal defenses before dawn.

Flying at 1,000 feet over the beachheads, Associated Press Correspondent Kenneth Dixon said that an hour after the landings began there was no sign of any kind of a struggle for 20 miles along the Riviera.

Although there was no mention of specific units involved in the invasion, Donald Coe, Blue Network correspondent, reported he was permitted to disclose that "the major part of the landing forces was composed of American troops." The first French forces to participate in a landing on their homeland also took part in the invasion.

The United Press said it understood that Lt. Gen. Jacob L. Devers, former ETOUSA commander, was the field commander of the Allied invasion forces. Devers has been serving as deputy Allied commander in the Mediterranean.

Even as the armies were swarming ashore, Gen. Charles DeGaulle's French Committee of National Liberation broadcast an appeal for a nation-wide uprising of the French people against the German occupation forces.

Path Leads Up Rhone Valley

Overnight, by their new operation 450 miles south of the fighting in the Seine-Loire wedge, the Allies doubled the scale of their assault in western Europe and set their feet on the traditional invasion route into France from the south—up the Rhone gap between the mountains that overspread southern France.

Best Allied opinion last night was that the Germans in southern France have only seven divisions at their disposal in an area where the Underground has been reported strong. It was suggested that the Allies aimed to cleave communications between the German First and 19th Armies stationed in southern France. The enemy's biggest strategic reserve has been reported at Avignon, 55 miles north of Marseilles.

A German communique admitted that Allied troops had landed on a 75-mile section of the southern French coast between Toulon and Cannes and that "our coastal defense is engaged in a fight with the enemy's landing troops." Some observers speculated that the Allies went ashore on the plain of Frejus some 50 miles northeast of Toulon.

Toulon, where the French fleet was scuttled by its crews when Hitler grabbed unoccupied France shortly after the North African landings, is one of France's greatest naval bases. Cannes is a widely-known French Riviera resort city.

No Air Opposition, Little Ack-Ack

H-Hour for the operation was at 0800 hours, when the thousands of ground troops began streaming ashore after naval guns had bombarded the Germans' coastal installations for more than an hour.

But long before that hour Allied bombers and airborne troops were in action. The full weight of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces—more than 14,000 combat airmen—was thrown into the operation. Pilots of the planes from which parachutists jumped a little before dawn said they encountered little or no ack-ack fire.

However, an official announcement said 30 Allied planes were lost in the early hours of the landings.

Heavy and medium bombers prepared the blow Monday by dumping at least 1,000 tons of explosives on gun emplacements from Marseilles to Nice. Not a single enemy plane rose in challenge as they attacked deeply-embedded coastal artillery, and Mustangs and Lightnings strafed radio stations near Toulon, Nice and Cannes.

In the hours before dawn, heavies and tactical aircraft struck at strongpoints, coastal defenses, troop concentrations, supply dumps and beach obstacles. Farther inland they smashed airfields and communications.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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Straight from the Front

By Ernie Pyle
Scripps-Howard Correspondent

SOLDIERS are made out of the strangest people. I've recently made a new friend—just a plain old Hocsier—who is so quiet and humble you'd hardly know he's around.

Yet already, in our few weeks of invasion fighting, he has killed four of the enemy and learned war's wise little ways of destroying life and preserving your own.

He hasn't become the "killer" type that war makes of some soldiers; he has merely become adjusted to the design of an obligatory new profession.

His name is George Thomas Clayton. Back home he always is known as Tommy. In the Army, he is sometimes called George, but usually just Clayton. He is from Evansville and lives with his sister at 862 Covart Avenue. He is a front line infantryman of a rifle company in the 29th Division.

By the time this is printed, he'll be back in the lines. Right at the moment he is out of combat for a brief rest period. He spent a few days in an exhaustion camp, then was assigned briefly over to the camp where I work out from—the camp for correspondents. That's how we got acquainted.

Rather Have the BAR

CLAYTON is a private first class. He operates a Browning automatic rifle. He has turned down two chances to become a back sergeant and squad leader simply because he'd rather keep his powerful BAR than have stripes and less personal protection. He landed in Normandy on D-Day—on the toughest of beaches. He was in the line for 37 days without a rest. He had innumerable narrow escapes. Twice he had 88s hit within a couple of arms' lengths of him. But the funnel of concussion was away from him and he didn't get a scratch, though it covered him and his rifle with dirt. Then a third one hit about ten feet away and made him deaf in the right ear. He'd always had trouble with his ear anyway—earaches and things as a child. Even in the Army back in America he had to beg doctors to waive his ear defect in order to come overseas. He is still a little hard of hearing in that ear from shell-burst, but it's gradually coming back.

When Tommy finally left the lines he was pretty well done up and his sergeant wanted to send him to a hospital. But he begged not to go for fear he wouldn't get back to his old company, so they

let him go to rest camp instead. And now, after a couple of weeks with us (provided the proximity of correspondents doesn't drive him frantic) he will return to the lines with his old outfit.

Clayton has worked at all kinds of things back in that other world of civilian life. He has been a farmhand, cook, bartender. Just before the Army, he was gauge-honer in the Chrysler ordnance plant at Evansville. When the war is over, he wants to go into business for himself for the first time in his life. He probably will set up a small restaurant in Evansville. He says his brother-in-law will back him.

Tommy was shipped overseas after only two months in the Army and now has been out of America 18 months. He is medium sized, dark-haired, has a little mustache and the funniest-looking head of hair you ever saw this side of Buffalo Bill's show. While his division was killing time the last few days before leaving England, he and three other boys decided to have their hair cut Indian fashion.

Indian Haircuts

THEY had their heads clipped skin tight, all except two-inch rings starting at the forehead and running clear to the backs of their necks. It makes them look more comical than ferocious, which they'd intended. Two of the four have been wounded and evacuated to England.

I'd chatted off and on with Clayton several days before he told me how old he was. I was amazed. So much so that I asked several other people to guess at his age and they all guessed about the same as I did—about 26.

Actually he will be 38 his next birthday.

And that's pretty well along in years to be a front line infantryman. It's harder on a man at that age. As Clayton himself says, "when you pass that 30-mark, you begin to slow up a little." It's harder for you to take the hard ground and the rain and the sleeplessness and the unending wracking of it all. And yet at 38 he elected to go back.

Liberation Postponed, Mortain Folk Pass Weary Week in Abandoned Mine

By Earl Mazo
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

MORTAIN, Aug. 13 (Delayed)—Last Sunday the liberated people of Mortain said they were the happiest in all France. The war had passed them by, and their town was unscathed.

Today they were trudging back to the ruins of beautiful homes on the slope of a steep hill, and while they wave to Americans and some throw flowers and kisses, grim faces tell the story of their week of horror in an abandoned iron ore mine.

The Germans seemed to be in full retreat when the Americans made their first entry into Mortain last week. Their tanks and vehicles and foot sloggers moved through the town so fast, in fact, that there was no time for looting or firing, and when the Americans came the people of Mortain were on the streets to tell of their joy. They said they would celebrate for a week. Preparations were made for the long-delayed wedding of two of the town's prominent citizens, and small street cafes were gay with bunting and color.

Then came the early Monday German attack, the drive aimed at Avranches to cut off the American armies in West.

Mortain was the focal point in

that attack. Most of the fighting for the next week went on in and around Mortain.

The people, dazed by the turn of events, streamed in masses to a haven they thought they would have to use before—a filthy, abandoned iron ore mine. And for six days hundreds of them, men, women and children, young and old, lived there like trapped animals waiting for slaughter.

The first few days, especially, were torture. Battle-crazed Germans were everywhere shooting and shouting. Once a German tank drove up to the tunnel entrance and the people thought the muzzle of its big gun was pointed into the opening.

When the end came to meager food supplies men sneaked out into the fields and picked up cabbage and potatoes. Twice they brought back cows. The whole Mortain population lived like one family. Old town feuds melted. When a baby was born to one woman, the others helped, and they all had a part in naming it.

Late last night the Germans were driven back.

And today the people of Mortain, most of them sick with dysentery, were trudging back to the smoking remains of their proud little town.

News From Home

Corn Crop Suffers as Drought Hits Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky

CHICAGO, Aug. 15—While torrential rains flooded the country west of the Mississippi, state east of the river parched last week in a drought which seared further an already badly damaged corn crop, withered soybeans and left many victory gardens total losses. Drought conditions were worst damage was heaviest in southern and central Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Kentucky.

The Department of Agriculture forecast a total corn crop reduction of 51 million bushels in Illinois, Indiana and Ohio.

At Springfield, Ill., a 97-degree heat melted most of the city's ice supply and dealers had to enforce hasty rationing measures. It was so hot in Chicago that when firemen pouring water onto a burning bridge accidentally sprayed a perspiring crowd of onlookers, only a few bothered to move.

Meanwhile, areas west of the Mississippi, including the Great Plains states which normally are relatively dry, have been getting an abundance of rain.

During June alone rainfall was 27 per cent above normal in North Dakota, 10 per cent above in Montana and 22 per cent above in Nebraska. Though these states dropped back to normal in July, rainfall has shot up again in August.

Excessive rains have caused some damage to crops in the west, but on the whole crops have been good.

WALLACE BACKS EX-RIVAL

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug. 15—Vice-President Henry A. Wallace, defeated Democratic candidate, will make at least one major campaign speech in support of the Roosevelt-Truman ticket. Wallace's announced Minnesota speech was believed to be the first indication he would actively support the man who defeated him for renomination.

NEW GOP CHIEF IN N. Y.

ALBANY, N. Y., Aug. 15—W. L. Jaekle has announced the appointment of Arthur H. Schwartz, 40, New York attorney, as campaign manager for the Republican Party in New York state. Schwartz will take over duties formerly held by Herbert Brownell Jr., who now is handling the party's campaign nationally.

FORD'S CAMP FOR VETS

DETROIT, Aug. 15—Henry Ford has turned over his Camp Legion to "occupational rehabilitation" of crippled or otherwise handicapped veterans of this war.

In Other Fronts

NEW RED THREAT TO EAST PRUSSIA

Gen. George Zakharov's Second White Russian Army, successfully past the Biebrza River and fortifications guarding the southeastern corner of East Prussia at Osewiec, was reported by Berlin yesterday to be preparing for a new thrust at the Reich border less than 16 miles beyond.

On the Estonian front, the Russians apparently were throwing in strong forces to break through the remaining 17 miles to Valsa, the junction where they can cut the Tallinn-Riga railway.

Thirty-five miles south of Warsaw, where the Russians hold a bridgehead west of the Vistula near Warke, the enemy reported a major Soviet attack punched wedges in the German lines, but claimed these were sealed off.

8th Army Improves Florence Position

The Allied position in Florence improved yesterday as German shelling of the city decreased. The Eighth Army blasted Nazi toeholds on the Arno River east and west of the city.

Rome reports indicated a cabinet reshuffle to include Orlando as premier and Badoglio as foreign minister was imminent.

OWI LAYS PACIFIC PLAN

U.S. ARMY HQ, Guam, Aug. 15—Admitting that Allied propaganda in the Pacific has not been as successful as that directed toward Germany, Elmer Davis, OWI chief, announced today that the propaganda program would be stepped up along with America's stepped up land, sea and air offensive against Japan.

WOUNDED JUMPERS HOME

CHARLESTON, S. C., Aug. 15—Fourteen U. S. paratroopers, wounded when they dropped in France on D-Day, have arrived on the hospital ship Wisteria.

FRENCH BOXING CHAMP TO TOUR U.S. THIS MONTH

MONTREAL, Aug. 15—Armand Vincent, Montreal sports promoter, yesterday he had signed a contract with Mike Jacobs giving the New York promoter exclusive rights to the services of Marcel Cordan, French middleweight who will arrive for a tour late this month. The contract includes Cordan's bouts in the United States and Canada.

Cordan won the middleweight championship in the inter-Allied boxing tournament staged at Algiers by Zeke Bonura, former big leaguer now a M/Sgt. in charge of athletics in North Africa, and was the only finalist to win his title via the knockout route.

Cordan is in Casablanca awaiting transportation. He will make his tour on furlough from the French Army.

Walker's Ankle Bone Chipped, X-Ray Shows

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 15—X-Ray pictures revealed yesterday that Dixie Walker, Dodger outfielder currently leading the National League batting race, has a chipped bone in his right ankle. Walker has been troubled lately with lameness which reduced him to a pinch-hitter and part-time outfielder.

The injury occurred June 26 at the Polo Grounds inter-league game against the Yankees and Giants when he was struck by a foul from his own bat.

Majors & Minors

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Boston 5, St. Louis 1
New York 2, Chicago 1
Philadelphia 7, Detroit 5
Washington 8, Cleveland 5

	W	L	PCT.	GB
St. Louis	66	45	.595	
Boston	60	50	.545	5 1/2
Detroit	57	52	.523	8
New York	56	52	.519	8 1/2
Chicago	52	58	.473	13 1/2
Cleveland	53	60	.469	14
Philadelphia	51	62	.451	16
Washington	47	63	.427	18 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE
St. Louis 4, Brooklyn 3 (night)
Cincinnati 6, New York 1
Pittsburgh 7, Boston 6 (1st, 12 ins)
Pittsburgh 5, Boston 0 (2nd)
Philadelphia 6, Chicago 1

	W	L	PCT.	GB
St. Louis	78	28	.736	
Cincinnati	60	45	.571	17 1/2
Pittsburgh	60	45	.571	17 1/2
Chicago	47	55	.461	29
New York	50	49	.509	29 1/2
Philadelphia	42	61	.408	34 1/2
Boston	43	64	.402	35 1/2
Brooklyn	43	66	.394	36 1/2

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE
Baltimore 9, Montreal 8
Buffalo 16, Syracuse 6
Jersey City 4, Toronto 2 (1st)
Toronto 2, Jersey City 1 (2nd)
Newark 5, Rochester 3

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Baltimore	70	51	.579	
Newark	70	54	.565	1 1/2
Buffalo	64	60	.516	7 1/2
Jersey City	61	58	.513	8
Montreal	57	62	.479	12
Toronto	58	65	.472	13
Syracuse	54	66	.450	15 1/2
Rochester	53	71	.427	18 1/2

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
Toledo 3, Milwaukee 0
Columbus 5, Kansas City 2 (1st)
Kansas City 7, Columbus 1 (2nd)
Ind'pls 4, Minneapolis 1 (1st)
Ind'pls 6, Minneapolis 5 (2nd)

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Milwaukee	82	39	.678	
Louisville	72	48	.600	9 1/2
Toledo	72	48	.600	9 1/2
Columbus	67	55	.549	15 1/2
St. Paul	63	53	.543	16 1/2
Minneapolis	63	53	.543	16 1/2
Indianapolis	42	76	.356	38 1/2
Kansas City	34	82	.293	45 1/2

PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE

	W	L	PCT.	GB
Los Angeles	73	55	.570	
Hollywood	66	62	.516	7
San Francisco	65	62	.512	7 1/2
Portland	64	63	.501	8 1/2
Oakland	64	64	.500	9
Seattle	62	68	.481	12
Sacramento	60	68	.469	13
San Diego	58	71	.450	15 1/2

Only 23 Shopping Days to Xmas For Yanks in France, PX Warns

There are only 23 more shopping days until Christmas for Yanks in France.

No, the Yule date hasn't been pushed up three months—but if soldiers here want their gifts to reach the folks back home by Dec. 25 they will have to place orders with the nearest PX or agent before Sept. 8.

This was revealed yesterday when Maj. Harold G. Schaefer, Army Exchange Officer for Communications Zone, announced that PXs in France are now taking orders for Christmas gifts to persons within the Continental limits of the United States.

In areas where PXs have not yet been established, arrangements have been made for commanding officers of units down to company strength to handle gift orders. Maj. Schaefer said commanding officers desiring information on this subject should contact their Army or Base Section Exchange officer.

An urgent plea to soldiers to get their orders in early to forestall a last-minute rush was voiced by Army Exchange officers. They said orders received before Sept. 8 would, barring unforeseen circumstances, reach their destinations by Christmas.

A wide variety of items is included in the Exchange Service's Christmas Catalog, 1944. Actual mailing of the presents will be handled by national agents in the States, acting in cooperation with the Army.

The opening in Cherbourg of three new PXs—one for officers and two for EM—was announced yesterday by 1/Lt. George H. Rome Jr., Cherbourg Exchange

Officer. These will handle only Christmas gift orders and war bonds at present.

The Cherbourg PXs are located at 9 Rue du Commerce, just around the corner from the American Red Cross Club Victoire; 43-48 Rue Alfred Rosset, two blocks west of the Hotel Atlantique; and 57 Rue Albert Mahieu across from the officers' sales store. The first two PXs are for enlisted men, the last for officers.

Other exchanges had previously been established in hospitals, replacement depots, and in various service stations in the Communications Zone.

SAIPAN GIs GET RADIO

SAIPAN, Aug. 15—The first GI shortwave radio station on Saipan has been established to bring musical programs and news broadcasts to troops in the Marianas. The 50-watt station is called WXLB, "The Voice of Saipan."

BLONDIE

