

- THUNDERBOLT - TIMES

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ARMY DISCHARGE SCORE LOWERED

The War Department yesterday announced changes in discharge requirements effective January First. Enlisted men will be eligible for discharge who have more than three and one-half years honorable service or 50 points or more. Officers, excepting the Medical Corps, must have four years' service or 70 points. The discharge point score for WACs remains unchanged. However, an enlisted WAC having two and one-half years of service, or an officer with three years, three months are also eligible.

NAZI BROWN SHIRTS CONDEMNED

Numberless bloody conspiracies were charged yesterday by the U. S. prosecution to Hitler's brown shirt organization. If it can be shown that the unit was criminal, thousands of its members in U. S. hands would be faced with severe punishments. It was shown how, in two-day anti semitic outbreak, one brigade of the semi-military organization had destroyed 35 Jewish synagogues. It was the third nazi organization to be specifically charged with being criminal in nature and intent. Remaining yet are the Elite troops, Gestapo, and high command.

CHINA WAITS MARSHALL'S ARRIVAL

Chiang Kai Shek, leader of China, and his wife arrived yesterday at Nanking, China's pre-war capital. They were driven out in 1937 by the advance of the Japanese Army. Chungking reports say that the Generalissimo will meet the new American Ambassador, General George C. Marshall, in Nanking today. Marshall was yesterday reported in Manila.

Meanwhile, in Washington it was announced that Lt. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer, U. S. commander in China, had been directed to transport Chinese Nationalist troops to Manchuria when he deemed it necessary. This directive applies only to Manchuria, however, the State Department said. Nationalist forces may be moved to North China by the U. S. only if such action is approved by General Marshall.

RENNER TO BE PRESIDENT

Both chambers of the Austrian parliament will meet today to elect democrat Doctor Karl Renner, chancellor of the provisional government, as President of Austria. All parties have agreed on this choice, and he will name a new government immediately after he is elected. The Allied Council in Austria Tuesday issued a communique approving the revised list of the Austrian cabinet prepared by Doctor Leopold Figl, chancellor-designate. Austria's first free parliament since 1933 met yesterday in the lower chamber house where parliament used to meet under the Habsburgs. The chamber used between 1918 and 1933 has been almost totally destroyed by bombs and shells.

BRITISH-FRENCH PLAN WITHDRAWAL

The withdrawal of British and French troops from Syria "is to proceed simultaneously on a proportionate basis" under the terms of last week's Anglo-French agreement on the Levant, it was reported yesterday in London. The agreement has not yet been made public, but its terms were clarified by official quarters. The strength of the British forces in Syria exceeds that of the French forces. The first step will probably be the withdrawal from Syria of a quarter of the troops of either nation.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN CALLS FOR MERGER OF ARMY AND NAVY

The Chief Executive climaxed the long bitter war of words between the Army and Navy when he told congressional leaders that he wants a law passed to combine our armed forces into a single Department of National Defense. And he asked the Navy to cease further studies of the problem by saying that such studies would serve no useful purpose. In a 6,000-word special message to Congress, the President said creation of a single Department of National Defense is the best way for America to keep the peace. He coupled his recommendation with an urgent plea that legislation providing for compulsory military training be passed at the earliest possible date. He said this training is necessary to provide a reserve upon which the U. S. could draw if it should become necessary. Concerning the military training bill which Congress has stalemated, the President said, "A grave responsibility will rest upon Congress if it continues to delay this most important and urgent measure."

New Cabinet Head

If the President's recommendation should be passed, there would be a single Department of National Defense. This department would be made up of three co-ordinated branches — one for the Army, one for the Navy and one for the Air Force. Each of these three branches would have equal status. Heading the entire set-up would be a civilian cabinet member. This cabinet member would be known as the Secretary of National Defense. Under him there would be a rotating military Chief of Staff for the entire department. There also would be a civilian assistant secretary and a military commander for each of the three component arms. At the very top, as now, would be the Commander-in-Chief, the President of the United States. The Chief of Staff and the three commanders would serve as an advisory body to the Secretary of National Defense and to the President. To ensure efficient fleet operations, the Navy would retain water-based aviation. The Marine Corps also would remain part of the Navy. The Coast Guard would be continued under the Treasury Department, as in peacetime.

JEWISH SABBATH EVE

Jewish sabbath eve services will be held Friday at 1900 at the new synagogue and Hospitality Center, 26 Bethlehemstraße, Linz.



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President Gives Reasons

President Truman's blueprint for the Army-Navy merger overruled the Navy's proposal for separate services and followed closely the organizational lines recommended by the War Department. There already are bills in Congress to put the Army plan into effect. Mr. Truman gave nine arguments why the War and Navy Departments should be merged. Here are those arguments, in his own words. "First, we should have integrated strategic plans and a unified military program and budget. Second, we should realize the economy that can be achieved through unified control of supply and service functions. Third, we should adopt the organizational structure best suited for fostering co-ordination between the military and the rest of the Government. Fourth, we should provide the strongest means for civilian control of the military. Fifth we should organize to provide parity for air power. Sixth, we should establish the most advantageous framework for a unified system of training for combined operations on land, sea and air. Seventh, we should allocate systematically our limited resources for scientific research. Eighth, we should have unity of command in outlying bases."

Isolationists Attacked

The President's message took a poke at isolationists as people who are anxious to forget all about the war and the unpleasant factors necessary to prevent future wars. He told them "Whether we like it or not, we must all recognize that the victory which we have won has placed upon the American people the continuing burden of responsibility for world leadership." He stressed that we want peace, but must have strength to discourage any future aggression.

LINZ LEAGUE RESULTS

1347 Engrs-45	25 Reg Co-30
83rd QM-92	465 Gp-23
83rd Brig-46	83rd Sig-24
83rd Hq-41	Atnang RTO-31

TODAY'S CAGE SCHEDULE

At 1800 83rd Brig	vs 83rd Hq Co
1915 1347 Engr	vs 83rd QM
2030 117 Evac	vs 83rd Sig

HELP WANTED

The Linz Red Cross will entertain about 3,000 local children on the afternoon of Dez. 24th, and they need about 150 soldiers to help out. If interested, let the Red Cross know.

HOMMA PLEADS NOT GUILTY

Lieut. Gen. Masaharu Homma, Japanese scholar, poet and former commander of Japanese forces in the Philippines, facing a charge of being responsible for the infamous "Bataan Death March" in 1942, entered a plea of not guilty yesterday in Manila. Homma addressed the court in perfect English, which he learned during the years he spent in Britain. It was agreed that the trial to open Jan. 3 should be conducted in English, in contrast to the score of dialects used at the trial of Gen. Yamashita who was granted a stay of execution this week by the U. S. Supreme Court. Allied headquarters in Tokyo announced 42 counts are listed in the charges against Homma, including the air bombing of the open city of Manila shortly before the Japanese captured it in 1942.

REPORTS OF JAP REPARATIONS

The interim report on Japanese industries, to be destroyed, or removed as reparations, was presented to President Truman Tuesday by Edwin S. Pauley, U. S. representative on reparations, recently returned to Washington from Japan. Pauley termed the report "a survey of Japanese war potentials that can be easily removed." He declared the final report, expected within about three months, would be adopted after consultations with the other nations concerned and would contain more details. No money estimate is given in the interim report, he stated. In addition to enumerating the steel plants, aircraft factories, munitions and chemical plants to be removed or destroyed in Japan, the report also lists Japanese assets in gold and foreign holdings. Pauley said that although Soviet Russia was not represented on the far east advisory commission, the interim plan would be submitted to her for consideration.

UNO SEEKS OWN RADIO STATION

The technical advisory committee on information recommended to the UNO Preparatory Commission in London that UNO should have its own radio station and department of public information. The Committee believes that UNO cannot achieve the purposes for which it was created unless the people of the world are kept fully informed on its work. The Committee proposed that the UNO radio station might be used as a center for national broadcasting systems which desire to co-operate in international fields.

The Bretton Woods Monetary Agreement has been approved by the House of Lords and sent to the King for his signature. Acceptance of this is a condition of the loan agreement reached last week in Washington In Heidelberg, Gen. Patton continues to maintain a slow steady improvement. His general condition is described as excellent

TODAY'S ENTERTAINMENT

Central — 1310, 1815, 2015 — "Guest Wife," with Don Ameche and Claudette Colbert (Thu. and Fri).

Cleveland — 1315, 1815, 2015 — "Bewitched," with Edmund Quenn and Phyllis Thaxter (last day today).

Volks (Steyr) — "Twice Blessed," with Preston Foster and Gail Patrick (last day today).

Hollywood (Wels) — "Hollywood," with Bad Abbott and Lou Costello (last day today).

Chattanooga (Gmunden) — "Dangerous Partners," with James Craig and Signe Hasso (last day today).

Music Hall (Ried) — "I Love a Bandleader," with James Craig and Rochester (last day today).

Linz Red Cross — Club hours 1400-2230. Doughnut bar opens 1030. Bridge Club tonight 7:30.