

Bleiben sie stehen
Bleyben zee stayhen
Stay where you are

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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in the European Theater of Operations

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SATURDAY Dec. 9, 1944

Nous manquons de parfum
Noo mon-kOWN duh parFAN
We are out of perfume

Holing the Fox



1—Death comes to a field marshal in these pictures taken by the gun cameras of Lt. Harold O. Miller, Eighth Air Force fighter-pilot, whose strafing attack on a Nazi staff car (arrow) last July 24 is believed the one which fatally wounded Marshal Erwin Rommel.



2—Flames flash from the staff car's gasoline tank as it is blasted by a hail of bullets from Miller's plane.



3—A blazing cloud of gasoline marks the path of the car as it continues to move along the French road.



4—Smoke and flames obscure the Nazi vehicle after it has swerved into a ditch.



5—Miller, a native of Santa Rosa, Cal., has since returned to the U.S.

GIs Start Today On London Repairs

About 100 GIs—the first of 3,000 who will be assigned to repair bomb damage and to construct temporary homes in the London area—will swing their picks into action at Lambeth today. Duncan Sandys, British minister of works, and high-ranking U.S. officers will be on hand.

Battle for Saar Growing

Senate Unit Opens Quiz On Smokes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (ANS)—The cigarette supply for servicemen overseas is adequate, but the civilian shortage may continue indefinitely, Chairman James M. Mead (D-N.Y.) of the Senate's War Investigating Committee disclosed yesterday in announcing that the group had started a full-fledged investigation of the nationwide scarcity of smokes.

Mead said a preliminary inquiry had developed:

1—Failure of troops to receive cigarettes in some war theaters was due to shipping, unloading and delivery difficulties.

2—The War Department had procured adequate supplies for soldiers and had assured senators that "all efforts are being made to deliver cigarettes to troops."

Mead said the committee had called a meeting of representatives of the National Association of Tobacco Distributors, the War Department, cigarette manufacturers, the War Manpower Commission and War Food Administration for a public hearing next Wednesday.

The Senator added that preliminary investigation "indicates that more cigarettes are being manufactured than ever before, but that the armed forces' requirements have almost doubled since last year."

Reds Closing Budapest Ring

The German-Hungarian garrison in Budapest last night was faced with the grave danger of being completely cut off as two Russian armies steadily closed the ring around the capital on the Danube.

Marshal Malinowsky's Second Ukrainian Army already had cut off Budapest from the east and had reached the Danube both above and below the city.

On the other side of the river, Marshal Tolbukhin's Third Ukrainian Army pushed ahead to a point 15 miles south of the Buda hills in a drive to cut the capital's communication lines with Vienna and Austria. A German military commentator admitted that Tolbukhin's tanks had linked up with Malinowsky's bridgehead pushed across the Danube from Csepel Island.

North of the city, Malinowsky's troops, according to German reports, had reached the Danube in the region of Vac, 15 miles above the capital, after breaking through strong Nazi defenses west of Hatvan. The report was not confirmed by Moscow.

Congressional Medal Awarded Kansan

WITH THE FIRST INFANTRY DIVISION, Germany, Dec. 8—S/Sgt. Walter D. Ehlers, of Manhattan, Kan., won the Congressional Medal for his actions June 9 and 10 in Normandy, it was announced here yesterday.

Ehlers, 23, won his country's highest award by assaulting and silencing two machine-guns and two mortars, killing 18 Germans, including a sniper who shot him in the back, and carrying a wounded BAR man to safety.

Ehlers wears the Presidential unit citation for action at Gafsa and two clusters to his Purple Heart for wounds in the Continental campaign. Bomb fragments slashed his left thigh at Mortain and two mortar bursts at Eilendorf, Germany, wounded him in the leg and shoulders.

Goering Wins a Mention

Goering made a comeback in the German news today, as German Forces radio declared that the Reichsmarshal, who had been variously reported sacked, interned and insane, received German long-range reconnaissance units for discussion.

Patton's Aim—The Rich Saar



Third Army troops are threatening one of the Nazis' key industrial regions, the Saar Valley. Huge coalfields with reserves of 9,000,000,000 tons provide the backbone for scores of blast furnaces and steel plants where much of the Wehrmacht's war material is forged. Allied troops in World War I drove through it. The Saar was under a League of Nations commission from 1920 to 1935, when it voted in a plebiscite to return to Germany.

Quake, B29s Hit Japs; New Landing on Leyte

Three great blows—two by American forces and one by nature—struck the Japanese Thursday, the third anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

Gen. MacArthur broke the Leyte stalemate by an amphibious assault against the enemy's rear on the west coast of the island, splitting the Jap forces. Simultaneously, U.S. warships and Superfortresses plastered Iwojima Island, in the Bonin group 500 miles south of Tokyo, unopposed by fighters or flak. The third shock was a natural—a heavy earthquake which rocked the Japanese home islands.

A surprise assault by the 77th Division of the 24th Corps broke the Leyte stalemate, landing on the west coast of the island, three miles south of resisting Ormoc. John Henry, Reuter correspondent, said the landing was almost unopposed.

After seizing the center of the Japs' Yamashita Line from the rear, thus splitting the defending forces before Ormoc, the Americans were driving northward toward Ormoc.

MacArthur also revealed that another Japanese convoy, racing to bring reinforcements to Yamashita, was wiped out by U.S. planes with a loss of 13 ships, 4,000 troops and 62 planes.

For the Saipan-based Superfortresses Thursday's was their first raid on Iwojima.

Apparent objectives were the bases from which Jap planes this week hit B29 bases (Continued on page 4)

Peace Talks Fail at Athens

ATHENS, Dec. 8—Stiff fighting flared up throughout the Athens area late today as 700 ELAS (Greek resistance) troops, an armored car leading the way, advanced on the city from the northeast.

Reported talks between ELAS representatives and Greek government officials to bring an end to the undeclared civil war were said to have made small progress.

Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson, former Allied chief in the Mediterranean, said in Rome that the fighting in Greece was caused by "irresponsible extremists" including some "deserters" from the German and Bulgarian armies.

Hospitals were overcrowded and short of medicines, dressings, blankets, food and water.

Commons Upholds Churchill On Use of Troops in Greece

The British policy of armed intervention in Greece and Belgium to support existing governments against insurgent elements within those countries was upheld by Parliament yesterday when it gave Prime Minister Winston Churchill's government an overwhelming vote of confidence.

The vote, demanded by Churchill in a vigorous speech in Commons defending the armed-intervention policy, was 279, for 30 against. The last previous vote of confidence, demanded over a domestic educational bill, was 425, for 23 against, on Mar. 30.

The vote upholds Britain's objective in those countries, which Churchill defined in his speech as being "that these countries shall be freed from the German armed power, and that under conditions of normal tranquility they shall have a free, universal vote to decide the government of their country, except the Fascist regime, and whether that government shall be to the Left or to the Right."

"The charge made against us," Churchill said before the vote, "is that we are using His Majesty's forces to disarm the friends

of democracy in Greece and in other parts of Europe, and to suppress those popular movements which have valorously assisted in the defeat of the enemy."

But, he said, "the last thing that represents democracy is mob law." "Democracy," he declared, "is not a harlot to be picked up on the street by a man with a Tommy-gun."

"We stand," he said, "upon the foundation of fair, free elections, based on universal service and suffrage."

This policy, Churchill said, led the British to support, with arms, the Papandreou government in Greece. It had led the British also, he said, to support, with

(Continued on page 4)

Beat Back Attacks by Germans

Third Army troops pushed 1½ miles into the Siegfried pillbox belt four miles north of Saarlautern yesterday as the battle along the 30-mile Saar front increased hourly in intensity.

Making their advance into the Siegfried Line under heavy-artillery and small-arms fire, 90th Infantry Division men later threw back a German counter-attack launched by tanks and infantry. Last night they were locked in heavy fighting north of Dillenger.

Other Third Army troops who fought their way into Forbach, four miles southwest of Saarbrücken, launched a new assault to cross the Saar River southeast of Sarraguemines.

Tighten Saarbrücken Ring

The closing ring on Saarbrücken itself, heart of the industrial Saar region, was tightened by American spearheads three miles west and five miles south of the city. More than 150 Ninth Air Force fighter-bombers hit pillboxes south of Saarbrücken to pave the way for the Third Army attack.

As the Germans claimed that the U.S. First and Ninth Armies had almost completed regrouping movements for a big new offensive, First Army men near Bergstein seized Hill 600, which dominates a stretch of the Roer River, and beat back two German counter-attacks.

On the Ninth Army front the Germans continued to use smoke in an effort to conceal their defense preparations on the east bank of the Roer. Men of the infantry regiment who fought their way into the Julich sports stadium were still up against opposition that indicated the Germans were determined to fight to the last man to prevent a push through Julich and across the Roer.

Third Captures 30,136

The Third Army has captured 30,136 prisoners—or more than a thousand a day—since its offensive against the Saar region started 30 days ago.

Berlin reported that French troops launched an offensive on a wide front in the Weiler sector of Alsace. Allied correspondents reported that the Seventh Army entered a town only 4½ miles south of the German border, its closest approach yet to Reich home territory.

It was officially disclosed that Rouen and Le Havre, which the Germans tried to demolish, had been restored and were handling more tonnage than before the war. With increasing use of Antwerp, and continued use of Cherbourg, port facilities now have made it possible to ship fully 75 per cent of U.S. Army supplies direct from America, it was also announced.

Girls, You're No Salomes, but—Is We Ain't



"Well, boys, is you is or is you ain't?" query Barbara Bates (left) and Kathleen O'Malley, two Hollywood characters in the picture "Salome, Where She Danced." Their question was prompted by a report that GIs in Luxembourg were fed up with pinup pictures. They do their best to change a soldier's mind.

Guamos Steps Into Pvt. Motley's Shoes and 'Inherits' Some VD

Wanted a Gun, So He Took the 20 Shots

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau
CHICAGO, Dec. 8—For nearly five months, Guamos Sepeda, a 15-year-old Negro, masqueraded as Pvt. Jesse Motley, 22, also a Negro, at Ft. McClellan, Ala.

Today his nearly-realized dream of going overseas was shattered by the MPs.

This is what happened. Last July Guamos, resplendent in a militiaman's uniform, visited Motley at Ft. Sheridan, Ill. Guamos bemoaned his age, which kept him from going into the Army and overseas. Motley suggested they swap uniforms and Guamos cheerfully assented. Motley blithely walked out the post gates. Guamos was shipped to Alabama.

Guamos turned out to be a better soldier than Motley, but

Motley's sins plagued him. There was the matter of VD treatments which Guamos inherited when he donned Motley's uniform—20 shots in five months. But he took them without saying a word.

A 16-dollar monthly pay deduction went to liquidate a court-martial fine Motley had drawn for being AWOL. Guamos paid. When the Army took out another 22 bucks for Motley's mother, Guamos had little left.

But he was still one happy boy, for his outfit soon was going overseas. Guamos wrote his girl friend the good news. She showed the letter to Guamos' mother, who notified the MPs.

"Doggone," said Guamos, as he was seized here en route to a POE, "why couldn't I have kept my big mouth shut?"

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NOTE: Lack of space forces us to limit
all letters published to not more than 200
words.—Ed.

No Gentlemanly War

Nov. 23, 1944

To the B-Bag:
The statement made by an Army Air
Forces spokesman (The Stars and Stripes,
Nov. 23) that the U.S. has perfected a
better V1 but would not use it since the
AAF "do not go in for indiscriminate
bombing attacks" makes no sense to me.
Ever since D-Day a heavy concentrated
campaign has been carried out by all
Army publications, including your own,
emphasizing the fact that the entire Ger-
man nation is our enemy, that they all
hate us, that the home front is part of
the German army, that women, children
and old men are being used against us,
and that any sign of easiness will be
taken as an indication of weakness by
the German people.

Now the AAF announces that it
wouldn't use this weapon because it is
"indiscriminate." Let's make up our
minds once and for all that to save lives
we can't fight a "gentlemanly war"
against Germany and Japan.—Pvt. A.
Peter Saltz, Repl. Det.

Swallowing Editorials

Nov. 30, 1944

To the B-Bag:
I, for one, like your editorials. I detect
no attempt to make or force anyone to
"swallow" anything, as one sergeant
says. Surely there is no compulsion to
believe everything this fellow reads in
your paper.

We are fighting a war of "extinction"
to quote the German News Agency. Surely
no weapon has an edge too sharp to
combat our enemies. We are not re-
quired to agree with your editorials, but
they do make us think, and no one can
deny we need to do that.

Your Sgt.-reader objects strenuously
to his lack of opportunity to get other
view-points than yours. He has but to
listen to "Jerry Calling," they oblige
beautifully.

Keep up your good work. Don't try
to make us believe, but do continue to
try to make us think. We need that so
desperately.—ACRM Henry Poole,
USN.

To the B-Bag:

Nov. 17, 1944

The letter by a chaplain referring to
your editorials as "consummate presump-
tions" cannot go unanswered. An edi-
torial is nothing more than one man's
opinion, and you can either agree or dis-
agree with it. This is the first real
attempt to reach the "soldier mass" and
give him a very much needed political
and sociological education. Naturally,
it can only touch the surface of things, but
it has been stimulating, informative, and
to my mind very beneficial.

Even if you disagree with the editorial,
it leaves a definite impression on your
mind, and you become alive to a problem
that never excited you before.—Sgt.
Ralph Fisher, T.C. Sq.

Cavalry Recon

Nov. 23, 1944

To the B-Bag:
Referring to your article of Nov. 18 in
Warweek on the cavalry recon, it was
exceptionally good. We of the cavalry
who haven't been in action have often
wondered how our brother outfits fared
in combat, but information was always
limited or unobtainable. . . . I have often
bitched that there is no expert or combat
cavalryman's badge, like there is for the
infantry, to provide incentive pay for
hazardous duty.

Although a cavalry man can wear an
infantry badge, his pride is too great to
wear that of another arm, even though
it would mean ten bucks more a month.
If the air corps gets flying pay, and the
infantry gets walking pay, why in hell
can't we get riding pay?—Pvt. David
Wofsky, T/5 Harry C. Saunders, Pvt.
Robert J. Burley, Arm'd. Recon.

'Hubert' in Book Form

Nov. 26, 1944

To the B-Bag:
The fellows of my barracks and myself
think that it would be an excellent idea
if Sgt. Wingert could publish, or have
published, a book of his cartoons, Hubert,
just the ones that have appeared in The
Stars and Stripes. It would make an
ideal keepsake, and forever be a reminder
of the lighter side of this war.—
M/Sgt. R. E. Vitteroe, Bomb. Sq.

[A London firm is going to publish a
collection of Wingert's cartoons—Is.,
royalties to British Red Cross—but no
date set for it yet. We'll announce it as
soon as we know for sure.—Ed.]

Hash Marks

Overheard at a dispensary. "What's
that on your shoulder, soldier?" "That's
a birthmark, sir." "Hmm, how long
have you had it?"

Postwar plans. A certain city in the
good old U.S.A. sent a questionnaire
about post-war plans to its men in the
service. The following reply came from
one eager Joe, "I'd like to go back to
my old job—but first I'm going to get
in a lot of hugging and kissing."

We like the one about the newly-
married bride who was waving to a cor-



poreal on an outgoing train. Suddenly
she shrieked: "Darling, I forgot to ask
you. What is our last name?"

To corn a phrase, many guys will
probably celebrate V-Day by getting
"plastered in Paris."

We ought to save this one for Valen-
tine's Day, but maybe the war will be
over by then, we hope, we hope. PX
Clerk: "Here's a greeting card with
a beautiful sentiment: 'To the only girl I
ever loved.'"

GI: "Wonderful. I'll take a dozen of
those."

Then there was the mess sergeant who,
after not such a good chow, found him-
self behind the meat-ball.

Pfc Marty Weill defines a good WAC
as one who says, "Yes, Ma'am" during
the day and "No, Sir" at night.

One of the boys sweating out a trip to
the States sends us this one:

Sad Sack
Bag pack
Go back
Glad Sack.

On his journey to the Middle East,
President Roosevelt reached a country
where the natives greeted him with shouts



of "Qua ho la! Qua ho la!" After
he graciously acknowledged the shouts,
he asked his aide for a translation.
Reluctantly, the interpreter said, "Qua ho
la, Sir, means 'That's her husband.'"

"Food will win the war" says a sign
in a mess hall. Underneath it, a wisecrack
scribbled, "But how can we get the
enemy to eat here?"

J. C. W.

HUBERT by SGT. DICK WINGERT



"No wonder that town didn't have any — 'off limit' signs!"

An Editorial

Stretch That Rubber

GEN. EISENHOWER has
given us the pitch on the
rubber situation.

Save rubber, he says, or 10 per
cent of all Army vehicles in this
theater will be tied up by Feb-
ruary.

That means a 10 per cent cut
in ammo, chow, supplies and
everything else needed at the front.
That means deadlining 10 per cent
of the Army's mobility just when
it's needed most. It means a
longer war, longer casualty lists,
longer faces here and at home.

Luckily, it ain't necessarily so.
Rubber can and will be saved if
drivers will do ten simple things:

- 1—Maintain correct air pres-
sure.
- 2—Keep valve caps to finger
tightness.
- 3—Correct valve stem posi-
tioning.
- 4—Match tires correctly.
- 5—Correct mounting of direc-
tional type tires.
- 6—Correct rotation of spare tires
- 7—Correct application of chains.
- 8—Correct mechanical mal-
adjustments causing uneven wear.
- 9—Timely removal of tires for



This is the result of a tire that was run flat for a long distance.

retreading, and prompt repair of
injuries.

10—Avoidance of improper
operation, including speeding over
35 miles per hour, over-loading,
improper use of brakes, striking
of curbs, rocks, road-holes, and
driving with flat tires.

It's little to ask, but it adds up
to plenty. To an estimated 50 per
cent cut in tire replacements
between now and January 1.

It means we'll stretch that
rubber. To Berlin. To Tokyo.
To the U.S.A.

Still a Tough Enemy

Jap Retreat From Burma Recasts Their Defense Plan

By Preston Grover

Associated Press War Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Dec. 8.—The Japanese
retreat in Burma, coupled with an in-
creased tempo in the attack in China,
pointed today to a reframing of the entire
Japanese plan of defense.

A summary of information available
here gives these indications:

1—The Japanese are making a fighting

withdrawal from northern Burma. If
pressure continues it may drive the Japs
out before the next monsoon season in
April.

2—If Burma is cleared they will prob-
ably withdraw from Thailand, which
then will have become difficult to defend.

3—The Japanese will continue to
defend Indo-China, Malaya, Singapore
and Sumatra, source of most of their oil.

4—They will probably attempt to take
Kunming, with the aim of locking the
back door to their Continental defense
system.

Daylight Operations Halted

Allied air attacks on Japanese supply
lines have been so intense that daylight
operations have been abandoned. The
Japs, however, are using rail, river and
road to withdraw by night.

British forces in the Chindwin area are
encountering only defense pockets in their
push toward Mandalay. With the cap-
ture of Kalewa, on the Chindwin, they
are within sight of open plains across
which a more rapid drive on Mandalay
is possible.

With American air forces taking an in-
creasing part enough Chinese troops prob-
ably could be mustered to prevent the
Japs taking Kunming, last remaining
tactical air base in China. While the
situation in China is increasingly menac-
ing, the general picture is not looked
upon by observers here as serious.

With increased control of the seas
American forces are making the Japanese
hold on outlying island territories more
difficult. However, by using inland water
routes by night the Japanese can con-
tinue to bring oil from Sumatra along
the Malay and China coast. Even
American operations based in the Philip-
pines may have difficulty in stopping that.
Occupation of Formosa would block it.

King George Honors U.S. Naval Officers

Four high-ranking American naval
officers who served in the Normandy in-
vasion have been awarded the Dis-
tinguished Service Order by King
George VI, headquarters of the U.S.
Naval Forces in Europe revealed.

They are Rear Adms. J. Leslie Hall Jr.,
Carleton F. Bryant and Morton L. Deyo,
all who have now left the ETO, and the
late Don P. Moon. Vice-Adm. Alan G.
Kirk previously had been made a Knight
Commander of the Bath, military division.

Newman's Yankee Doodles

NEWS ITEM—BURLINGTON, Wis.—
President of the Burlington Lions Club
announces that this year the greatest
number of letters have come in for the
annual selection of the biggest tall story.



"Don't worry if your contribution should
lose in that American whopper contest,
mein Fuehrer. You are still the biggest
liar in Europe."

American Forces Network

On Your Dial			
1375 kc.	1402 kc.	1411 kc.	1420 kc.
218.1m.	213.9m.	212.6m.	211.3m.
207.3m.			
Saturday, Dec. 9			
1200—World News.			
1205—Duffie Bag.			
1300—Headlines—Sports News.			
1305—Grand Old Opry.			
1330—Yanks Radio Edition.			
1400—Headlines—Downbeat with Freddie Martin.			
1430—College of Musical Knowledge with Phil Harris.			
1500—Headlines—American Dance Band (Sgt. Ray McKinley).			
1530—On the Record.			
1630—Strike up the Band.			
1700—Headlines—Melody Roundup.			
1715—Miss Parade.			
1745—Hawaiian Serenade.			
1755—American Sports News.			
1800—World News.			
1805—Mark up the Map.			
1815—Andre Kostelanetz.			
1845—Johnny Mercer's Music Shop.			
1900—Headlines—Comedy Caravan with Jimmy Durante and Gary Moore.			
1930—Hit Parade with Mark Warnow's Orchestra and Frank Sinatra.			
2000—Headlines—Combat Diary.			
2015—At Ease.			
2030—Front Line Theater.			
2100—World News.			
2105—Mail Call.			
2135—Guy Lombardo's Musical Autographs.			
2200—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A.			
2205—Melody Hour.			
2230—Suspense.			
2300—Final Edition.			
2305—Sign off until 0755 hours, Monday, Dec. 11.			
Monday, Dec. 11			
0745—Sign On—Program Resume.			
0800—Headlines—Combat Diary.			
0815—Personal Album with Mary and Virginia O'Brien.			
0830—Music by Jan Garber.			
0900—World News—Songs by Hi, Lo, Jack and a Dame.			
0925—Music from America.			
1000—Headlines—Morning After (Mail Call).			
1030—Strike up the Band.			
1100—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A.			
1105—Duffie Bag.			

Warweek

Mud—the Foe No Bullet Will Stop
Toy Cannon Halt Jerry in Holland
Nazi Supertanks—a Smashing Battle

Saturday, Dec. 9, 1944

This Enemy Never Fires A Shot:



He Slows Down Our Armor At Critical Battle Moments

By Joe Weston
Warweek Staff Writer



"Duck Bills" on tracks help tankmen pull out of the goo when going gets rough.

GI's bitter complaint that "everybody in the whole damned army talks about mud, but nobody does anything about it," started the whole business.

The Old Sergeant did a little private snooping, asked for help—and got a deskful of letters proving that GIs from generals to privates are doing something about mud besides sleeping in it.

The letters ranged from a dainty packaged sample of Dutch mud contributed by a Signal Corps humorist to the much more practical "Beat the Mud" program of HQ Advance Section, Com Z, commanded by Brig. Gen. Ewart G. Plank. General Plank, like every other soldier, knows that the best way to lick mud is to prevent as much of it as possible in the first place. So, under the supervision of Col. C. R. Broshous, his chief of staff, he got a crackerjack anti-mud campaign under way, which included a trip to Paris as a prize for the best preventive measures.

Mud Commandments

Twenty-five GIs, sending in an assortment of suggestions, won the "Big City" jaunt starting Dec. 7.

Pfc Raymond Michael submitted the typical winning ten mud commandments:

- 1—Stay on hard surfaces if possible.
- 2—Stay off soft shoulders.
- 3—Don't take short cuts.
- 4—Don't track mud onto highways.
- 5—Keep vehicles clean at all times.
- 6—Drainage of stagnant water.
- 7—Fill in soft spots.
- 8—Mark bad, impossible spots.
- 9—Use four-wheel drive.
- 10—Don't dig yourself deeper by spinning.

Other contest winners who sent in similar ideas were: Cpl. Merle E.

Weygandt, Cpl. Claude A. Creain, Sgt. Donald A. Appen, 1/Sgt. Julian W. Chamberlin, Pvt. William E. Smith, Pfc Harold Matthe, Pvt. Carleton C. Wite, Sgt. Robert J. Glines, Sgt. Robert J. Kurtz, Cpl. Herbert O. Crane, Pfc. Miguel J. Briseno, M/Sgt. J. C. Valentine, T/Sgt. James A. Williams, Sgt. Robert M. Fleischman, Cpl. Carey F. Cronin, Pfc Frederick Keifer, Cpl. George A. Abbott, S/Sgt. Hilbert O. Bell, Sgt. Solomon A. Tesh, S/Sgt. John R. Melton, Sgt. Alton Allen, Sgt. William Newell, T/Sgt. Johns Davis and S/Sgt. Ramon Meyer.

The contest, which ended recently, was publicized via bulletin boards, company poop sheets, announcements at formations, posters and by other means. GIs were given time and material to prepare articles and sketches on ways and means to beat mud.

More Mud-Beating Tips

From General Plank to Pfc Anders Swanson isn't such a long jump where mud is concerned.

Swanson, with a Chemical Base Depot, comes up with a couple of ideas which he claims he is using with good results.

Swanson diverts the power to the wheel of any vehicle—self-propelled, fast-moving armored or supply truck which is not doing any spinning or revolving.

For example, Swanson uses a truck which has both front and rear wheels on the right-hand side spinning.

If the wheels on the left side are on solid ground, he says, put brakes on the spinning side. The differential will then turn or divert power over to the left-hand side and the truck pulls out.

Swanson claims the braking is a cinch by just piping the brake-shoe fluid up to the dashboard. On the dash he rigged up cut-off valves allowing the driver to stop the fluid going to the wheel he wants to revolve. Then he puts the brake on—and out of the mud he goes.

To critics who claim the operation raises hell with the differential, Swanson says, "It ain't true"—and is willing to bet on it.

Swanson's second idea has to do with a wheeling device that goes in between and above the bogey wheels of a 6x6. It succeeds in getting all the wheels in the back assembly going at one time.

Swanson recommends this method for use where trucks all get stuck in a particularly bad place. He suggests that a man be detailed to said place with his device—or any variation of it—because it is usually too clumsy to be carried by each truck.

No Rules for Mud

The above stuff, and much to follow, is all off-the-cuff emergency business and probably won't be found in the TMs. But mud can't read directives so "you pays your money and takes your choice."

T/4 Hudson Robinson of an AAA AW Bn., says: "Mud! That's easy." He suggests mounting dual wheels in front.

Robinson insists that dual wheels in front of a 6x6 can and will pull other trucks of the same size out of the mud. He claims that the 25 per cent more traction created by this idea is surefire. Could be?

A SeaBee echoes the same sentiment. Says he: "We gained extra power and traction by installing dual wheels in front and licked General Mud at Omaha Beach."

T/5 Herman Topel writes from a hospital bed that shredded rags, knotted and wrapped around wheels helped out in a hurry. Knotted strands of rope were also highly recommended by Topel—if you have rope.

Cpl. Edward R. Oglin, who claims the enviable distinction of having put together a still on one of the Normandy beachheads, passes on some good, old-fashioned New England mud tips.

Oglin's number one tip is to use the highest gear possible and the lowest motor speed that will keep the vehicle going in the mud.

He also advises dual front wheels and lower tire pressure when going through soft stuff.

Cpl. Bill Rowe, of a Harbor Craft outfit, claims that makeshift paving is the best and quickest answer. He suggests that special units of our own troops, PW details and French civilians be used for the purpose. Rowe advises that the bomb and shell rubble all over France, Belgium, Holland and Germany be crushed by roller and used to surface roads and areas. No dirt—no mud. Just like that.

Jack Earle, Signal Corps, speaks for more than a few GIs in advocating the

use of brush, stone, straw, leaves, hay and any other natural materials available to keep the main highways clear of mud thrown there by mud-churning vehicles.

Ounce of Prevention Pays

F. X. Purcell, of a GS Engineer Regiment, who doesn't bother to mention his rank, if any, goes down the line with the program of General Plank and his men mentioned earlier. He also says an ounce of prevention can cure a hell of a lot of mud and he sends in ten mud commandments to prove his point. Here they are:

- 1—Trucks turn off highway onto a side road to look for parking space.
- 2—Choose the best available ground—high and well drained—to park on.
- 3—Drive intelligently. Just because your jeep or dual-wheeled truck will run in the mud doesn't mean you have to look for mud to test 'em.
- 4—Carry those boxes of ten-in-one a few feet to the mess tent instead of trying to back into it.
- 5—Improvise an exit and entrance to your bivouac area or dump. A few logs and a bit of gravel will do it.
- 6—Make a traffic-circulation plan and enforce it.
- 7—For semi-permanent installations have roads and hard standings built in advance.
- 8—Consult the engineers before locating a dump or other large installation.
- 9—Even in digging a foxhole or a latrine, think of drainage.
- 10—Remember—whatever it looks like today—it's going to rain tomorrow.



"Plowing through the muck and mire."



Ordnance men effect field repairs to mud-damaged vehicle.



Mortarmen Kept Nijmegen Bridge Open

In Maneuvers These Men Were Laughed at — That Was Before They Started Shelling Jerry

By John Christie
Warweek Staff Writer

REMEMBER the first time you ever saw a mortar? Back in basic or on those never-to-be-forgotten torture sessions they call "maneuvers," lots of guys got a big bank out of razzing the mortarmen about their "Fourth of July Cannon." It was a great joke to the doughies, the pick-an'-shovel soldiers and the armored outfits.

It was a great joke—but that was before Sicily and Salerno. It was before Anzio and Omaha. It was long before the hedgerows and the road-blocks and the little fortified heaps of rubble which were French or Belgian, Dutch or German towns.

It was before the Siegfried. It was before the battle of the Nijmegen Bridge. But all that fighting with mortars had paved the way for an action at the bridge which made mortar history.

Only one platoon fought there, but the work of every American mortarmen in Europe had contributed something to the tactics they used and the success they achieved.

To be precise about it, the guys to sew up this mortar business consisted of one platoon of the 82nd Airborne. For a full day and night they were artillery, machine gunners, infantry and armor—at least as far as the results they obtained were concerned. Their position was a badly-mauled cemetery, 1,000 yards from the strategically-vital bridge. Their assignment was to cover the bridge with mortar fire to hold it open for the relief of British paratroop units in trouble on the German side of the Waal River in Holland.

They carried out that mission successfully. They did more than that.

They did tricks with their four 81mm. "Fourth of July Cannon" that had never been seen before. These tricks worked. They worked so well that the biggest brass in the business was impressed. Now, the

battle tricks of that bunch of mortarmen are being made a part of the regular training in the mortar section of the Infantry School, back at Fort Benning, Ga.

The platoon, under command of 1/Lt. John L. Cooper, of North Hollywood, Cal., went into position in the cemetery at 4 o'clock on the afternoon of September 19. The enemy had strong positions in a parkway which formed the approach to the bridge. The 2nd battalion's front line was a row of houses facing the park and in one of the houses the mortar platoon had its OP.

The battle for the bridge lasted 24 hours with the mortar platoon playing the decisive role. Although its position was constantly under intense artillery fire that splintered tombstones and churned up bodies, the platoon firing in battery laid down a total of 1,650 rounds.

Battery Fire Effective

"We always fire in battery whenever possible," says Lt. Cooper. "We find it more effective to put four guns on the same target rather than to fire one gun four times. It's easier to control your fire this way and, if it's surprise fire, you give the enemy a much greater wallop because he is robbed of the chance to better his position during the interval between bursts."

When the infantry assault was made on the bridge, the platoon really showed its stuff by laying down a barrage only 50 yards ahead of the advancing paratroopers. It takes experts to do that. According to the book, 100 yards is considered the minimum distance for close mortar support. But when you haven't got the artillery or are in a situation where you can't make use of artillery, mortar support like this can save lives. One of the companies in the assault didn't lose a single man killed or wounded.

"When you're firing close support like this, it's a good idea to level the bubbles

on the sight at all times," warns Section Sgt. Harold W. Woltzof, Dearborn, Mich. It's hard to do I know, but if you're firing fast and don't do it, there is danger that you'll get some dispersion that will cause casualties among your own guys. We had to be careful to do this when we were laying down that barrage at 50 yards because our four guns poured out 200 rounds in five minutes."

Guns Well Dug In

The mortar platoon's 24-hour fire from the graveyard was devastating. When tanks came up to exploit the breakthrough across the bridge, the parkway was littered with more than 200 German bodies and several knocked-out anti-tank guns. Flames from nearby burning buildings lit up the scene long after darkness fell to further emphasize what the mortars had done.

The cemetery had been a hot spot during the 24-hour engagement, but the mortar platoon lost only one man wounded. That's because these veterans are always well dug in.

"In a situation like that have your guns dug in as well as possible," says Corporal John F. Lee of Worcester, Mass. "When we're in a defensive position we like to have our gun in a hole about five feet deep and about six by six in area. It gives two men plenty of room and the gun plenty of traverse."

The loss of only one man in this action is also remarkable in view of the fact that telephone lines had to be repaired 12 times under fire. But every man in the platoon can make wire repairs just like every ammo carrier is a trained gunner.

"It's best to use heavy wire, even though it's harder to lay," explains Section Sgt. Joseph Gilhooly of New York City. "We generally lay alternate lines right at the beginning and whenever possible we try to string them overhead so that they won't get damaged by tanks and artillery fire."

Teamwork Pays

The platoon's work at Nijmegen Bridge earned a decoration for each member of the outfit. Once again the success of an important operation pivoted on the ability of this platoon. It had been the same story back in Italy during a vital delaying action on the Volturno River. That time the platoon earned a unit decoration.

But the Nijmegen Bridge action was only one of the platoon's outstanding accomplishments in the Holland campaign. The platoon fired more than 16,000 rounds in the seven weeks of combat. Still more important were some of the battle expedients, like the barrage at 50 yards.

One of their neatest maneuvers was increasing the range of the mortar 1,300 yards beyond the prescribed limit. This wasn't done for the hell of it, either. It was strictly an invention born of battle necessity. Extra range was needed to cover a vital target and there was no artillery available to do it.

Added Range—Normal Recoil

Here's the way they worked it. They used four heavy increments and two light increments with HE light ammo. That gave the added range without increasing the recoil beyond the safety limits prescribed by Ordnance. Or, in other words, the recoil was no greater than the normal recoil when four heavy increments are used with heavy ammo. "Remember this expedient only applies to light ammo," Lt. Cooper emphasizes. "You can't afford to allow the recoil to increase beyond the prescribed limit because you would not only wreck the gun but endanger the crews."

One day in Holland the platoon had an unusual opportunity to prove its ability to handle mortars in the form of a demonstration for a visiting general. The



Their job was to keep the bridge open—no Kraut could stop them. Panorama (above) shows the intact bridge and town.

demonstration, however, did have a useful purpose. It was to cover a patrol going out for prisoners and prisoners were needed badly at the time.

The patrol's objective was an enemy machine-gun position, which was covered by a platoon dug in about 100 yards away. The instructions were for the patrol to move in on the machine-gun position, following a mortar concentration, and get back with prisoners while the fire was being shifted to the platoon.

Heavy Concentration

The mortarmen laid down a four-minute concentration of 200 rounds on the machine-gun position. As soon as the fire was lifted and directed on the enemy platoon, the patrol rushed out, took three prisoners out of their holes and were back in seven minutes. They had found the machine-gun smashed up and resting against the side of a house.

Such proficiency requires plenty of practice and good teamwork. This

practice. It means that every man in each squad can fire, and when the going is tough the platoon can work in shifts."

In Holland, the platoon in several instances proved itself adept in using the 81-mm. mortar without base plate or bipod. That means firing without use of a sight and the gunner has got to be able to see his target. "My men have gotten on the target in two rounds at 200 yards," reports Lt. Cooper.

A gunner carrying a tube and two ammo carriers frequently went out with patrols and often the mortar was fired in this manner in close support of a company. "It's advisable to fire with no added increments when not using a base plate and bipod because, if the charge is too great, your tube might sink in the ground," cautions Sgt. Woltz.



Enemy Equipment Used

Extensive use of captured enemy equipment is SOP with airborne units because of the great difficulty of re-supplying them and the mortar platoon has had considerable experience with the Heinie mortar. They use the Heinie tube and base plate in order to make use of captured ammo and attack their own bipods and sights. "Be careful of that Kraut mortar ammo that has no caps though," cautions Sgt. Gilhooly.

This platoon has learned by long battle experience that effective firing depends a lot on the way you use and take care of your ammo. Cpl. Charles E. Johnson, of Belmar, N.J., a top-notch in precision firing, calls attention to the importance of putting the shell in the tube carefully. "Instead of just throwing the shell in, you should let it slide down easily and center itself," explains the corporal. "Put it in wobbly and it's apt to come out that way."

"We generally manage to get a dugout made for ammo storage when we're in a defensive position," says Lt. Soltanoff. "It's really not safe to fire ammo that's wet . . . too much risk of getting short rounds." Cautions Cpl. Johnson, "You've got to be careful of this new ammo because the increment come in cellophane wrappers and easily slide off."

platoon is strong on both. Now that they've proved themselves, these Joes are frank to admit that months of dry runs are paying off. In other words, they did master what was in the book before they tried their own variations.

The outfit is fortunate that its present first and second gunners have been together a fairly long time. "It should be so you can't get along without each other," says S/Sgt. John P. Jojola, of Isleta, New Mexico, a veteran of all four of the 82nd's missions.

The platoon has strengthened itself by a policy of giving its ammo carriers a chance to serve as gunners as often as possible. "After all, they are the ones who have to serve as gunners when we get casualties," says Lt. Edward Soltanoff of Newark, N.J., assistant platoon leader. "So, when in a defensive position, ammo carriers are given a chance to get some

Improvise Bore Cleaners

These mortarmen are just as fussy about the care of the weapon itself. The platoon often finds itself without bore cleaners but manages to keep the tubes in good firing condition by swabbing them with a gas-and-oil mix. "It's a damn good field expedient," says Lt. Cooper.

This platoon has proved conclusively that the mortar in the hands of expert gunners is an accurate weapon and can be used as artillery. It frequently fires from a map, especially in night actions.



Tanks Spearheaded the Ninth Army
When the Roer River Drive Was Started:
A Battle of Armor Developed and—

German Tigers Met Their Master

By Ed Wilcox
Warweek Staff Writer

GEREONSWELER, Germany, Dec. 8—The huge German tank you can see alongside the road about a kilometer from this little village is one of 67 wrecked Tigers and Tiger Royals, twisted and scarred, scattered along the roadways and in the muddy open fields in this area. This Nazi armor represents the pattern of defeat which came when the desperate Krauts, going all-out to stem the 9th Army advance into Germany, elected to pit Essen steel against Pittsburgh steel, German guts against American guts.

The remainder of the record 100 Nazi tanks which tangled with our army in a four-day pitched battle in knee-deep mud and a cold, steady rain, managed to escape and fall back along the Roer River. They were soundly beaten in their largest tank fight since D-Day.

This bitter defeat dealt the Krauts by crack tank, tank destroyer and artillery units of the will-o'-the-wisp 9th, was no hit-or-miss proposition. The unit commanders of the 9th planned this victory as thoroughly and matter-of-factly as they had planned similar operations in maneuvers and training back in the States. Two days before the battle, headquarters spent long hours studying reconnaissance reports gathered by armored cavalry, infantry and air-force men who had carefully plotted Jerry's positions.

A large table 16 feet square was built and filled with sand. On this a scale model of the entire area, topographically perfect, was constructed. The sand-table model showed where the seldom-seen German armor was hiding. It gave the tankers a preview of the sort of terrain they would be fighting over. For two nights every tanker down to the rank of sergeant fought the sand-table battle, maneuvering their armor against the German tanks like Gullivers in Lilliput.

On the first bleak morning of the four-day battle heavy Shermans rumbled and roared along the muddy country roads toward Puffendorf and Immendorf, two small German villages south of Gereonsweiler. With them went the hard-hitting crews manning the 76s, whose job is to knock out enemy panzers.

Tiger Royals Kayoed

They hadn't gone far along the road before they were momentarily halted by fire from German 88s, mounted on small tanks and dug into the soupy fields and roadsides. Systematically they were eliminated by our armor and artillery.

Then the show really got under way. The Krauts, tossing caution to the winds, counter-attacked near the small hamlet of Setterich. The Germans were playing their parts according to the script mapped on the sand-table in headquarters. When a score of assorted German Mark IV, V and VIs, along with several of the new Tiger Royals, came onto the scene, the reception was very warm.

Two of the Tiger Royals, which boast

a 22-foot barrel on the 88 mounted on the front of the tank, were knocked silly. Other lesser German tanks burned out as British "Crocodiles," supplementing our armored attack, slogged ahead with their flame throwers spitting fire in front of them. Panzer grenadiers, thrown in against our attack, fought from their fox-holes with small arms but threw in the sponge when they realized their predicament.

Maj. R. E. De Horn, Antigo, Wis., a staff officer of the crack armored Combat Command B, which took part in the clash, described it this way:

"It had been raining for three days

Several important things were learned in this armored engagement.

First, it helped convince Nazi commanders they are no match for our armor. Ninth Army tankmen, who know their business, say that in the future German panzer units will be used even more cautiously and sparingly than in the past.

The second observation is that, despite our superiority of firepower, weight of equipment and better planning, the German Army is not defeated. Not yet. Officers of the Ninth say the German Army still has fight and that interrogation of prisoners shows a toughening of morale, rather than a weakening. The Wehrmacht is still a force to be reckoned with.

Finally, the premier performance of the new super-tank—the Germans' highly-touted Tiger Royal—turned out to be no more potent than the ordinary Tiger. Except for the longer and more frightening barrel on the 88, it is the same, most of the men claim.

"We call the Tiger Royal the 'King Size' Tiger," one American said. "That barrel sticks out there like a little fat man smoking a Pall Mall."

without let up and the ground was very soggy, making maneuvering with armor almost impossible. We couldn't get full support of the air force either—the weather was too murky."

The major grinned and said, "Well, it wasn't exactly what you would call an ideal time for this sort of an operation. We put paddlefeet on the tank tracks and that made it a little easier to move around without getting bogged down in the soup."

The major said that the Germans had thrown in three panzer battalions and elements of another. They were supported by panzer grenadiers, who took it on the chin coming and going from our armor, our artillery, and at times, when the battle was at its peak, their own tanks.

"You never saw a sadder bunch than those panzer grenadiers we took prisoner," another officer said. "There they were stuck out there to stop our attack with only rifles, a few grenades and machine pistols. They were over-run. And the Jerries who were quartered



... the huge German tank ... is one of the wrecked Tigers, scattered along the road. . . "

in Setterich, Puffendorf, and Immendorf were so sure their armor would throw us out again that they just went to Gereonsweiler and settled down to sweat it out until the towns were in the their hands again. They were awfully surprised when we walked in and took them prisoner."

"Yes," the major added. "Those

It's a case of 16 German tanks south of this town, another engagement north of Setterich in which our TDs and tanks clash with a dozen or two other tanks.

"During the four days they lost plenty of armor—about two thirds of all they used. Part of it was knocked out by our tanks and TDs. When we were advancing the artillery laid down some of the most beautiful rolling barrages I have ever seen. Other German tracks and tanks were knocked out that way. The P47s were up there whenever the weather allowed and they poured it on the Kraut armor and grenadiers. And you can't say too much for the job our infantry did. Although this was mainly a problem of armor against armor, the infantry boys were in there pitching too with bazookas and harassing fire which helped account for a few more of their tanks."

Our Tanks Faster

"Don't sell their armor short," the major warned. "They have damned good tanks when they want to bring them out to fight. They are well armed with their 88s and machine-guns and the frontal armor is plenty thick—they can take a hell of a beating. But we can give a hell of a beating."

"Our tanks are faster and much more maneuverable—that really counted in this case where maneuvering was more difficult because of the soggy terrain. And our firepower outclassed theirs all the way."

Later that afternoon outside the CP you could see the heavy tanks rolling along, throwing bits of mud from their tracks as they moved through the slop and deeper into Germany. They were moving to new positions for new attacks made possible by the thumping given the German armor near Gereonsweiler.

Generals and colonels hesitate to commit themselves as to the shape of things to come. The only word from the commanders of the armored division, said in terse, straight-to-the-point language, is "The German armor has withdrawn to an area along the Roer River."

If you stopped just before coming to

the crossroads where the huge Shermans had pulled over onto the shoulder and the men were sitting atop the tanks and eating C-rations, you could get some pretty interesting views from the mud-covered tankers who fought the battle. They made predictions, too.

One sergeant when asked how the fight had gone, said, "Hell—we knocked them King-Size Tigers over just as easy as any other kind of Tiger. That long barrel on that 88 don't make that tank any harder to hit."

Reverse Desert Fighting

"We whacked him this time and we're going to give him a return engagement any time he wants it," a Pfc from New York City said. "Our biggest headache has always been finding them Krauts—once we find 'em we know how to handle 'em."

The rain continued to fall. Little rivulets ran along the roads and a small stream rushed along the ditches. In the fields you could see large ponds—growing larger. And the skies were still black and the forecast wasn't for improved weather.

"This is the pay-off," one tanker yelled. "We train for months for desert tank fighting and what do we get? A damned place where the weather is like the last reel in 'Hurricane.'"

"Happy bird bath!" another tanker yelled.

And as you get into the jeep to leave, being careful not to slide off the shoulder as you turn at the crossroads, you can hear the tankers yelling to each other as they eat their chow in the rain.

"Plowing through the muck and mire —," one man yelled.

A chorus answered, "H'ya Muck!"

The tanker shouted, "H'ya Meyer!"

You can't stop a rough and tumble, screwball bunch like those boys—not when they're looking for Jerry, not when they have their battles planned to the nth degree. And not when they realize that they're on the road to Berlin. It may be a muddy, rainy, shell-pocked road, but they can read the signs and they're plenty anxious to get there.



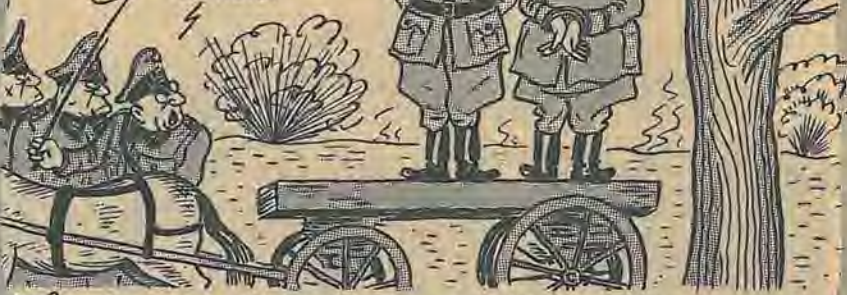
... Tiger Royals ... were knocked silly ... other lesser German tanks burned out. . . in the face of the blistering Allied attack. It was the showdown.

GI JERRY

by Lt. Dave Breger

Nazi Guide-Book
Part XXIII

A THOUSAND
PARDONS, YOUR
EXCELLENCIES, BUT WE
FEEL THE TIME HAS
COME FOR YOU
GENTLEMEN TO
SUPPORT EACH
OTHER!



"The bond uniting Hitler and Mussolini is an indissoluble one, and if at some time a situation is better for one and worse for the other, or vice versa, then one will always support the other."

ADOLF HITLER, FEB. 24, 1941

AT LAST, LUDWIG,
ONCE AGAIN LAUGHTER
RINGS THROUGH THE
FATHERLAND—NOW
THAT IT'S BEING
OVERRUN BY
HYENAS!



"At one time the Jews laughed at my prophecies in Germany. I am not so sure whether they are still laughing today, or whether they have not already forgotten how to laugh. I can only assure them they will forget how to laugh anywhere."

ADOLF HITLER, SEPT. 30, 1942

HE LIKES TO
MAKE A LITTLE
EXTRA MONEY IN
HIS SPARE TIME!



Adolf Schickelgruber
FORTUNES TOLD

"My Fuehrer! For years you have... made our people strong in their belief in the German future. Again and again you have given great prophecies... and today hardly anyone can deny that all your prophecies and forecasts have come true."

HERMANN GOERING, JULY 19, 1940

WE'VE DISCOVERED
THAT TOTAL LACK
OF EDUCATION
ISN'T TURNING
OUT SO WELL!



"The next war will require the highest degree of brutality. So the uneducated man will best be able to work the war machines."

"DEUTSCHE WEHR" (GERMAN OFFICER CORPS) AUG. 9, 1936

Days Before the Battle—Replacements Sweat

Foewise Casuals Give Their Tips,
But New Soldiers Always Worry:
Here a GI Reveals the Picture

I've only had a colonel speak to me twice since I have been in the Army. Once, when I was in basic back in the States, a colonel stopped me outside the PX and said: "Haven't you learned to salute a commissioned officer, soldier?" The second time was yesterday when Col. Corley, the Battalion Commander, called me in and talked to me for more than an hour.

The Battalion CP is in the basement of an old Jerry barracks and the building is pretty well wrecked. You walk down a flight of stone steps and you have to stoop when you walk through the passageway into the CP. The ceilings are low and, if you're not careful, you bump your head against the light as you walk into the room. There were a bunch of lieutenants, a major, and the colonel down there. The colonel is a young guy—maybe 30, and he asked me to have a seat. Said he thought maybe I could help him out on something. I began to sweat and tried to think what I had done wrong since I joined the outfit. But he didn't seem mad or anything—just friendly.

The Friendly Colonel

"Buddy," he said to me, "I think you can do me a big favor. I want you to take your time and tell me all about your army career. I want you to lay it right on the line, man-to-man, and tell me all of those things that have happened to you that you think are important. I want you to tell me what you did in basic, how long you've been in the army, how you came to join this outfit, how you like it here, and what you think could be done to help other guys along who are coming in the same way you did—as replacements."

I must have looked kind of surprised, because he stopped and laughed. He offered me a smoke and said, "That probably sounds screwy to you, but I want to know just exactly why you are a good soldier—how you got that way."

I could see he was on the level so I took one of his cigarettes and started to

talk, beginning with Omaha Beach. He sat there and listened to me like I was a colonel and he was a private—it was really somethin'. I started talking.

"We hit Omaha Beach on a Sunday afternoon. It was raining and the mud was ankle-deep all over the place. There were a few big tents scattered around the field, but mostly it was just mud and more mud. They told us to pitch our tents in the open field. I pitched mine with a kid from Chicago—fellow named Rogers. We both got wet as hell. You couldn't keep dry."

Casuals Knew Score

"What did you eat?" the Colonel asked.

"We had C-rations that night for supper. There was no bread and the guys gripped about that and about sleeping out in tents in all that rain and mud. One of the fellows said there was a Red Cross van and a movie in the next field. I didn't go and Rogers and I built a fire. Most of the men built fires and just sat around cursing and talking.

"A big number of these fellows were casuals—some of them had the Purple Heart and were out of the hospital and going back to their outfits. They seemed to know what the score was on everything and all of us new guys asked them questions and they gave us the dope on a lot of things—most of it the straight stuff.

"Back in the tent that night Rogers said he'd bet a lot of those casuals were just shooting the bull. He said that he'd bet lots of them never saw all they claimed they saw. But Rogers had to hand it to some of those boys. They told us about mines and booby traps—things we'd never heard before."

"When did you leave there for the next replacement pool?" the Colonel asked.

"We left there the next morning. We were alerted at 6 o'clock and then they kept us sitting around until noon before the trucks came. By that time everybody was sore as hell. Several of the guys said that this was the same old routine—chicken everywhere. Even overseas. While we were sweating out the trucks, the fellows talked about strikes back home and said John L. Lewis was the guy causing all the trouble."

"When did you arrive at the second camp?" the Colonel asked.

"We got in there at night and had to pitch tents at night—that burned us up all over again, after that long ride crowded into a GI truck. Quite a few of the fellows rolled up in their blankets and shelterhalves, put their raincoats over their heads, and slept like that. They served us coffee in the next field—but no chow. A radio was set up in the middle of the field and we stood in the rain, drank coffee, and listened to the programs.

"Rogers was all excited that night. Someone told him they had air-raids every few nights and strafed and bombed the

The second Colonel mentioned by the replacement whose story is told in this issue of Warweek is Lt. Col. J. T. Corley, Brooklyn, N.Y., commanding officer of the 2nd Battalion of the 26th Regiment, 1st Division. Recently Col. Corley called in a few of his men and talked with them, asking their opinions, backgrounds, ages and training.

"The average replacement we are getting now," Col. Corley said, "is a young fellow—usually in his early 20's. He is intelligent, very well trained, and he remembers the lessons of his training back in the States. He has come overseas instilled with plenty of discipline and snap—he follows orders well and isn't trying to goof off. My conclusion is that he has had excellent training in the States under returned veterans who realize the importance of sound basic lessons in combat."

place. A couple of the casuals said that it was just crap, but plenty of us were worried all night about that. That's the bad part—you never know what the score is and no one ever thinks to tell you. You just guess at everything and try to pick out the facts from the rumors. And you wait and wait some more for everything. It's tiresome as hell as a replacement."

"What did you do the next few days—did they have anything planned for you while you were there?" the Colonel asked.

"After breakfast the next morning—and breakfast was really good—we were given more cards to fill out and turn in to the sergeant. We filled out cards half of the time—the same ones over and over again and no one ever told us what the score was. They kept us fairly busy during the morning getting ready for an inspection just before chow. In the afternoon Rogers and I went over to a tent that was the recreation hall. We

played ping-pong, looked at a big war map, and wrote some letters.

"Quite a few of the casuals were getting tired of all the red tape concerned with getting back to their units. They didn't think they should go through the same routine that the new guys just over from the States go through. A couple of them talked about going AWOL for a few days to Le Mans—said there was plenty of liquor there, good-looking women, and not many MPs.

"Then we left there for Belgium and the trucks were more crowded than ever, and it was a long, hard ride. The guys all yelled at the French girls and made a lot of signs with their hands—dirty remarks, mostly, but the people were friendly anyhow.

"Rogers and all of the others who talked big back at the beach began to change when we got to the replacement area in Belgium. Rogers always said, 'Just give me a crack at those Jerry b...s!' but when he got to Belgium he really quieted down. You could hear the sound of artillery in the distance from there.

Sought Casuals' Advice

"Some of the replacements were really scared and they jumped every time they heard the guns pound. They talked about 'lambs being led to the slaughter' and finally one of the NCOs at the camp told them to quit crying—they were our guns.

"We zeroed in our rifles and we had a couple of short talks from two lieutenants who had been in action. But they didn't tell the infantry boys much because one was armored force and the other was an artillery officer. The replacements kept bothering the casuals with questions about how it feels to be wounded, if the Germans are really as tough as they're supposed to be, and what it's like up there. They asked the same questions over and over again. Everyone was pretty nervous, I guess, because we realized we were getting close to the front.

"And then the chaplain spoke to us and told us what we were up against. He was a regular guy—he didn't try to kid us about what it was like. He laid it right on the line. He told us some of us would get hurt, but that more of us wouldn't. He told us to keep our heads, listen to what we were told, and not to gripe about our jobs or home. He said there were too many oldtimers who wouldn't care to hear a newcomer gripe. He gave us all some damned good advice."

"What had happened to your friend Rogers? Was he in your group?" the Colonel asked, extending his cigarettes.

"Yes—Rogers was with me until we got the field train to go to our companies in the line. I couldn't understand why he was so nervous and jittery. Then

the next thing I knew, someone said Rogers had had an accident cleaning his rifle and shot himself in the foot. Then one of the officers told me that he had purposely shot himself. I guess that was the easy way out, but I'm glad I had the guts to stick it out."

"How did you react to your first crack at the enemy?" the Colonel asked.

"I was scared stiff—I guess we all are. One boy who came in with me killed three Germans in one night of street fighting and each time he cried like a baby. We were scared at first, but we got over that and we found out that if we remembered the simple things we were taught back in the States we'd come through all right."

"What would you say are the most important things a man must have in combat?" the Colonel asked.

"Plenty of practise firing the rifle—that's tops in importance. And he must learn to do exactly what his NCOs and his officers tell him to do. And he must keep his head and not go trigger-happy. The most important thing is his rifle, though—unless he can use his weapon and use it right, he's out of luck with Jerry—he doesn't give you any Maggie's Drawers."

The Colonel stood up and stepped on his cigarette. "What do you think could be done to improve the replacement system?—what do you think are the main faults?"

I thought that over. I thought of all the long hours spent waiting and wondering.

Rumor-Mongers

"The biggest thing would be to give the men something to occupy their time—let them fire their weapons or listen to lectures from some of the casuals, the guys who know the score. Too much of the time the replacements are completely in the dark about actual combat. They don't know what's happening and it worries them. If they were told a few facts about these things it would cut down the damage and worry caused by rumors and a lot of guys spreading the wrong dope."

Well, the Colonel stood there and thanked me over and over for helping him out. I couldn't figure what I had done that was such a big help, but he seemed real pleased. When I was ready to go, he shook hands with me and told me to keep up the good work.

I only had a colonel speak to me twice since I been in the Army. The first time was for not saluting back in the States and the second time was when Colonel Corley called me in for a private conference about the war. There is a CO that is a CO, buddy.

Once Over Lightly

By Andy Rooney

NEW YORK, Dec. 8—Golf balls are not a common subject for newspaper articles, but there are pieces on golf balls in many of the nation's papers today, and if the subject is not common they give it the common treatment.

Two million Golf Balls for GIs; None For The Public.

That is the way papers all over the country headlined the sports story and proceeded from there to pat all America on the back for the job they are doing, sacrificing for "our boys."

We have few points to make, but that is one. We don't know where the two million golf balls went, probably the same place the turkey for every mess kit on Thanksgiving Day goes, but it is damn sure they don't get up around Aachen or Metz, or even Bedford or Norwich. You see very few golf balls in Germany these days—not even many soldiers who brought clubs.

The point is, and it's well to get it over with quick because no one reading this is likely to be able to do anything about it, the American public is being fed the idea all soldiers have turkey three times a day with midnight snacks Thanksgiving and Christmas and that all retire to the golf course for recreation after the day's work in the tanks, bombers and pillboxes. An intelligent reader could get the truth but the newspaper manner of presentation makes it too easy to get the wrong idea of the average soldier's life.

That may not have much to do with a sports column but we thought it only sporting to tell you that you might as well be prepared to lie like hell when you get home because you are going to have to rearrange the average American's impression of war with the papers' better plan to add rather than subtract.

MINOR LEAGUE NOTES: Burleigh Grimes, former Dodger manager released by Toronto at the end of last season, was named manager of Rochester. . . . Ival Goodman has succeeded Jimmy Fox as manager of Portsmouth in the Piedmont League. Fox will act as coaching coach of the Cub farm teams. . . . Rogers Hornsby is dickered not only for the manager-ship of the Minneapolis Millers but represents a syndicate interested in the purchase of the ball club. . . . The American Association, in a separate meeting, voted to tear up its contract with President George Trautman, which had one year remaining, and granted him a new three-year document. . . . Lou Boudreau, Cleveland manager, conferred at length with Jimmy Dykes of the White Sox, but no trades were announced.

Nelson's Hot 66 Leads Play in Oakland Open

OAKLAND, Cal., Dec. 8—Byron Nelson, the nation's leading golfer, shot a sensational 66 over the par-70 Sequoyal Country Club course yesterday to grab the opening round lead in the \$7,500 Oakland open.

Byron finished off his great round by canning a 30-footer for an eagle-three on the par-five 18th hole and threw in three birdies besides the eagle in shooting his 33—33. Tied for second were Denny Shute, of Akron, Jug McSpaden, of Philadelphia, Harold Sampson, of San Francisco, and Mark Fry, home club pro, with 68s.

Minors Increase Player Ante

BUFFALO, N.Y., Dec. 8—Minor league moguls meeting here let it be known yesterday that from here on in they are going to get everything that's coming to them. They voted to increase the draft price paid to minor league teams by big league clubs by one-third and also put practically prohibitive financial conditions on major league club owners.

American Assoc. Retains Shaughnessy Playoffs

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 8—The American Association board of directors has voted to keep in effect the Shaughnessy playoff system, in which the team winning the pennant plays a series with the third place team while the second and fourth place teams are playing.

Next year, as in the past, the winners of the two series will play for the league championship, the winner of which plays in the Little World Series against the survivor of similar playoffs in the International League.

Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, The Stars and Stripes, 37, Upper Brook St., London, W1, or APO 813, U.S. Army. Telephone U.K. Base HQ, Ext. 2131.

APOs Wanted

SGT. Ann Mae ROELLARD; Michael J. SCHRAMM, Chicago; Don STRATTON, Grand Rapids; S/Sgt. Jim A. STALKER, Atlanta, Ga.; Henry and Vernon SPROWL; Pvt. Vincent (Bob) SORRENTINO; Lt. SLOUGH, Idaho; Lt. Arline SMITH, Fort Worth, Texas; WAC Elaine SUTHERLAND, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.; Lt. Mary Holt SMITH, ANC, Mt. Vernon, N.Y.; Pvt. Justine WILLIAMSON, Pikeville, Ky.; Sgt. Perry W. WRIGHT, Covington, Va.; T/Sgt. Earl E. WHITESELL; Sgt. Herman WEISSER, Long Beach, Cal.

College Reunion

Reunion dinner will be held at No. 3 Grosvenor Square Club tonight for former students of New York U. and Columbia U., at 6:30 PM.

Pacific Vets Hit the Tape

With the Jap lines a few miles away, these veterans are shown at the finish of the 100-yard dash event in the Southwest Pacific. Left to right are: Pfc Al Manfino, Chicago; Pvt. Eugene Goetz, Moscow, Idaho; an unidentified Infantryman, and Pfc Jim Hanley, San Diego.

Keystone Photo



Davis, Blanchard Fail to Make Grade on Rice's All-America

NEW YORK, Dec. 8—Grantland Rice, the dean of American sports writers and sports editor of The Stars and Stripes in the last war, came out with his annual All-American football team in Colliers Magazine yesterday and tossed his mostest and bestest adjectives in the direction of the Army, Navy and Ohio State.

The popular dean of scribes named two men from each of the country's three top teams on his select list, one of the most representative yet picked, and was in agreement with the majority of U.S. sports writers on such choices as Navy's Tackle Don Whitmire and Halfback Bob Jenkins, and Ohio State's Les Horvath.

Wings Triumph As Fans Doze

NEW YORK, Dec. 8—The Detroit Red Wings made two quick goals in the second period to gain a 3-2 victory over

Hockey League Standings

	W	L	T	P		W	L	T	P
Montreal	11	4	1	23	Boston	6	8	1	13
Toronto	10	5	0	20	New York	2	8	3	7
Detroit	8	4	2	18	Chicago	2	10	1	3

the New York Rangers last night in one of the duller hockey games ever seen in New York.

After scoring their third goal before five minutes had elapsed in the middle stanza the Wings concentrated on a stiff defense and bored 15,000 customers stiff. Murray Armstrong, Carl Liscombe and Mud Bruneteau tallied in that order for the Wings, while Ott Heller and Grant Warwick scored for the Rangers.

Basketball Results

Syracuse 47, Cortland 29
Terre Haute T'ch's. 46, Eastern Ill. T'ch's. 36

War Dept. Ban Hits Randolph

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8—The War Department announced today the cancellation of all post-season football games either scheduled or contemplated involving Army Air Force teams with the exception of the Bond Bowl game at the Polo Grounds in New York Dec. 16 between the Randolph Field Fliers and the Second Air Force Superbombers.

Foremost on the cancelled list was the projected appearance of Randolph Field in the Houston Oil Bowl Jan. 1. The decision also affected the proposed appearance of the Second Air Force in the Sun Bowl at El Paso New Year's Day.

The Navy Department previously had forbidden its teams to play post-season games.

Big Ten Czar Dead



Maj. John L. Griffith, 64, commissioner of athletics for the Western Conference died Thursday, apparently of a heart attack, shortly after being elected for another five-year term at a meeting of conference athletic officials. Maj. Griffith had presided at the afternoon session and went to his office in the Sherman Hotel preparatory to attending a meeting at the University Club. He first became connected with the conference in 1922.

Army Eleven Wins Lambert Trophy

NEW YORK, Dec. 8—Honors continue to be heaped upon the great Army football team which waded through its season to nine straight victories. Latest good news for the Cadets at West Point is that they have been awarded the Lambert Trophy, emblematic of eastern gridiron supremacy.

Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune



Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features



Eagles, Maulers Meet Tomorrow At White City

By Ray Lee

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

Tomorrow's grid contest between the 94th Bomb Group Fighting Eagles of the Eighth Air Force and the 12th Replacement Depot Moore's Maulers, the first of three to be held at White City Stadium in December, promises to outshine the one-sided Army-Navy game of Nov. 12.

Should Old Sol give his blessings, it probably will turn out one of the biggest aerial battles of the season with End Dick Deems, of Cleveland, and John Carroll College aiming for scoring honors for the Eagles and Quarterback Pvt. Russell Spicer, of Maplewood, N.J., and End T/5 Vernon Newton, USC freshman from Los Angeles, forming the passing threat for the Maulers. The lateral and razzle-dazzle combination of the Maulers—Spicer and T/5 Vincent Domino, diminutive halfback from Clifton, N.J.—also will be praying for dry weather.

If the usual English weather prevails, GI bookies undoubtedly will place the odds on the Maulers, who have one of the best forward walls seen this season and a real wet-weather scoring threat in line plunging S/Sgt. Orman Fortier, husky fullback from the University of New Hampshire and Guilford, Me.

The game, sponsored by the U.K. Central District Special Services and ARC, will get under way at 2:15 PM with no admission price charged. Fighting Eagle fans are asked to use gate No. 5, while gate 22 has been reserved for Mauler followers.

Here are the starting lineups:

MAULERS	POS	EAGLES
Newton	LE	Deems
Denwoodie	LT	Kastanos
Reed	LG	Bedner
Lugachick	C	Weisberg
Leskowski	RG	Moore
Rohlen	RT	Cicchillo
Capullo	RE	Zapata
Spicer	QB	Kuzick
Domino	RH	Wchde
Troilo	LH	Kane
Fortier	FB	Wilkinson

Four Giant Players Picked by Scribes On UP All-Pro Team

CHICAGO, Dec. 8—The New York Giants, with Fullback Billy Paschal unanimous choice leading the way, placed four men on the United Press 1944 All-America professional football team today.

For the first time since 1940 eastern clubs dominated the selections which usually show a preponderance of westerners led by the Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers.

The team: Ends—Hutson, Green Bay, Aguirre, Washington; Tackles—Cope, New York, Wistert, Philadelphia; Guards—Matheson, Cleveland, Younce, New York; Center—Turner, Chicago; Quarterback—Zimmerman, Philadelphia; Halfbacks—Sinkwich, Detroit, Cuff, New York; Fullback—Paschal, New York.

N.C. Seeks Snavelly; Irish Sign McKeever

NEW YORK, Dec. 8—One rumor regarding the switching of an outstanding football coach has been squashed and another revived. Notre Dame's Ed McKeever, who had been reported headed for Fordham, announced that he had signed to return to Notre Dame next year, and Carl Snavelly of Cornell added substance to the story that he will take over the grid team at North Carolina next year by stating that he will visit Chapel Hill shortly to consult with Tarnel athletic officials.

Prompted by the Fordham rumors, McKeever stated at Rochester, N.Y., "Those reports are erroneous. I signed a contract Monday to continue at Notre Dame."

Authorities at Cornell are known to be anxious to keep Snavelly, whose contract ran out this year, but North Carolina, anxious to get back into football's top drawer, is reported ready to hand him a contract calling for \$12,000 per year, about \$3,500 more than the Cornell budget calls for.

By Chester Gould

By Al Capp

Life in Those United States

Smokeless Seamen Balk, Hold Ships in U.S. Ports

BOSTON, Dec. 8 (ANS)—The cigarette shortage has delayed the departure of some vessels, principally those in the coast-wise coal-carrying trade, Harrington Pike, port representative for the Recruitment and Manning Division of the War Shipping Association, disclosed today.

Pike said that "numbers of merchant seamen have refused to sail until assured of 'adequate' supplies of smokes."

"You can't expect a man to go to sea without cigarettes," was the universal complaint, Pike said, pointing out that men could not purchase smokes after they once left port. He added that he had "asked Washington" to try to do something to alleviate the situation.

In some instances, Pike said, ships have been held up two to three days because the men couldn't buy cigarettes in town.

Hot Blowout

CHARLOTTE, N.C., Dec. 8 (ANS)—Fire apparatus swarmed to the town's main corner where smoke shot up from a parked truck. A husky firefighter lifted the hood, took one look at the flames and after playing around with the carburetor, bent over and—pouf—blew out the blaze.

Back Home

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Dec. 8—Moving into a new residence, Charles Granderson yesterday discovered clothes which were stolen last week from his own home hanging neatly in the closet.

Off the Line

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 8—The traveler jumped off the inter-city bus and asked the first man he saw: "Where's Woodward Ave.?" "Never heard of it," was the answer. "Why, it's the town's main street. I'm in Detroit, aren't I?" "Nope," came the reply, "this is Kansas City."

Pop Bottle

CHICAGO, Dec. 8—When a burglar entered the drugstore of George Haering, 82, the latter popped the intruder on the head with a bottle. Later Haering told police: "I'm too old to be afraid of anybody."

The Voice of U.S. Women Answers Wary Britons

HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 8 (AP)—Newspaper reporter Angela Wall struck back today at two British sailors, one of whom told her Wednesday that he hesitated becoming engaged to an American girl because of the "ghastly American food and beer," while the other called U.S. women "pushful."

On the Britisher's outspoken dislike for cold American beer, Miss Wall said: "I don't drink it, hot or cold. But hot beer sounds revolting."

As for "pushful" girls, Miss Wall said they were trying only to be nice to the visitors and the marriage of American men and English girls in Britain was "just a matter of geography." English girls, she added, "haven't anything American girls don't have. But they have it in England."

Dorsey Case Dismissed

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 8 (ANS)—The case against Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Dorsey (she's the beautiful Pat Dane of the films) in which the pair had been accused of slashing off a piece of actor Jon Hall's nose in a balcony party last August, was dismissed in District Court today. Everyone, including Hall, who said he wasn't interested in prosecuting the Dorseys, thus was made happy. The trial had been in session nearly a month.



PAT DANE

97 Promotions OK'd

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (ANS)—The Senate yesterday confirmed the promotions of 97 officers, headed by William D. Styer, who was deputy chief of the Army Service Forces, elevated to the rank of lieutenant general. Twenty-three others were named major generals, 13 others brigadier generals.

Cook's Mixture

SEATTLE, Dec. 8 (ANS)—Police have arrested a cook who confessed to extracurricular activities. Working at night, he stole a five-room house piece by piece and set it up on another lot.

Ex-Governor Dies

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 8 (ANS)—Ex-Gov. A. O. Eberhart, 74, died yesterday following a 10-day illness.

Two Surprises, Each a Sure Prize

CHICAGO, Dec. 8 (ANS)—Sgt. George Simon, anxious to surprise his wife Jewell, said nothing about the furlough he was to get for 29 months' service in Africa, Italy and France.

Mrs. Simon, meantime, apparently convinced she wouldn't see her husband until the end of the war, also planned a surprise—she joined the WAC without telling Simon.

Both succeeded in their surprises. Simon arrived here just in time to see his wife leave for training at Fort Des Moines, Ia.

Turnabout

KANSAS CITY, Kan., Dec. 8 (ANS)—Billy Turney, 11, decided he'd do something about "silly girls" who dress in boys' clothes. He showed up at school in skirt, blouse, hair ribbons and everything else the lady wears. The girls took one look at Billy—and giggled.

Win, Show or Place

BOSTON, Dec. 8—Charles Polley purchased three corsets at an auction sale, all different sizes, figuring they'd fit either his wife, mother, mother-in-law or sister.

Gives His Country Gobs of Lip Service

LANSING, Mich., Dec. 8 (ANS)—Home on his first leave in three years, the sailor told some of his pals about a few of the places where he kissed women during his absence:

- 1—In the shadow of the Egyptian pyramids while aback a camel.
- 2—Beneath Big Ben in London.
- 3—On the beach in Normandy.
- 4—On a bench in the park across from the White House.
- 5—In the Leaning Tower of Pisa.

Sleepless Seep

SEATTLE, Dec. 8 (ANS)—Mosquitoes are pestering firemen, after seeping water in a basement settled in the station's elevator shaft. The firefighters sleep under mosquito netting.

Incubator Pays Off

CHICAGO, Dec. 8 (ANS)—Elizabeth Ann Laughner, 18, a freshman now at Wittenberg College in Springfield, Ohio, and an incubator baby at birth, yesterday was one of two girls named as the country's healthiest 4-H club members.

Confession

BOISE, Idaho, Dec. 8 (ANS)—"If they really are pretty hats," Judge Charles F. Koelsch ruled, "the women in the jury box may keep their hats on." After the noon recess, the one woman juror showed up . . . hatless.

Kaisers Honor Grannies

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 8 (ANS)—Seventy-three grandmothers who roll out ships at Henry Kaiser's Swansland shipyard here were toasted yesterday by their boss at a special luncheon.

Fliers Delirious About A26

By Earl Mazo

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

AN A26 INVADER BASE, Dec. 8—The second new American aircraft to become operational in the ETO since D-Day—the Douglas A26 Invader—combines almost all the best features of its predecessors.

Although most of the "hot dope" on the Invader is still secret, it may be revealed that this new medium and low-altitude bomber, powered by two 2,000-horsepower Pratt-Whitney engines, carries more bombs economically over a greater distance and can fire more guns per crew member than any other American aircraft in the war against Germany.

This week, on a mission to Germany in Charlie McGlohn's Invader, Miss-

Sippy, I saw a formation of A26s literally whizz in to their target, bomb and return in a fraction of the time it would take other bombers.

McGlohn, a lieutenant from Gulfport, Miss., who did 60 missions in A20 Havocs before switching to Invaders, said, "It's a dream plane."

Former A20 ground crewmen like T/Sgt. Royal S. Events, of Southport, Conn., swears by his new charge.

Several times on the mission, McGlohn twisted something or produced another of the A26 tricks, then he would turn around and grin and say over the intercom, "Wonderful, ain't she?"

The A26, like the other since-D-Day plane in the ETO, the P61 Black Widow, is a war baby born of a lot of bitter lessons learned the hard way by Allied airmen since the Battle of Britain.

Soldiers Pep Up Workers



Here are five of the 27 American soldiers sent home from the Western Front by Gen. Eisenhower to stimulate ammunition production. They are shown chatting with Undersecretary of War Robert P. Patterson (third from left) at the Pentagon building. From left: Sgt. Edward T. Bearden, Waco, Tex.; Sgt. Richard O. Vanderbloemen, De Pere, Wis.; Pfc Vincent J. Romano, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Sgt. Alvin Jankowski, Chicago, and Sgt. Clarence Alexis, Falconer.

Tattered Scarecrows at Brussels

Bare Escape of 7 U.S. Fliers From Reich-Bound Train

By Roger Greene

Associated Press Correspondent

BRUSSELS, Sept. 6 (delayed by censor)—In the luxurious lobby of the Metropole Hotel, seven unshaven American airmen in tattered scarecrow garb told today how they escaped from a troop-jammed German train transporting them to Germany when British soldiers arrived in Brussels.

"On the train we escaped from, the morning after Brussels fell, there were 43 Allied airmen who had been captured in Belgium when their planes were shot down," said Lt. Theodore Kleinman.

"We were jammed in an empty baggage compartment 20 feet long, with nothing to sit on and only three small windows open for ventilation. We were kept there from Saturday morning until Monday, and were given only a third of a loaf of German black bread, and once got a small sausage so sour and mouldy it made us retch. We were given no water."

"We had been in St. Giles prison in Brussels since we were captured—some of us nearly a year ago," related Lt. William Grosvenor, whose plane hit a telegraph pole while he was strafing locomotives in Belgium on Nov. 30, 1943.

"In prison we got the same fare as the German troops—soup and stew once a day—you could taste some kind of meat in it but never see it—and black bread. We slept on straw-filled bags full of flies and lice. There was no soap. We were allowed to bathe once a month."

The train on which they were being sent to Germany was derailed by Belgian partisans, and the car in which they were imprisoned was returned to the rail yard on the eastern outskirts of Brussels. As their German guards dozed, they managed to slip away to meet again in Brussels at an agreed rendezvous.

2 GIs Charged In Death of Briton

Pvt. George E. Smith Jr., of Pittsburgh, has been charged with the murder Sunday near Norfolk of Sir Eric Teichman, former British embassy councillor in Chungking, and Pvt. Leonard S. Wojtacha, of Detroit, has been charged with being an accessory to the crime.

The two soldiers will be tried by a U.S. Army court-martial. Under American military law, one of two sentences—death or life imprisonment—is mandatory.

The men were arrested after joint investigation by U.S. military police and civil police authorities.

Bomb Jap Burma Base On Pearl Harbor Day

TENTH AF HQ, Myitkyina, Burma, Dec. 8 (AP)—A little "party" was held yesterday to commemorate Pearl Harbor. Led by Maj. Gen. Howard Davidson, who was at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the Fighting Crow Squadron flew 63 sorties in their P47s and dropped 30 tons of bombs on the Jap supply base at Male—a target saved for the occasion.

Terry and the Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate



Expect 15 Pct. Gain in Output In December

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8—A 15 per cent increase in U.S. war production is expected this month, J.A. Krug, chairman of the War Production Board, said yesterday.

Krug told the Senate War Investigating Committee that no single factor was responsible for the production lag in 1944, but that 40 per cent might be accounted for by the increased military demands, 26 per cent as a result of changes in design, and 22 per cent because of manpower shortages.

Krug announced that planes accepted in November totaled 6,747, approximately 300 below schedule. Unfavorable weather for testing, loss of production on Thanksgiving Day, design changes and new models contributed to the below-schedule production, he said.

Superfortress production, Krug said, exceeded schedule slightly, but he added that the schedule was roughly 20 per cent below the number desired by the Army Air Forces.

Production of long-range transports was particularly disappointing, while three Navy types missed schedules by wide margins, the WPB chief said.

Back Churchill On Greece

(Continued from page 1)

arms, the Pierlot government in Belgium. He explained that armed intervention there had come directly on Gen. Eisenhower's orders, which Churchill deemed "absolutely right," that all Belgian civilians be disarmed.

Churchill denied any attempt to veto Count Carlo Sforza's appointment as prime minister or foreign secretary in Italy, saying that if the Italians were to name him "we have no power to stop it, except with the agreement of the Allies."

"All that we should have to say about it," he said, "is that we do not trust the man . . . nor would we put the slightest confidence in any government in which he is a dominating member."

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8 (AP)—An "understanding" has been reached between the U.S. and Britain on the Greek and Italian situations, Lord Halifax, British ambassador, disclosed today after he had conferred with Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr.

Tire Crisis Impairing Push, Lee Believes

Stars and Stripes Paris Bureau

PARIS, Dec. 8—Current operations in Germany by the 12th Army Group were reported hampered because of a critical tire shortage, Lt. Gen. John C. H. Lee, Com Z chief, disclosed today.

Lee based his information on a cable received from Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, he disclosed, urging immediate action to relieve the tire shortage.

The Eighth Air Force, Lee announced, has reported that its tempo of bombing of Germany may be slowed down unless sufficient tires can be released to keep trucks laden with bombs moving to planes.

Faenza Outflanked

Faenza was outflanked last night by British Eighth Army troops, who succeeded in pushing the bridgehead west of the Lamone River five miles deep, the Associated Press reported from Rome.

Birds That Prey on Tokyo



This picture just released shows a group of seven visible B29 Superfortresses over the Mariana Islands. From Saipan in the Marianas these giant bombers and others have bombed industrial targets in Tokyo.

By Milton Caniff