

Man Spricht Deutsch
Stillgestanden.
Stillgestunden.
Stand still.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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

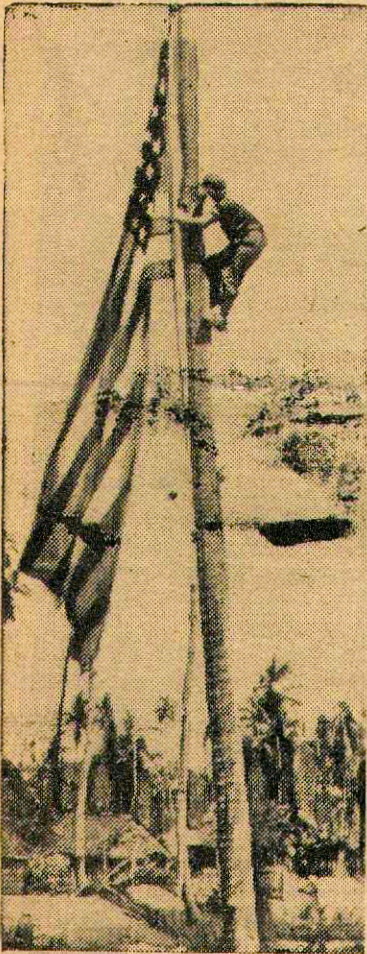
Ici On Parle Français
Je cherche des bibelots.
Juh chayrsh day beeb-LOW.
I am looking for knick-knacks.

Vol. 1—No. 141

1 Fr. New York — PARIS — London 1 Fr.

Friday, Dec. 15, 1944

Back Again



The Stars and Stripes waves again in the Philippines, signifying the virtual occupation of Leyte insured this week when American troops captured Ormoc, the Japs' last supply outlet for their forces trapped on the island.

Lupe Velez, 30, Is Found Dead

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau
LOS ANGELES, Dec. 14.—The coroner's office here revealed that Lupe Velez, the Mexican motion-picture actress, was found dead early today in her Beverly Hills home. Coroner Frank Nance quoted police as saying the actress had apparently taken an overdose of sleeping powders.

The 30-year-old "Mexican Spitfire" was well known for her tempestuousness on and off the screen. It was revealed that she had broken off her latest romance—with French actor Harold Ramond—five days ago.

The United Press reported a note, addressed to her secretary, found beside her body, said, in part, "You alone know the facts and the reason why I'm taking my own life. Forgive me and don't think badly of me. I love you, mammy, so take care of mother. And so goodbye and try to forgive me."

S & S Sunday Edition To Start This Week

Starting tomorrow, The Stars and Stripes will publish an eight-page Sunday edition in addition to the regular weekday issues. The Stars and Stripes circulation men are hereby notified to be on the alert to collect and distribute the Sunday paper in the usual way.

Hodges Men Move to Outflank Roer; Siam Hit as Japs Gird for Air Siege

Admit Cities Face Blows on Scale Of Reich

NEW YORK, Dec. 14 (ANS)—As the increasingly powerful American aerial attacks on Japan's industrial centers passed the sixth straight day, Tokyo radio admitted today that Nippon's cities were being prepared to face prospects of aerial damage comparable to that of Germany.

Even as the Tokyo broadcaster promised the Japanese people that "the nation would take up the fight with all dogged courage," a sizable formation of superfortresses based in India was hammering at targets in Thailand (Siam), keystone of Japan's land-supply lines from Malaya to China and the homeland.

Meanwhile, 21st Bomber Command headquarters on Saipan said yesterday's B29 raid on Nagoya, on Honshu Island, was the heaviest ever hurled against the Jap mainland.

Many Fires Started

Reconnaissance photos showed 40 direct hits on Mitsubishi aircraft assembly plants besides evidence that at least 35 fires had been started in the area. Hamamatsu, on Honshu, less than 50 miles from Tokyo, also was bombed by a small force of B29s.

Meanwhile in the southwest Pacific, as Gen. MacArthur's ground forces began mopping-up operations on Leyte, Lt. Gen. George C. Kenny, Allied air chief in that area, announced that Japan is losing planes at the rate of about 33-1 in aerial combat over the Philippine area.

Gen. Kenny called the 49th Fighter Group in that area "one of the hottest air units in history."

A Pearl Harbor dispatch today announced that Adm. Chester Nimitz, American naval commander in the Pacific had concluded conferences with Army and Navy commanders in Alaska, indicating that the Japs may soon expect attacks also from the North Pacific.

Rocket Ships Aided Invasion

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Rocket ships, one of the most secret of naval weapons, played a large part in the shattering of German defenses along European beaches.

This was disclosed today in a Navy report on the use of rockets in the Atlantic and Pacific. It followed the announcement that production of rockets will be increased nearly 300 percent immediately. The November output of rockets was 262 percent above June figures, a WPB spokesman said, describing this as "the example of examples" of ever-changing demands.

Large landing ships designed originally to carry tanks to enemy beaches were converted secretly last winter into rocket-firing craft, the Navy disclosed. Moving ahead of first waves of landing craft, they worked with battleships, cruisers and destroyers in the bombardment which preceded landings.

The Office of War Information reported recently that the Navy soon will be spending \$100,000,000 monthly on rocket ammunition. Each rocket craft carries hundreds of missiles fired electrically.

The rockets speed toward beaches in overlapping salvos and "eliminate virtually all secondary fortifications, including mines, wire, machine-gun nests, shallow pillboxes, and will temporarily stun men in larger fortifications," the Navy said.

Nazis Hit Camouflage Peak With 'Manure Pile' Pillbox

By Earl Mazo

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 90th DIV. IN GERMANY, Dec. 14.—The Germans reached the acme in camouflage on dozens of pillboxes in and around the Siegfried Line industrial city of Dillingen.

Huge strongpoints, with between three and four stories for the comfort of the soldiers who manned them, were set

up to look like newsstands, tobacco shops, barns, houses and pillboxes. One of those knocked out by men of the 358th was camouflaged as a manure pile.

S/Sgt. Sam Carvalli, of St. Louis, had been fighting with his infantry company without mishap since D-plus-two. On the second day of the Dillingen crossing of the Saar he disappeared and the other doughs of D bemoaned the fact that "Lucky Sam got it." Three days later he and his machine-gun platoon turned up unscratched. In that time they had been hemmed in and cut off by six German tanks and had lived on captured German jam and pickles. They returned to their lines with three prisoners.

Maj. William T. Wallace, of Landsdown, Pa., Second Bn., 358th,

(Continued on Page 8)

ELAS Resumes Athens Battle

ATHENS, Dec. 14 (UP)—ELAS forces resumed the shelling of central Athens this afternoon, breaking a lull during which reports circulated that peace negotiations were about to end an eleven-day battle.

(Meanwhile, in Washington, Senator Harley Kilgore (D-W.Va.) lashed at the Churchill government policy, according to the Associated Press. He said that EAM represents a coalition, not the Communists. The British people are not fooled by Churchill's charges and his anti-EAM policy, Kilgore said.)

Fort Driant—the 'Gateway to Hell'

By Allan Morrison

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE FIFTH INFANTRY DIVISION INSIDE FORT DRIANT, Southwest of Metz, Dec. 14.—At 1545 hours on Thursday the curtain was rung down on the battle drama of this fantastic fortress built deep into high ground southwest of Metz, but the 73-day siege will go down in the campaign records as a grim, weird, bloody business.

Commanding several important approaches to Metz and overlooking the west bank of the Moselle from an 1,800-foot height, it was once considered the "key to Metz." Doughboys who had to storm its yellowed battlements cursed it as a "gateway to hell."

When siege operations began, infantry units assigned to shaking the defenders from their rocky roost were dug in in the mud of the wooded country to the west, sweating out sporadic artillery barrages from the Metz forts facing their positions.

Before the first unsuccessful attack was mounted on Sept. 27, little was known of the fort's inner defenses beyond meager data obtained from aerial photos and some reconnaissance. These revealed that Driant was surrounded by a double-aproned barbed-wire fence in which were interlaced other wire obstacles. Behind this was a moated ditch and then an incline strewn with more barbed wire, leading to the fort itself.

Following the first attack, air and artillery directed on Driant in an attempt to soften it up for the infantry. Fighter-bombers dropped 1,000 and 500-pounders and artillery hurled in stuff ranging from 105s to 240-hows. The effect of all this was imperceptible. PWs have since stated that the first bombardments merely made them "curious."

The thicknesses of Driant's walls and roof defied the efforts of U.S. artillerymen to blast cracks in the

(Continued on Page 2)

83rd Div. Launches Drive Along River From Monschau

Men of the 83rd Div. in the First Army yesterday stabbed 3,000 yards to the Gerzenich suburb of Duren, Roer River industrial stronghold, as the First Army's southern wing, swinging east of the Roer in the Monschau Forest, where the river curves into Belgium, hammered the south flank of the German lines on the Cologne plain.

Except for two pockets stubbornly holding out at Pier and Marieweiler, north of Duren, Hodges' men gripped the Roer's western bank from the industrial city's suburb five miles northward to Schophoven, whose defenses caved in yesterday.

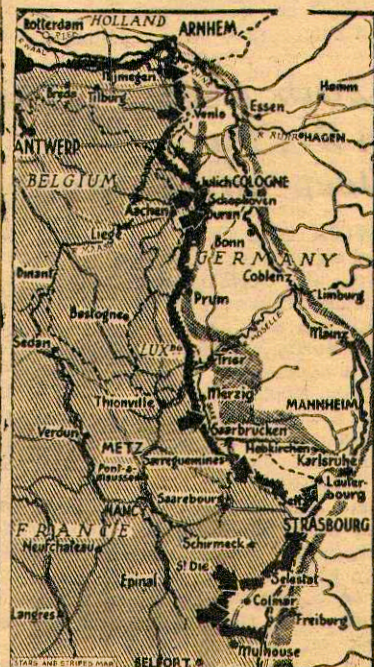
Mass South of River

For weeks, Hodges had forces south of the town of Monschau below the Roer. The river begins in Belgium and flows eastward into Germany past Monschau. It turns north, widening as it runs past Duren, Julich and Linnich, where both First and Ninth Army forces hold its west bank. Then it curves to the west to join the River Maas in Holland.

The forces at Monschau waited as the northern elements of the First Army attacked toward the river in the Duren sector. When the northern forces smashed up to the Roer, the forces in the south attacked Wednesday.

They launched two assaults. One moved northeast of Monschau on the west bank and took the

(Continued on Page 8)



Seventh Army's drive across the Vosges has virtually sealed off the Germans in the Rhineland and except for pockets in the Colmar and southern Vosges sectors has liberated all but a narrow strip of Eastern France.

Foe's Railways Pounded Daily By Air Forces

LONDON, Dec. 14 (UP).—Concentrating on Germany's railroad lines leading to the Western Front, British-based RAF and Eighth Air Force bombers have dropped an estimated nearly 40,000 tons—an average of over 3,000 tons daily—on the Reich in the first 12 days of December, in keeping with Gen. Eaker's pledge of "increased blows this winter."

Heavies have systematically hammered key rail points throughout western Germany, with at least 26 different places attacked so far this month. Meanwhile reconnaissance showed Fortresses and Liberators severely damaged four railroad yards in yesterday's operation and that there was a log-jam of traffic at all four points.

Reconnaissance photos, made possible by more favorable weather conditions, were the most concrete evidence of the punishment the heavies have been dealing rail targets in the recent campaign to stop Germany's oil, still high on the bombers' priority list, and a number of fuel targets have been attacked so far this month.

20,000,000 Lose Homes

It is reliably estimated that some 20,000,000 persons either are homeless or have been evacuated from bombed-out areas.

The most severe blows have been directed at Friesland and Westphalia, where it is estimated some 5,000,000 persons were bombed out of their homes. Recapitulation of damage to cities shows that Berlin is reported to be about 60 percent destroyed, with roughly three-and-a-half million persons homeless. In middle and northern Germany cities largely destroyed include Hamburg, Hanover, Bremen, Kassel, Wilhelmshaven, Wesermuende, Emden, Brunswick and Oldenburg.

Partially destroyed cities include Magdeburg, Dessau, Merseburg, Osch, Rhleben, Jena, Halberstadt, and Weimar, while severe damage has been inflicted to Kiel, Huedeck, Tilsit, Rostock, Stettin. In southwest Germany great destruction has been inflicted on Mannheim, Frankfurt, Karlsruhe, Mainz, Stuttgart, Ludwigshafen, Darmstadt, Schweinfurt, Offenbach and Freiburg, and in southern Germany on Munich, Nuremberg, Regensburg.

In addition to these places, there are also many small towns where factories are located which have been bombed and heavily damaged.

320th Regt Joes, In Big Push, Grab Sleep on the Run

WITH THE 35TH INF. DIV.—Mud for mattresses, rain water for sheets and German bullets zinging lullabies—that's how men of the 320th Inf. Reg caught up on their sleep during the first days of their big, muddy push.

"You wouldn't believe it unless you saw it," said Lt. Larry D. Gilbertson, of Black River Falls, Wis., "but many of our men were so exhausted that every time the attack was held up by enemy fire they would fall asleep in the mud with bullets and shrapnel whining over them and all around them. When a German strongpoint was wiped out, we'd awaken them, push on farther. Pinned down again, once more they'd go to sleep."

"We were so tired we couldn't keep awake," said Pfc. Paul W. Wagner, of Bridgeton, N.J. "We had hiked all night in the mud with full packs to get to the jumping-off point."

New Chief of 5th



Lt. Gen. Lucien K. Truscott has taken over command of the Allied Fifth Army now fighting in northwestern Italy, succeeding Lt. Gen. Mark Clark, who has been given a higher command in the Mediterranean.

Canadians of 8th Strike For Lamone Valley Heart

ALLIED HQ., Italy, Dec. 14. — Canadian troops of the Eighth Army, pushing on in sleet and hail through the breach they made in the Germans' Lamone River defenses tonight were fanning out over flat farmlands toward the heart of the Lamone Valley.

Supported by tanks, the Canadians met stiff opposition from German positions as they drove to Vecchio de Cantrigo. Forward patrols were reported near Bagna Cavallo.

Further north at Mezzano the troops crossed flooded waters of the Lamone River and cut the Ravenna-Ferrara highway at a point northwest of Mezzano.

State to Control French Mines

The Provisional French Government yesterday drew up procedure for running the nation's coal mines after adopting decrees which bring all mines under state control.

Black-Market Offenses Draw Stiff Sentences

Stiff sentences are being handed out for black-market offenses, particularly those involving theft of army gasoline. Judge Advocate's authority yesterday. French police are co-operating with the Provost Marshal's office in its drive against illegal sales of U.S. goods.

Theft of gasoline is being construed as a treasonable act tending to interfere with the war effort, and one life sentence already has been imposed in France, subject to review, authorities in Paris said. Gas sales have drawn 30-year terms, and ten-year terms for sales of cigarettes and other goods are not improbable.

Recover U.S. Gasoline

Over 1,000 gallons of gasoline were returned to army depots during the first week of December, Lt. Col. K. G. Pavay, Deputy Provost Marshal, said. A special brigade of Paris police, made more than 100 civilian arrests in one day, picking up American cigarettes, candy and other army goods, Col. Pavay said.

Last week at Mantes, the colonel said, the CID recovered 41,300 packages of cigarettes from a stolen truck.

Black-market operations are usually of two types—the individual soldier selling his own goods, and the gang type operation, the provost office reported. In the latter, four or five soldiers, usually AWOL and dressed in civvies, work together obtaining and selling supplies.

GI Made U.S. Citizen In Paris Ceremony

Nicaraguan-born Pvt. Ramon C. Lacayo, of San Francisco, became a U.S. citizen yesterday in the first ceremony of its kind to be held in the reopened American Embassy in Paris. Vice-Consul Cyrus B. Follmer administered the oath.

Lacayo is an MP, in a 9th AF fighter-bomber group.

One Remedy for an Aching Back



Stars and Stripes Photo by Riordan

Allied bombing destroyed the Kaiserbath Hotel which once drew Europeans to Aachen to cure their rheumatism, but enough of the hotel's hot sulphur bath-house was left to make Pvt. William Jerebek, of Chicago, happy. Here the MP who is assigned to police German civilians is shown treating his "aching back" to hot springs luxury.

Home GIs Get Air Lift

ATLANTA, Dec. 14 (ANS). Airline service for military personnel to lighten the burden on civilian travel facilities started last week in the Fourth Service Command. Fifteen passenger planes will fly two of eight basic routes in the Southeast each week and will be authorized to make side trips wherever necessary.

Cleveland Gets New Ore

CLEVELAND, Dec. 14 (ANS) — The freighter Pontiac, with 12,500 tons of Canadian iron ore, brought the first ore cargo that ever came into Cleveland from anywhere except northwestern Great Lakes states. The ore was from the newly developed Steep Rock district of Canada, 140 miles west of Port Arthur, Ont.

How GIs Tore the Hinges off 'Gateway to Hell'

(Continued from Page 1)

casemates large enough for the placing of TNT charges by comat engineers and infantrymen. There were four casemates, each housing three 105 artillery pieces and their crews, and these were protected by some 10 feet of concrete sheathed in an 8-inch steel layer. Direct fire from M10 TDs and Sherman medium tanks mounting 76s ricocheted and bounced away like tennis balls.

When it was found that our 8-inch guns scarcely dented the casemates, the commander of "Task Force Driant" later estimated that 15-inch guns would be required.

Cut Wire Barrier

The biggest attack took place Oct. 3. Elements of the 11th Regiment of the Fifth Division jumped off at noon with some tank support. The tank towed "snake" demolition charges.

The barbed-wire barrier was immediately breached by HE direct fire from the Shermans and the infantry poured through the gap under intense enemy fire, bypassed several pillboxes in the fort area and moved toward their goals.

Here the fighting became truly weird. There were quick, surprising encounters with Germans above and below ground. They popped up out of bunkers and holes, fired at Yanks and scrambled out of sight.

The barbed wire was always a problem. One doughboy with a

flamethrower strapped to his back, became entangled in it and was killed by MG fire while he was hung up on it.

While rifle squads attacked the two main artillery shelters that were being used by the Germans as barracks, one pillbox was stormed and prisoners were taken. One was a recent graduate of the Metz OCS.

These barracks were two-story affairs with the top story level with the ground. Point-blank 76mm and 105mm. U.S. fire from 30 yards only chipped the concrete.

Pfc Robert W. Holmlund, member of an infantry squad attacking one of the barracks, climbed up on to the roof, shoved Bangalore torpedoes down a ventilator shaft and set them off. They exploded down in the basement.

"I could hear them swearing and

trampling over one another trying to get out," he said.

From Oct. 3 to Oct. 6, attackers and defenders fought back and forth across the top of the fortress, inside the shelters and in the tunnels. German artillery from Fort Jeanne d'Arc and other forts played on the fort area, causing casualties among the attacking force. Several of the Yanks got down into one of the tunnels and groped their way along it blindly shouting their names to identify themselves to comrades at other entrances.

The serious American situation on the fort was tersely described in an urgent message sent out by the company commanders Oct. 5: "The situation is critical. We have no men and our equipment is all shot up. Another counter-attack and we are sunk. The enemy's artillery is

butchering these troops until we have nothing left to hold with. We cannot get out to get our wounded and there are a hell of a lot of dead and missing."

The following day the force in Driant's ditches and barracks was relieved by a battalion of the 10th Regiment. The fight went on.

The "battle of the tunnel" was a saga in itself. One tunnel was entered by doughboys feeling their way through the blackness. "Beehive" charges were placed and electrically detonated by the engineers.

Live Like Moles

The men in the tunnel lived and worked like moles with modern equipment. Acetylene torches were brought into use to cut through steel doors and piled-up metal debris in the corridors. Demolition explosions reverberated through the subterranean chambers. Men became seriously sick from carbide fumes and had to be taken out.

On Oct. 10 the commanding generals of Third Army, XX Corps and the Fifth Division halted the operations against Driant to avoid "unnecessary loss of life" and the troops came down from the fortress.

American troops went back into Driant last Thursday and Lt. Col. Richter's garrison of 650 officers and men came out. Charred U.S. tanks on the fort site and American graves nearby told mutely of the long, hard, costly fight.

'Jeep Mat' Conquers Mud

THE nearest thing to a plush carpet on the Western Front—a "jeep mat" improvised by U.S. Army Engineers—is being unrolled today to keep Allied vehicles rolling through the mud into Nazi Germany.

Designed by Capt. William Jarrett, of Philadelphia, to provide new routes through the Siegfried Line, the mats are being staked down on old back trails through the heavily-wooded areas of the German border country.

The new "jeep mat" roads augment key traffic lanes which are subject to frequent harassing by enemy mortars and artillery. Their main use has been for transportation of supplies and evacuation of wounded.

The mats, eight feet square are constructed by interlocking three-inch saplings with No. 10 wire. They are rolled into bundles for easy handling.

Dates With GIs To Get Holland Girls in Dutch

A distinct and growing movement, backed by church officials, to prevent Dutch girls from associating with American troops in the Maestricht area of Holland has come to a head with the appearance of unsigned posters warning that girls seen in the company of GIs would have their heads shaved as did women who collaborated with the Nazis, according to a dispatch from John M. Mecklin, Chicago Sun correspondent of Maestricht.

An American Civil Affairs officer who found one of the posters on a store tore it off and went inside, the dispatch said. When he came out ten minutes later an identical poster had been tacked in its place. Others appeared on public bulletin boards and on walls of buildings at busy corners.

Yanks Irritated

The campaign, Mecklin reported, started soon after Maestricht was taken by the Americans Sept. 14. It has spread through most of the liberated sections populated largely by Roman Catholic Dutch. It is definitely affecting the attitude of many girls toward Allied soldiers and is creating fierce resentment among Yanks, the Sun reporter said.

Dutch liaison officers attached to Civil Affairs said people are being exhorted almost daily from pulpits of local churches to keep their daughters away from Americans. The local newspaper Veritas has published editorials supporting the position.

The argument is admittedly based on the fear that many girls who fall in love with Yanks will be disappointed when war moves on and they are left behind.

The church also claims there would be an increase in illegitimacy and venereal disease if Dutch girls yield to "temptations of Americans' chocolate and cigarettes."

'Grenade Hill' Hero Honored

WITH THE SECOND ARMORED DIV. IN GERMANY, Dec. 14.—In a brief ceremony, interrupted by the scream of Nazi artillery, Capt. Thomas F. Carothers, of Fort Mill, S.C., the "Hero of Hand Grenade Hill," was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by Maj. Gen. Ernest N. Harmon.

Capt. Carothers and his armored infantry company, armed with sandbags filled with hand grenades, tossed the grenades from their foxholes for five days and nights to hold a bit of high ground commanding a potential German escape route.

The company held the hill until support came up and knocked out the German threat.

U.S. General Knocks At Namesake's Door

WITH THE 29th DIVISION BEFORE JULICH, Dec. 14 (UP).—Another Gerhardt stands before the Roman-founded city of Julich, which was ruled in the tenth century by Duke Gerhardt.

He is Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gerhardt, commander of the 29th Inf. Div., whose military might would have awed his medieval namesake.

Said the modern Gerhardt as the 29th kicked off to spearhead the U.S. Ninth Army drive to the Roer River:

"We gotta get the hell on down there."

Hands Across the Sea and Under the Table



A strictly non-GI evening in a strictly GI Belgian beer garden eases the strain of war for these soldiers on pass "somewhere in Belgium." Reversing Army tradition, a pair of GIs and their Belgian dates (above, right) happily discover that their "club" is off limits to officers. Inside the cafe, they find that hand-holding mixes well with Belgian beer (above). Then, of course, at the end of the evening, there are the inevitable goodbyes in the inevitable manner (right).

Talk in Siegfried Line 'Cafe' Dwells On Paris Gals' Legs

By Jimmy Cannon

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

INSIDE THE SIEGFRIED LINE WITH FOURTH INF. DIV.—In Red Top's Café all you heard was a shuddering thud when a shell hit close by. The somber cabaret is the CP of a company in the forests of the Schnee Eifel mountains. It is a dynamite-cracked bunker on a ridge in the Siegfried Line and is named for Capt. William M. Marsden, of Crewe, Va., the red-headed company commander.

They were in the orderly room sweating out machine-gun fire. They talked away the lonesomeness by pretending they were going to a dance in the States. It was Saturday night and they made believe there was no war. They wrangled for half an hour about whose turn it was to buy the liquor. They never named the town but this dance they were going to was in a lot of towns. It was in the home town of every guy there.

They wore out the talk of the dance and they talked about the legs of the girls of Paris. They all agreed they had legs like stake horse and their hair was the most beautiful in the world if you liked hair that way, stiff and gleaming and high. They drank hot chocolate from crushed tropical bars and water they heated on a captured German stove.

1/Sgt. Sam Norris, who comes from Greenville, S.C., was jiggling a grenade in his hand the way a pitcher does when he shakes off

the catcher's sign and waits for another one.

"You bucking for a Purple Heart?" asked S/Sgt. Ray Dempsey, whose nickname is Amphibious.

He pulled the pin out. They all rushed for the narrow bunker door. They waited outside in the cold fog and returned when they didn't hear the explosion.

"What you guys shagging tail out of here for?" Sam asked. "All the powder was out of that thing."

The CQ went to the phone and listened and then he said: "That machine-gun fire was ours. A Jerry patrol came up on our left flank and we chased them out."

The shelling went on and the talk and the day came to banish the night from the world. It was a quiet night.

Nazis Sacrifice Five Tanks In Suicide Defense of Town

WITH THE FOURTH ARMORED DIV.—The Germans sacrificed five Panther tanks in a suicidal defense before they gave up Guebli g. The town, softened by a fierce armored attack, finally fell to infantry of the Third Army.

The five enemy tanks were cut off by a belt of mines and their only retreat bridge was blown up. Then they were smashed by tanks under Lt. Col. Arthur West, of Stillwater, Okla. Artillery fire was directed by 1/Lt. Harley Merrick, Richmond, Cal., Cub observation pilot.

2/Lt. Edward T. Clarke, of Cliffside, N.J., and five men were riding a Sherman when it was hit. They

Battle School For Engineers

The first U.S. Army Engineer Bridge School in the Western Front battle area soon will be in operation in the Oise section, training officers and NCOs from newly-arrived combat engineer units.

Before being sent to the front, the engineers will be taught the latest German strategy.

Instructors will include men with actual front-line experience, West Point graduates and specialists from the engineer school at Fort Belvoir, Va. All the instructors will make periodic visits to the front to keep abreast of the latest improvements in bridge-building methods.

Pre-Dawn Trip Across the Saar Nets 1 Bridge

WITH 95th INF. DIV., Germany, Dec. 14.—Crossing a major German defense river is a slick trick in itself, but when you bag an undamaged bridge to boot, without a casualty, it's a commander's dream job. The Victory Division's First Bn., 379th Inf., did just that at Saarlautern.

Beating the sunrise guns by three hours, the men, under Lt. Col. Tobias Philbin, of Clinton, Mass., hopped the Saar River and secured the bridge's northern end before the Germans came to at daylight. The bridge connected two sections of Saarlautern. By forging this pre-dawn bridgehead, the First Bn. focused the whole Third Army drive into the Saar basin.

Stealth Complete

Complete surprise and deadly commando skill were the chief weapons when the first assault wave stormed across under the leadership of Col. Philbin. Stealth was so complete that the Americans drew no fire until they neared the bridge.

An unarmed Jerry, hands in pockets, drooped casually at the street side as the column skulked by. He sputtered some English and was taken in hand. A radio operator in an armored car was blood-and-gutted with a bayonet when he refused to emerge. A third Heinie was winged by Col. Philbin himself as he dashed for the demolition switch just five feet away.

Overpower Guards

The assault men surprised and silenced the Nazis guarding the bridge and then ran for the span, where they were joined by the first platoon of C Co., 320th Eng. On the span they found four 500-pound aerial bombs—calling cards of American planes—which the Krauts apparently had hoped to throw back at the 95th.

Machine-gun fire began and stymied further checks for explosives, but the assault force justified itself by preventing German attempts to blow the bridge. Jerry engineers who were captured said that 95th Div. artillery had kayoed generators set for demolition.

It wasn't until two days later that Jerry fire slackened enough to enable a closer check for demolitions. Besides the bombs, they found that everybody had been crossing the bridge over 6,400 pounds of eggshells—dynamite and TNT. The Nazis had sunk the demos into the piers, like a devilish dentist filling a monster's teeth.

S/Sgt. Who Won Congress Medal Now a Lieutenant

Walter D. Ehlers, of Manhattan, Kans., who won the Congressional Medal of Honor for his actions June 9 and 10 in Normandy, has been promoted from staff sergeant to second lieutenant. Ehlers received his commission December 9 and presentation of the award was made this week by Lt. Gen. John C. H. Lee.

Lt. Ehlers, 23, won his country's highest award for assaulting and silencing two machine-guns and two mortars, killing 18 Germans, and carrying a wounded BAR man to safety. He is a member of the 18th Inf., First Div.

Goggin Gets Around

A NINTH HAVOC BASE, Dec. 14.—T/Sgt. Joseph P. Goggin, A20 gunner, has flown 37 missions. He flew his first 12 with the Italian-based 15th Air Force, his next dozen with the Eighth and 13 more with the Ninth.

This Was America Yesterday:

Love's Fire Lights a Desire For Cigarettes, Says Expert

By Joe Fleming

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The U.S. Senate can't figure out the smoke shortage, but Dr. Ernest A. Hooton, Harvard anthropologist, is the boy who can do it. Here it is:

"The boys in foxholes are nervous and miserable and want girls. Since they can't get them, they smoke cigarettes. The girls at home with their virtue unendangered are nervous and miserable and want boys. Since they can't get them they smoke cigarettes."

So it's not a shortage at all, it's an over-consumption—about like those over-under-sideways production explanations of a few years ago when you still couldn't find two bits for two packs.

Ernie Pyle, at least, is in the mode. That statue of Ernie by Max Kalish, slated for unveiling in Washington's Smithsonian Museum, shows the columnist wearing combat jacket, standing in the mud with the infantry and—like his favorite doughfeet—rolling his own. Query: Where did the sculptor get the plaster of Paris makings? Or ANY makings?

YESTERDAY this department stirred up a threatened meat strike in New York, and today solves it. It was discovered that some 25,000 lbs. of buffalo meat arrived in New York and will take the place of Christmas turkey. The shipment, sold point free, came from Montana and will be delivered dressed by S. Schweitzer & Sons. . . . which supports a prediction for the smokeless ETO. . . . maybe we'll be happy this Yuletide with buffalo instead of potato chips.

And watch the Fords go by. . . . they'll be little jobs, priced 15 to 20 percent below the lowest priced pre-war models, according to Henry Ford II, grandson of Henry. Fords will go over from bombing planes to autos immediately after. . . . well, immediately after.

WORKERS in non-war jobs are doing more job-changing than war workers, according to the War Manpower Commission. In every thousand, 60 to 70 quit non-war jobs each month; only 40 to 50 per thousand quit war production jobs.

THE scheduled blow-off in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee over Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr.'s new assistants failed to materialize. The committee had returned names of some of them for "study." Nelson Rockefeller, for instance, might be too close to Wall Street and Poet Archibald MacLeish too poetic, too left-wing, they said. One Senator at Thursday's hearing frankly said he couldn't get Archibald's poetry.



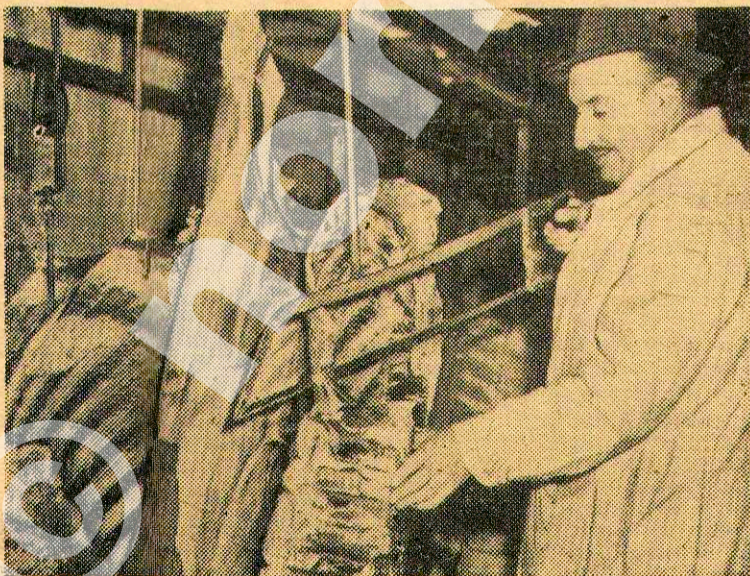
Joseph Grew

But there were no loud objections as Secretary Stettinius paraded his boys before the senatorial COs, led by Joseph C. Grew, ex-ambassador to Japan. Grew, who came home from Tokyo confirmed in his dislike of Japs, will have the most important post—he's next to Stettinius as under-secretary. Other assistant secretaries before the committee were Brig Gen. Julius C. Holmes and James C. Dunn.

Senatorial approval of the whole Stettinius TO was expected by week's end. He has declared for a liberal foreign policy and firm peace along lines already indicated by the President.

Along the nations Broadways and Main Streets movie houses are showing "Hollywood Canteen"—"All Hollywood's Heart in it and 62 Hollywood Stars." Mickey Rooney is in the saddle, with John Wayne and Ella Raines, in "Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo," with Spencer Tracy. The next Andy Hardy picture will be called "Andy Hardy Goes to War". . . . so at last they got Andy! WACs needn't worry, though. . . . by the time it reaches here he'll be back in civvies.

THE Chicago story: Sgt. George Simon wanted to surprise his wife, Jewell, so he didn't write her he had won a furlough as a reward for 21 months' service in Africa, Italy and France. Mrs. Simon, apparently convinced she wouldn't see her husband until the end of the war, also planned a surprise—she joined the WAC without telling him. Simon arrived home just in time to put her on the train for Fort Des Moines, Iowa, where she's taking basic.



Ration-free buffalo meat shipped from Montana may be served by many families back home for Christmas dinner. Here, Sam Schweitzer, a New Jersey marketer, carves a piece from one carcass.

WD to Check On Discharge Of Celebrities

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—Nationally-known figures, principally those in professional athletics, may have more difficulty gaining discharges from the Army in the future, the Associated Press reported today.

Criticism over the release of stars in athletics, stage, screen and radio has been such that the War Department has initiated a policy which requires all such cases to be given special examination by the War Department. Previously, a commanding officer had authority to approve the discharge of anyone under his command.

The War Department said that criticism which led to the new policy had been aimed chiefly at sports figures who received discharges, principally medical, but who proved physically able to return to strenuous athletic competition.

Maj. Jack Holt Discharged

CAMP BEALE, Calif., Dec. 14 (ANS).—Maj. Jack Holt, veteran movie actor who spent the last two years in the Army Quartermaster Corps at Ft. Reno, Okla., received an honorable discharge here today. Holt said that he planned to resume motion-picture work.

Bill Would Give President Raise

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (ANS).—Congressman Carl Vinson, (D-Ga.) today introduced a bill to increase the salary of the President from \$75,000 to \$100,000 a year and to give substantial salary increases to Cabinet members and members of Congress.

Vinson, chairman of the House Naval Affairs Committee, said that the presidency is the highest and most important job in the nation, but "the salary is less than the income of Frank Sinatra."

Because of federal taxes, he said, the President's salary is only a net \$27,000 at the end of the year. Salaries of all high-ranking government officials have been similarly hit, he said.

Vinson's bill would increase salaries of the Vice-President, Speaker of the House of Representatives and Cabinet members from \$15,000 to \$25,000 a year, and salaries of Senators and House members from \$10,000 to \$15,000.

700-Mile-Per-Hour Planes Predicted

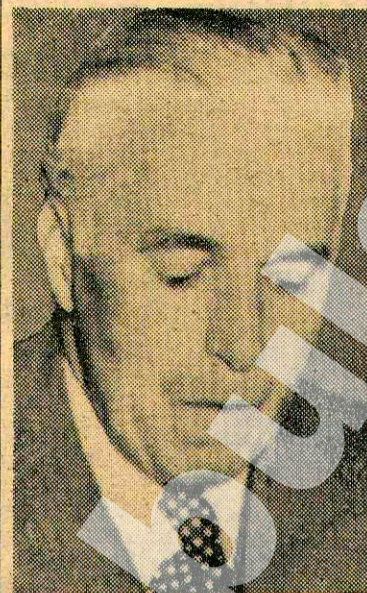
WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (ANS).—Fighter planes with top speeds of more than 700 miles an hour—almost the speed of sound—will be in service in the near future, Rear Admiral Dewitt C. Ramsey, U.S. Navy Bureau of Aeronautics chief, reported to the House Naval Affairs Committee today.

The highest operational speed of Navy fighter planes is around 400 miles an hour although some approached the speed of sound in dives.

In a report on Naval aviation from July, 1940, to October, 1944, Ramsey said it is anticipated that in the near future top speeds of fighter aircraft in service will approach sonic range and be accompanied by further marked increases in rates of climb and service ceilings.

He said multi-engined patrol planes now are being developed to carry increased loads at nearly twice the speed of present day patrol boats.

Back in Court



CHARLES CHAPLIN

same role; another trial. . .

Joan Berry's Lawyer Calls 'Deal' to Drop Suit 'Cockeyed'

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 14 (ANS).—Neither red-haired Joan Berry nor silver-thatched Charles Chaplin appeared in court today when the first round of the new battle over the paternity of Miss Berry's 14-month-old daughter, Carol Ann, began.

A new quarrel over bloodtests sprang up between Defense Attorney Charles Millikan and Joseph Scott, counsel for Miss Berry. Scott maintained that the agreement to drop the case if bloodtests proved Chaplin could not be the father made before he entered the case was "cockeyed and unreasonable and an outrage to the court."

Millikan made a motion, which was denied, for a subpoena because he had subpoenaed Film Writer Hans Ruesch, now in New York. He offered an affidavit asserting that on various occasions Joan had occupied Ruesch's apartment and that sometimes he didn't remain because "she interfered with his sleep and work."

Educators Urged to Help Set Up Peacetime Draft

CHICAGO, Dec. 14 (UP).—Thirteen officers of the American Alumni Council, representing alumni of 300 colleges and universities in U.S. and Canada, are urging close co-operation between the War Department and higher education before adoption of any definite plan for compulsory military training.

In a letter to the Association of American colleges, which will meet in Atlantic City next week, the alumni officers declared such modification of "our whole educational philosophy" should represent educators as well as military leaders.

Five Ironical GIs Tell Coeds To Fill Pipes, Smoke Them

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

LAWRENCE, Kans., Dec. 14.—Two big packages of pipe tobacco and a letter from five GIs in France which said, "It's a shame you must smoke corncob pipes," have been received by Kansas University coeds.

The letter evidently was in reply to an article printed recently in The Stars and Stripes concerning complaints of KU girls about the shortage of cigarettes—and how they had turned pipe-smokers.

The letter was signed only by "Lucky Joe, Eddie, Johnny and Leo" and stated, "Oh, you poor distressed girls—Gee, just think! It seems a shame you must smoke corncob pipes. If it will make you happy, we will halve-up our smokes to keep you and your 4-Fs from being dejected. No cigarettes! 'Ve just can't sleep since we read your article."

Miss Marie Miller, acting dean of women, said she thought the soldiers were misinformed. "The humorous and greatly-imaginative article concerning women smoking corncob pipes does not reflect the wartime spirit of university women. They are doing many worthwhile things to aid the war effort that are never given the wide publicity which the pipe story got," she said.

Low Priority Is Blamed for Butt Situation

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (ANS).—The hard-to-discourage Senate war investigating committee puffed doggedly away at the cigarette shortage today after smoking out little more than a mass of discouraging statistics.

In the second day of testimony it was told that there will be even fewer packs for civilians next year, and yesterday it heard Col. Fred C. Foy, director of purchases for the army service forces, predict that the future demand on the cigarette industry will be "in excess of that being placed upon it currently."

Facilities Limited

Trying to find out what has become of history's greatest supply of smokes, the committee was told by Foy that the scarcity in the ETO "is the direct result" of limited facilities for unloading ships. He explained that food, gas and artillery take precedence. "Actually," Foy said, "as of Oct. 31 there were 2,000,000—100,000,000 packs—in various foreign waters awaiting discharge."

Officials from the War Manpower Commission, War Food Administration and Price Administration were called by the committee in the hope of winning support for three propositions:

1. Better share of manpower necessary to produce more fags.
2. Food order calling for greater production of long-leaf tobacco.
3. Revision of price regulations to permit better distribution to civilian retail dealers.

The committee was told that even if additional manpower was available for making smokes next year, there would be difficulties in getting new machinery, and to top all other troubles, manufacturers predicted there would be an acute shortage of leaf tobacco within a year.

Radio Artists Union Seeks DeMille Ban

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 14 (ANS).

—The American Federation of Radio Artists today filed a demurrer to Cecil B. DeMille's suit for injunction to prevent the union from suspending him and forcing him off the air.

The action followed the film executive's refusal to pay a one-dollar levy by the union in behalf of an election proposition. DeMille contended the union had no right to ask the assessment and took the case to superior court, gaining a restraining order which permitted him to go on the air with his radio program.

Then AFRA countered by filing the demurrer and contending that DeMille, as a member, must abide by union by-laws which include the right to assess fees.

Once Over Lightly

By Andy Rooney

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Football, of course, is a better game than baseball. Every one agrees, don't they? If there are any dissenters, just jot your name, rank and serial number on a slip of paper and forget about it.

Here is the story: Open warfare has broken out between professional football and professional baseball this week. Frankly, the grid game is beginning to get in baseball's hair. The main topic of conversation at this week's baseball league meetings was football, and a decision was reached to put football back where it belongs.



Ed Barrow

THE diamond magnates officially have barred pro football games in any league stadium before the schedules have been concluded. Baseball would like to have pro footballers meet every Sunday in sandlot games and choose up sides—that is, if there is no sandlot baseball game scheduled.

The big league ruling barring pro teams from ball parks until late fall follows the lead set by the minor leagues at Buffalo last week when they called professional football "unfriendly and unfair competition." The specific gripe the minors had was an exhibition football game in Baltimore during last season's Little World Series. Football drew 40,000 people, while the Little World Series drew a blank.

THE step is one Ed Barrow, Yankee president, has wanted to take for a long while. Barrow specifically referred to a game in Philadelphia last September, which had to be postponed for one day after the pro gridgers had dug up the diamond in the rain the night before the baseball game.

This stadium proposition may be tough for pro football. Many professional sports promoters in the States today believe the pro grid game is the future sport of the nation, and they're willing to back up this contention with money. Teams like the Packers, Redskins and Giants have built solid pro football tradition about which football's cold stove leaguers can talk during the hot weather while the baseball season is on.

Boston's Cowley Holds Lead in Hockey League

MONTREAL, Dec. 14.—Bill Cowley, Boston Bruins, picked up five points during the week to increase his National Hockey League scoring lead over Hector "Toe" Blake of Montreal to four points. Cowley leads the league in assists with 20 and Elmer Lach of the Canadiens paces the loop in goals with 15.

Point leaders:

	G	A	Pts
Cowley, Boston.....	10	20	30
Blake, Montreal.....	13	13	26
Smith, Chicago.....	6	15	21
Bodnar, Toronto.....	4	17	21
Lach, Montreal.....	15	5	20
Jennings, Boston.....	11	9	20
Cain, Boston.....	12	8	20
Mosienko, Chicago.....	11	8	19
Howe, Detroit.....	5	14	19

American Hockey League

Last Night's Scores

Buffalo 7, Providence 4.
Hershey 4, Pittsburgh 3.

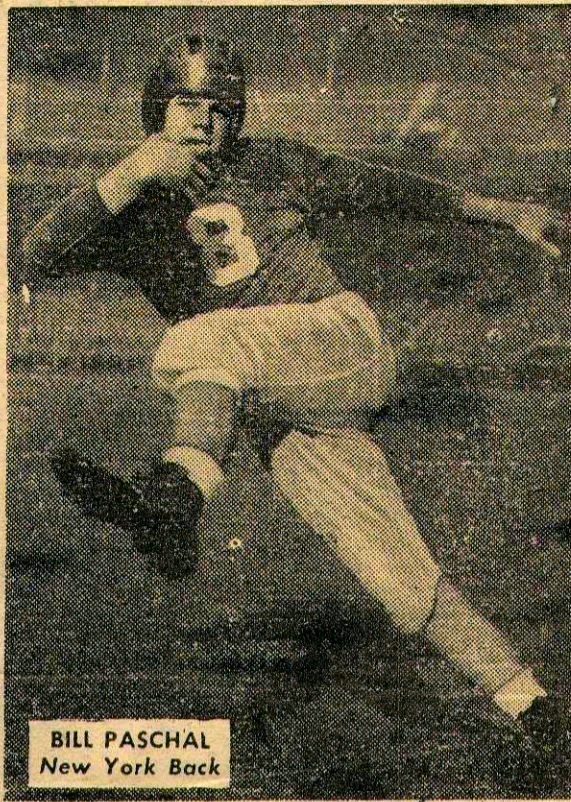
EASTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts
Buffalo.....	13	7	2	28
Hershey.....	11	9	2	24
Providence.....	7	12	3	16

WESTERN DIVISION

	W	L	T	Pts
Indianapolis.....	11	7	6	28
Pittsburgh.....	11	8	2	24
Cleveland.....	10	7	2	22
St. Louis.....	4	12	2	10

Tops Among the Play-for-Pay Boys



BILL PASCHAL
New York Back



SID LUCKMAN
Chicago Bears Back



AL WISTERT
Philadelphia Tackle



STEVE VAN BUREN
Philadelphia Back



RILEY MATHESON
Cleveland Guard



JOE AGUIRRE
Washington End

AP All-Pro Team

- E—Don Hutson, Green Bay.
- T—Frank Kinard, Brooklyn.
- G—Len Younce, New York.
- C—Clyde Turner, Chicago.
- G—Riley Matheson, Cleveland.
- T—Al Wistert, Philadelphia.
- E—Joe Aguirre, Washington.
- B—Sid Luckman, Chicago.
- B—Frank Sinkwich, Detroit.
- B—Steve Van Buren, Phila.
- B—Bill Paschal, New York.

Hutson Picked For 7th Time

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Sports writers of the Associated Press and United Press were in agreement on selection of eight players whom they named on the 1944 All-Professional football teams, released today. Don Hutson, Green Bay end, is the veteran "All" player of all time, for he's made the grade seven times.

The AP and UP each chose Frank Sinkwich of Detroit and Bill Paschal

of New York in their backfields. Riley Matheson of Cleveland, Clyde Turner of Chicago, Al Wistert of Philadelphia, Len Younce of New York and Joe Aguirre of Washington, along with Hutson, were linemen selected by both press associations.

The AP put Frank "Bruiser" Kinard of Brooklyn in a tackle slot, the UP naming Frank Cope of New York. They disagreed on two backs, the AP picking Sid Luckman of the Chicago Bears and Steve Van Buren of Philadelphia, as compared to the UP's Leroy Zimmerman of Philadelphia and Ward Cuff of New York.

Seattle Catcher Wounded

Eddie Kearse, former Seattle catcher, was wounded in France, Nov. 22.

UP All-Pro Team

- E—Don Hutson, Green Bay.
- T—Frank Cope, New York.
- G—Riley Matheson, Cleveland.
- C—Clyde Turner, Chicago.
- G—Len Younce, New York.
- T—Al Wistert, Philadelphia.
- E—Joe Aguirre, Washington.
- B—Leroy Zimmerman, Phila.
- B—Frank Sinkwich, Detroit.
- B—Ward Cuff, New York.
- B—Bill Paschal, New York.

Buckeye's Widdoes Coach of the Year

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—Carroll Curtis Widdoes, coach of Ohio State's unbeaten, untied Buckeyes won the New York World-Telegram's annual "Coach of the Year" award with 75 of his fellow coaches' first place votes.

Earl "Red" Blaik, Army coach, was second with 55 votes, and Alonzo Stagg, Fritz Crisler, Jim Lookabaugh (Oklahoma Aggies), Yale's Howard Odell, Jeff Cravath (Southern Calif.), Tennessee's John Barnhill and Dutch Meyer of Texas Christian followed.

Luisetti's Cage Days End

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 14.—Hank Luisetti, one of the greatest college basketball players in history while at Stanford, has shot his last goal. Luisetti, now a Navy lieutenant, was stricken recently with spinal meningitis. Physicians have ordered him to refrain from athletic activity.

Majors Agree On Unlimited Night Baseball

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The major leagues yesterday concluded one of their dullest meetings in history, especially from a trading viewpoint. Only three trades were consummated, none of which was calculated to shake the baseball world.

Naming of a baseball agreement board, approval of unlimited night baseball for 1945 and the ban prohibiting pro and college football teams from using major loop parks until a team had been definitely eliminated from, or concluded, the World Series, were the most important business deals.

The majors vetoed two proposals brought from the minor league meetings in Buffalo last week. They refused to increase the Double A draft price from \$7,500 to \$10,000 and also rejected the minor league contention that major league teams invading minor territory should reimburse the club of the invaded town, plus the remainder of the invaded league.

The majors went on record as favoring promotion of baseball among high schools, but tabled the motion they put up \$5,000 for that purpose. They did, however, appropriate \$20,000 for promotion of American Legion junior baseball leagues, a fertile field for development of professional baseball talent.

The Chicago White Sox were involved in all three trades at the meetings, sending Southpaw Jake Wade to the Yankees for Johnny Johnson, Infielder Skeeter Webb to the Tigers for Joe Oringo and Eddie Carnett to the Cleveland Indians for Oris Hockett.



Oris Hockett

Oklahoma Ags Top NYU Five

NEW YORK, Dec. 14.—The Oklahoma Aggies came from behind to defeat NYU, 44-41, and St. John's of Brooklyn tripped Utah, 39-36, in a basketball double-header before 16,000 at Madison Square Garden last night.

Bob Kurland, Oklahoma's seven-foot center, dropped one in from under the rim with five minutes to go, to break a tie and NYU just couldn't catch up. Weldon Kern, Aggie forward, scored 18 points and Kurland 14.

St. John's gained revenge for Utah's championship victory last year. Arnold Ferrin, only survivor of the title-winning squad, brought the Utes within one point of the Redmen three times in the second half, and led scoring with 17 points.

CAGE RESULTS

- Bates 51, Union 45.
- Bucknell 43, Villanova 42.
- Concordia (Ill.) 38, Loyola (Chicago) 19.
- Davidson 40, Wofford 29.
- Evansville 56, Indiana State 54.
- Gallaudet 38, Johns Hopkins 35.
- Iowa Pre-Flight 49, Iowa State 39.
- Kalamazoo 44, Junior College 35.
- Marshall 53, Fairmont Tchrs. 32.
- Moorhead (Ky.) 54, La Salle 47.
- Oklahoma Aggies 44, NYU 41.
- Penn 54, Swarthmore 35.
- Penn State 64, Susquehanna 12.
- Purdue 47, DePauw 31.
- St. Francis 37, Cathedral 36.
- St. John's 39, Utah 36.
- St. Joseph's 62, Washington College 30.
- Sampson Naval 68, Hobart 33.
- Texas Aggies 34, Bergstrom Field 30.
- Wesleyan 44, Queensf Fliers 39.
- Western Kentucky 52, South Baptist 37.

Vandy Resumes Football

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Dec. 14. Vanderbilt will return to big-time football next year, University officials announced today.

THE B BAG BLOW IT OUT HERE

Memo to APO

I am not griping or bitching about the work of the APO, I realize it has increased in the past few weeks. What I want to say is this.

Picture the front-line soldier, who, after sweating out a package, receives it unfit for use or consumption. Imagine how he feels. Fellows, I give you my word, it's one of the most discouraging things I have had the misfortune to witness. I have handled many packages for my battalion which were wet through and through, mashed, torn open, scattered, etc.

I realize field conditions are very difficult to work under but maybe you can improve just a little the service we are receiving. We will appreciate anything you fellows can do.

If you receive packages which are wet and address is illegible, hold the package over a fire and dry it out. The address is then legible.—CWO Woodrow Foster, Postal Officer, Tank Bn.

* * *

Smile, Smile, Smile

I've read many letters, mostly cracks about MPs in B Bag. We've got broad shoulders and laugh it off with a smile as razzing the MPs is a standard gag.

I'm not griping but just wondering why these Joes, who feel so negative toward us, always when in need of help or information, run to us like long-lost brothers. Just wondering! Sgt. A. R., M. P.

The MPs in our newly-formed organization are getting mighty browned-off from derogatory remarks cast at them by other soldiers. They are called everything from 4-F weaklings to SOS sissies by passing GIs, and must exercise extreme self-restraint to keep from clamping some of these "wise guys" who on't know the facts.

The truth is that most of these MPs on town patrol and PW duty have experienced more combat than many of their sarcastic boozers ever hope to see. They are infantry, armored or artillery men who have been wounded so badly in combat that they have been marked "limited service." Many are veterans of North Africa, Sicily and Italy, and participated in the Normandy landings on D-Day.—Lt. Harry Pruzan, Inf.

In recent editions of The Stars and Stripes we noticed letters from soldiers complaining of rules and regulations being enforced by MPs.

MPs, contrary to popular opinion, do not make the rules and regulations; when towns are off limits, when helmets must be worn, when jeep tops must be down, etc. We just enforce the regulations laid down by the commanding generals. We can't question their worth any more than you, and if you don't like them write your CG. He may do something about it, we can't. All we do is follow orders, just as you do.

We are a few of the hundreds of members in a combat MP unit. We have had, and continue to have our casualties and are proud of our record. We claim no glory or

recognition as we give that to our great Infantry and supporting units; but we do ask that we be judged fairly.

A few MPs abuse their authority but the letters referred to make it kind of tough on the thousands who are doing their job and continually doing everything possible for their fellow soldiers.—Sgt. Phill A. Miron and six others.

* * *

Tire Shortage?

We in this company think it fine that Capt. M. Heflin (S and S, Nov. 9), of Grafton, W.Va., is riding and living in style these days.

The shower, heating unit, cooking stove, bed, desk, wash basin and even chairs in his one-time German bus are understandable. But how the hell our fine-feathered friend can use good American wheels, tires and a trailer hitch to add to his comfort—and, worse still, to boast about it, beats us.

This front-line unit has been trying for months to get tire replacements for its vehicles. Possibly we have found the answer in the example of the captain.—Lt. H. M. Bullard and two others, Inf.

* * *

Just Like Gen. Ike Said

I saw a tow-headed lad about nine years old limping down a muddy road and crying. I felt sorry for the kid. Maybe it was because I like kids or maybe it was because I have two or three small brothers; but there I was watching this kid, and I had a lot of different ideas.

I tried to visualize my own small brother in any small American town doing the same thing and wondered if any German soldier would have any sympathy for him if the tables were reversed. I was thinking that had this kid been ten years older he would have been throwing death and destruction at the front-line guys.

As I stood and changed one idea for another, I gradually lost my sympathy for the kid, because he was a German and Germans were the cause of this whole darn mess. The kid probably hated me. His parents more than likely hated me, too.

So I decided for myself that the only way to make them understand their inevitable defeat is to treat them cool and stern in the manner laid down by Gen. Ike.

No brutality, but sternness and power to show them their proper place.—Pvt. Don. C. Ball, Medic.

Army-Navy Journal Vs. Uncle Joe

YESTERDAY we looked at Britain's record in this war and compared it with the latest crop of rumors. Today let's look at our other comrades-in-arms, Joe Stalin and the Reds.

Monday's paper printed a statement from the unofficial Army and Navy Journal. "Since D-Day in France," it said, "greater pre-occupation has been shown by Russia in her Baltic and Balkan campaigns, intended to insure her security... than in the achievement of the prime objectives of our armies—prompt defeat of Germany." On the same day there was a front-page story headlined "Nazis Fleeing Budapest As Soviet Arc Closes In."

Double talk or double dealing in high places is dangerous business. Rumor of skullduggery in high places is dynamite, too. Either way—the result is the same. Low growls. Suspicious stares. Then one day a Sunday punch—and we're off again. So let's see what Joe Stalin says on the subject. And let's take a look at the Red war record to date.

Stalin Addresses Workers

On November 6 Joe Stalin talked to a celebration meeting of the Moscow Soviet of Working People's Deputies. Here are a few passages from his speech:

The past year has been a year of triumph of the common cause of the anti-German coalition for the sake of which the peoples of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the United States of America have united in fighting alliance. It has been a year of consolidation of the unity of the three main Powers and of co-ordination of their actions against Hitler Germany.

There is talk of differences between the three Powers on certain security problems. Differences do exist, of course, and they will arise on a number of other issues as well. . . The surprising thing is not that differences exist, but that they are so few, and that as a rule in practically every case they are

not for ever, then at least for a long time to come.

Now remains its (the Red Army's) last, final mission: to complete, together with the armies of our Allies, the defeat of the German Fascist Army, to finish off the Fascist beast in its own den, and to hoist the flag of victory over Berlin.

Our Allied leaders either mean what they say, or they don't. We believe they do—and that Stalin's record proves him to be the champion Nazi-killer of the world.

Reds have killed more Nazis than all the rest of us put together. So many, the statistics-sharks can't add them, human imagination can't envision them, German homes can't ever forget them.

We don't think it matters much where you kill a German. Budapest, Berlin or Boston, he's one less threat today and to the future. If it's wrong for the Reds to chase Krauts across the Danube, then maybe it's wrong for us to move them across the Meuse. Maybe we should have waited and stopped the Wehrmacht on the Mississippi.

U.S. Would Cheer

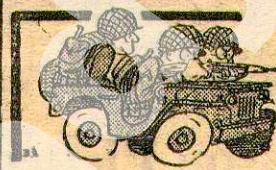
We're not concerned about where the Red Army goes—as long as it kills Germans en route. If Hitler captured Chicago, we wouldn't spurn Stalin's help in kicking him out. If Red Army soldiers could visit America, we wouldn't worry—we'd cheer.

Because they'd learn that we "capitalists" are human beings who covet not a man's fields, but his friendship. Not empire, but equality. Not power, but peace. And we'd learn that Reds aren't the black-whiskered, bomb-toting bolsheviks we read about when we were just getting old enough to listen to rumors and learn to hate.



resolved in a spirit of unity and co-ordination among the three Great Powers. . .

To win the war against Germany is to accomplish a great historic task. But to win the war does not in itself mean to insure for the peoples a lasting peace and guaranteed security in the future. The task is not only to win the war, but also to make new aggression and new war impossible—if



SOMEWHERE IN EUROPE



Pays to Be Curious

Because S/Sgt. Joe L. Verock, of Lakeside, Ohio, is a curious guy, he's still with the 38th Inf., Second Div.

Verock selected the living room of a stone house to spend the night. But before retiring went down in the cellar because you never know what you might find

in the cellar of an old French house.

When he came back upstairs he found that a German artillery barrage had piled a lot of stones on top of his bed. He went back to the cellar—this time to sleep.

* * *

Smart Billies

Two goats share the cellar CP of the First Bn., 28th Inf., Eighth Div. when Jerry opened up his regular evening shelling of the German village.

The goats followed the men when they ran for shelter. Yanks figured the non-fraternization rules didn't apply to the animals so they let them stay.

* * *

Yanks' Turnips Safe

Two 320th Inf. patrols of the 35th Inf. Div., infiltrating under fire into a Lorraine town were attacked by tanks. Some of the men hid under a load of turnips in the cellar, and a couple of others climbed inside the fireplace chimney on the second floor. The Jerries searched all the houses in the street but couldn't find the tanks.

"We just ate turnips and waited, with our grenades handy," Lt. Raymond C. Wilson, of Indianapolis, Ind., a patrol leader, said.

* * *

Coincidence

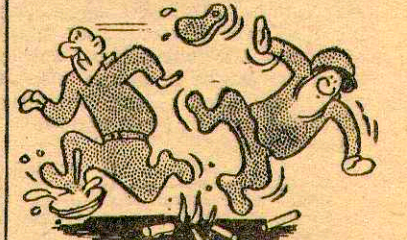
Three letters with identical postmarks arrived in the same mail sack recently for three men of a QM Truck Company.

All were stamped at 3:30 PM, Nov. 7, at the Portland, Ind., postoffice and each was from a different writer. The letters were addressed to Pfc Ceotis Bond, T/5 Lloyd Boolman and Cpl. Jim Crow.

* * *

Uninvited Guest

Pfc Luther Deshazer, of Houston, Tex.; Pfc Nick Onusic, of Barber-ton, Ohio, and T/5 Sam Brabson, of MacDonald, Pa., have an extra reason for disliking the Germans. They had managed to find a huge steak and an apple pie and were



taking advantage of a lull to heat them when a Nazi shell landed nearby. Brabson stepped in the pie, Onusic dropped the steak in the fire and all three went for the nearest hole—a garbage dump, filled with scraps, glass and tin cans.

Births

Folks at Home Send These GI's Swift News of Sir Stork's Arrival:
 MAJ. John R. Hill, Worthington, O.—boy, Dec. 10; Pvt. Madison Ray White-hair, Indianapolis—Thomas Ray, Nov. 26; Sgt. John E. Harmon, N.Y.C.—John, Dec. 8; Sgt. Edward S. Schram Jr., Los Angeles—Peter James, Nov. 24; Pfc Frank J. Weisser, Pittsburgh—Frank J. Jr., Dec. 9; Pvt. Joseph Lukach, North Bergen, N.J.—Gerald Richard, Dec. 6.



"Have you got a pair of pliers?"

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Printed at the New York Herald Tribune plant 21 rue de Berri, Paris, for the U.S. armed forces under auspices of the Information and Education Division Special and Information Services ETOUSA. Tel.: ELYsees 40-58, 41-49.

Contents passed by the U.S. Army and Navy censors. Entered as second class matter, Mar. 15, 1943, at the post office, New York, N.Y., under the act of Mar. 3, 1879.

Vol. 1, No. 141



Paris-Simile. As pointless as yelling "Take It Off" at the Folies-Bergere.

Overheard in a Bistro. "I'm confused. I can't remember if I'm drinking calvados with a vin blanc chaser or vin blanc with a calvados chaser."

We just got a tip from the front on how to quench a thirst. First,



boil the water, then filter it, then add chemicals, then wash in it and drink wine, calvados or mirabel.

The sign in front of the office of a marrying justice of the peace read, "You Furnish the Bride, We'll Do the Rest." This caused a bashful groom to sigh, "That's hardly fair."

Fun at the Front. A general sent his helmet to a utility section to have it varnished and polished. The GIs worked like beavers on the steel chapeau but the general



wasn't satisfied—he called for "more polish." "Sir, that's as slick as we can get it," said one GI. At that moment a fly lit on the helmet—slid and broke four legs. The general accepted the helmet with a smile.

T/Sgt. Ray Tiron calls "I'll Walk Alone" the Garlic Song.

This little verse comes from our spy on the Home Front.

To keep our ships on an even keel Takes tons and tons of corset steel. The die is cast; their fate is written, Now our ladies bulge for Britain.

Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, The Stars and Stripes, Paris France, APO 487.

FOUND PICTURES. One to "Uncle Morris" from Mary Joann Shaw, 803 Sixth St., Crockett, Tex.

HAT. EM's Visor type, near Faremontiers, Nov. 30, Cpl. George Ennen.

WANTED MUSICIANS in or near Paris, for dance band one night a week. One alto sax, one tenor sax and one trumpet. Lt. George H. Fisher.

HARMONICA. Freddy & 90th Civ, Rascais

PERSONAL

WILL Capt. who promised to pick up glass photo of myself taken near Arc de Triomphe contact me. T/Sgt. K. P. Laux.

CAMERA EXCHANGE

SWAP 35mm. Kodak, 3.5 lens, speeds to 1/500, with case, for Rolleiflex automatic. Lt. Leon Stoller.

WANTED: 8mm. movie camera, Pfc Anthony F. Galonski; Lica II or Centax II. W. F. Mutschman; 116 camera, Sgt. Benjamin Guberman; Rolleiflex or Rolleicord. Lt. William Spitz and Sgt. Mark Engleman.

Li'l Abner

By Courtesy of United Features.



IT IS ONLY BECAUSE YOU ARE ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST CHEMISTS, PROFESSOR MACHIAVELLI, THAT I'VE CONSENTED TO THIS FANTASTIC INTERVIEW—10,000 FEET OVER NOWHERE—JUST THE TWO OF US.—NOW TALK—BLAST YOU—TALK??



AND—IT IS ONLY BECAUSE YOU, FANGBOTTOM, ARE THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL GASOLINE MAGNATE—THAT I AM GIVING YOU THIS CHANCE TO MAKE ME AN OFFER—BEFORE I CRUSH YOU??



YOU—AND YOUR COLLEAGUES—HAVE BILLIONS INVESTED IN GASOLINE.—GREAT WELLS ALL OVER THE WORLD, ENORMOUS REFINERIES, TREMENDOUS PIPE LINES, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF GAS STATIONS, MILLIONS OF EMPLOYEES—



I CAN BRING THAT WHOLE MIGHTY EMPIRE DOWN WITH A CRASH!! WITH THIS!! YOU CAN EGAD!!

By Al Capp

Terry And The Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate.



GOLLY LITTLE JANE I HATE TO FACE THE GANG HERE AT THE POST. THEY WILL THINK I'M A DOPE FOR LOSING A UNIFORM TO A GIRL WE JUST MET...



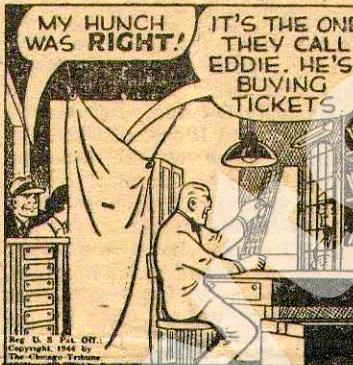
By Milton Caniff

Dick Tracy

By Courtesy of Chicago Tribune Syndicate Inc.



BECAUSE SNOWFLAKE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO WILL RECOGNIZE MEMBERS OF SHAKY'S GANG, TRACY ESTABLISHES HER BEHIND A SHEET IN THE BOX OFFICE



MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT! IT'S THE ONE THEY CALL EDDIE. HE'S BUYING TICKETS



PAT, ONE OF SHAKY'S MEN IS JUST LEAVING THE BOX OFFICE! FOLLOW HIM TO FIND OUT WHERE THEY LIVE.— BUT DO NOTHING MORE AT THIS TIME



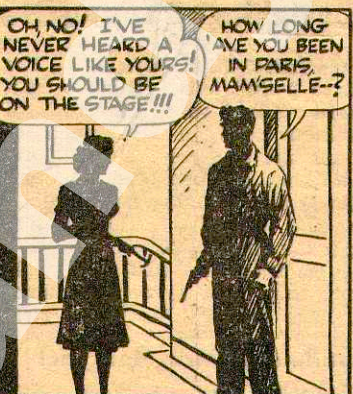
By Chester Gould

Abbie an' Slates

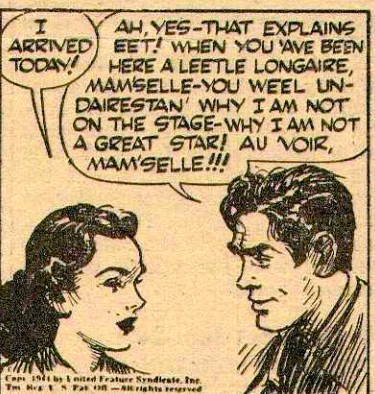
By Courtesy of United Features.



I'M SORRY MY TAPPING FRIGHTENED YOU BUT I'M GLAD TO MEET YOU! I HEARD YOU SING...YOU'RE WONDERFUL!!! I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU AREN'T SINGING PROFESSIONALLY! YOU COULD BE A GREAT STAR!!!



OH NO! I'VE NEVER HEARD A VOICE LIKE YOURS! YOU SHOULD BE ON THE STAGE!!!



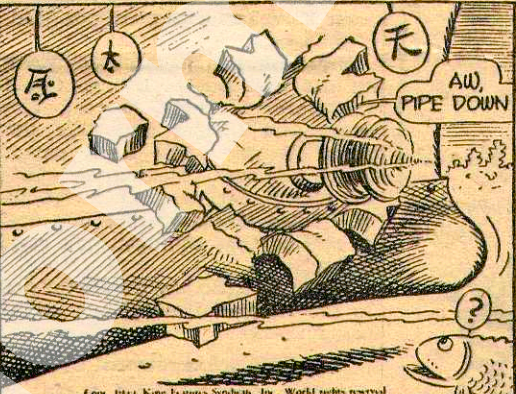
I ARRIVED TODAY! AH, YES—THAT EXPLAINS EET! WHEN YOU'VE BEEN HERE A LEETLE LONGAIRE, MAMSELLE—YOU WEEEL UN-DAIRESTAN' WHY I AM NOT ON THE STAGE—WHY I AM NOT A GREAT STAR! AU VOIR, MAMSELLE!!!



By Raeburn Van Buren

Popeye

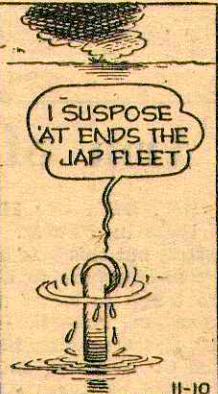
By Courtesy of King Features Syndicate



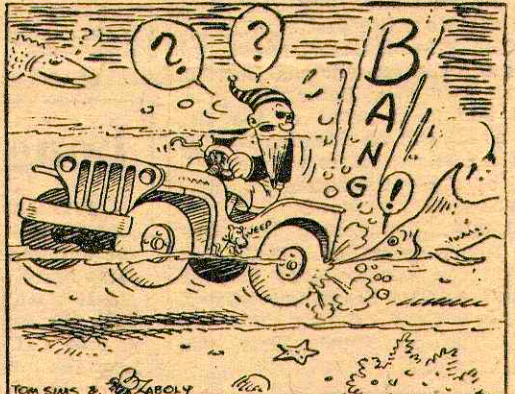
AW, PIPE DOWN



LIP PERISCOPE, OSCAR I'M LIPPING IT, SIR ARF!



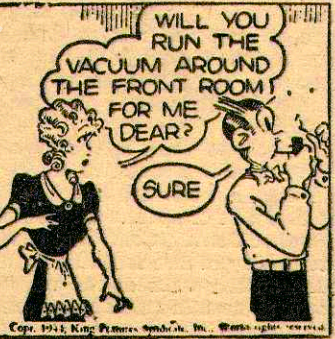
I SUSPOSE 'AT ENDS THE JAP FLEET



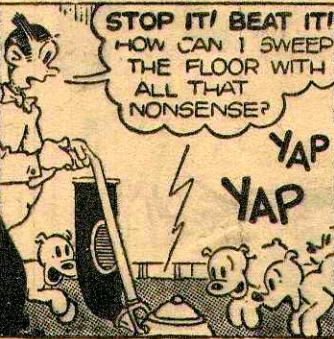
By B. Zaboly

Blondie

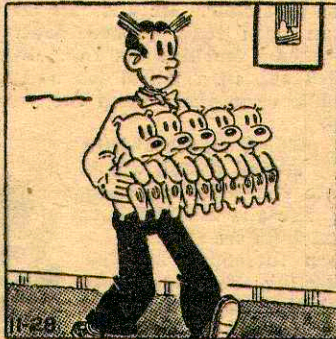
By Courtesy of King Features Syndicate



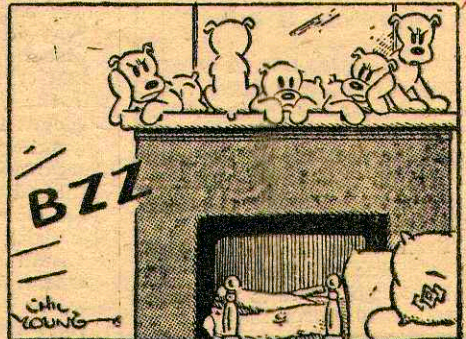
WILL YOU RUN THE VACUUM AROUND THE FRONT ROOM FOR ME DEAR? SURE



STOP IT! BEAT IT! HOW CAN I SWEEP THE FLOOR WITH ALL THAT NONSENSE? YAP YAP



BZZ



By Chic Young

Shakeup Seen As Diplomats Get New Posts

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (ANS).—Two major shifts yesterday in European diplomatic assignments indicated a possible extension into U.S. Foreign Service of a shakeup now under way in the State Department, the Associated Press reported. The shifts gave impetus to conjectures whether Secretary of State Stettinius might want to work with new men in London and Moscow.

One move pointed to a revision of the pattern of diplomacy in the Balkans. It was the transfer of Laurence Steinhardt, Ambassador to Turkey, whom President Roosevelt nominated to become Ambassador to the Czech government operating from London.

The second shift occurred as Carlton Hayes resigned as Ambassador to Spain, presumably to resume his history professorship at Columbia University. Norman Armour, former Ambassador to Argentina, was appointed to the Madrid post.

Winant May Quit UK

Talk of new ambassadors to Russia and Britain has been in the gossip stage for some time, the AP said. Neither W. Averell Harriman, who has been in Moscow 14 months, nor John G. Winant, on duty in London since 1941, is a career man. There has been speculation that Winant might replace Labor Secretary Perkins if he should leave London. Harry L. Hopkins is being boomed as a successor to Winant in London if the switch would go through.

Figuring in the Steinhardt move was the fact that once-touchy problems in Turkey have been largely dissolved.

Russia has exhibited interest in the future of the Czechs, and reports are that Stalin would make Prague the seat of world peace organization, the AP stated. Steinhardt was ambassador to the Soviet Union before going to Turkey two years ago.

The possible factor in the Hayes resignation was criticism that he had not dealt sternly with the Franco régime. Sir Samuel Hoare, now Lord Templewood, British Ambassador to Spain, also is reported relinquishing his position in Madrid.

Tire Slogan Contest Will Close on Dec. 22

More than 600 Tire Slogan contest entries poured into The Stars and Stripes office yesterday alone, as Com Z headquarters announced that the contest will end Dec. 22. The \$100 War Bond first prize and additional prizes of \$50 and \$25 bonds will be awarded Dec. 23 and the prize-winners will be notified of their "Christmas presents" immediately afterward.

Slogans, emphasizing the need for tire conservation, should not exceed ten words. They may be mailed to The Stars and Stripes, APO 887, Com Z Supply, Ordnance and Transportation chiefs will judge entries.

Dale Carnegie Wins, Influences, Weds

TULSA, Okla., Dec. 14 (ANS).—Dale Carnegie, lecturer, and Dorothy Price Vanderpool, Tulsa, were married on the eighth anniversary of the publication of "How to Win Friends and Influence People," the book that made him famous.

"Even after I wrote that book," cracked Carnegie, "It took me eight years to influence a woman to marry me."

Heads New Unit



Brig. Gen. Richard E. Nugent, commander of the 29th Tactical Air Command, heads the newly formed Ninth Air Force fighter-bomber component supporting the Ninth Army.

Austria Next, Russia Warns

MOSCOW, Dec. 14 (AP).—Hard-earned advances in Budapest were reported as Red Army columns began shelling German positions in the suburbs of Rakospalota and Ujpes in the north and east, and dispatches continued to mention great fires sweeping uncontrolled through the center of the Hungarian capital.

German counter-attacks inside the northeast sector of the city led to fierce hand-to-hand clashes with Russian storm troopers, and bloody house-to-house fighting was raging along the east bank of the Danube.

North of the city the Russian infantry fought eagerly for roads leading to Slovakia and Austria, and Izvestia declared here that "after Budapest the fate of Vienna will be decided. Austria was the first country to become prey to Hitlerite aggression. Now Austria has ceased to be to the rear of the German war—the war is now on Austria's threshold."

VP Oath Set Jan. 20

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14 (ANS).—Vice-President elect Truman will take his oath of office at the White House Jan. 20 at ceremonies inaugurating President Roosevelt, it was announced here today. Truman will be sworn in by Henry Wallace, retiring vice-president.

Long Arm of the Army...

WITH AN INF. DIV., Dec. 14.—The CO wanted these two guys and he wanted them in a hurry. The two guys were out fighting the war some place, but this was important. Messengers were sent around to find them.

It wasn't so tough to locate and bring back the first one—Pfc John L. Tischer, of Gotebo, Cal. He was crouching in the mud near the forward CP, sweating out the day, when he was tapped on the shoulder and told that the Old Man was waiting.

But Pfc Hugh C. Butler, of Helena, Mont., was not so accessible. He was flat on his belly in an open field, pinned down by withering enemy machine-gun fire. Butler had crawled out on a patrol job and was in the middle of nowhere when the Jerries opened up.

Butler's platoon leader swiftly organized a second patrol, which filtered into the field, scattered the enemy fire and brought Butler back safely to see the CO.

Both men thereupon received orders directing them to report to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point for the full course.

Casualty Lists Flown to States In Twelve Days

By Arthur W. White

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

News of Western Front casualties is being rushed to homes in the U.S. within 12 to 15 days. Brig. Gen. R. B. Lovett, ETO Adjutant General, said that lists are flown across the Atlantic on top priority and the next of kin informed by telegram within 48 hours of their arrival.

In the U.S., the War Department has announced plans to furnish more detailed information to relatives. Effective immediately, the original telegraphed notification will be followed by a letter from the soldier's CO or chaplain, giving details of the circumstances and nature of wounds, and in the case of death, funeral arrangements and other information.

Courier Service

Reports on men wounded or seriously ill will be sent from hospitals in letters containing a brief description of the wounds in non-technical language, the announcement added.

Lovett said a courier service of the highest priority has been organized here especially to rush casualty reports through divisions, corps and Army headquarters to the Casualty Division. Reports are processed and doublechecked by personnel aided by the Machine Record Unit's "mechanical brain."

He said that, although radio or cable speeds the actual transit time, experience has shown that long lists of names and serial numbers, all in code, arrived so garbled that frequently lengthy checks were necessary.

House OKs Citizenship For Babies of Young GIs

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The House passed a bill today to safeguard American citizenship of children born to servicemen of minor age overseas. The bill provides that children born of American fathers over 18 years old shall be U.S. citizens. The present legal minimum is 21 years.

Rep. Dickstein (CD-N.Y.) said more than 1,400 servicemen under 21 have married Australian girls.

London-to-Cairo Mark Set

LONDON, Dec. 14.—A record non-stop flight from London to Cairo by a four-motored York aircraft in ten hours 25 minutes for an average speed of 238 miles an hour was announced by the RAF Transport Command.

Home for Christmas

Three Paratroopers Win Bond Lottery

THE Christmas holidays at home—wistful dream of every GI in the ETO—will become a reality for three sky-troopers of the 82nd Airborne Div.

The three men—T/5 Otto Bartelmehs, of St. Peter, Minn., Pvt. James Sherry, of North Bergen, N.J., and S/Sgt. Wilford Dumford of Richmond Center, Wis.—won the first prize in a War Bond "Super Lottery" which turned more than a million and a quarter dollars of a \$4,500,000 division payroll into bonds.

The lottery climaxed a three-day drive, organized by Capt. Fordyce Graham, Division bond officer, to turn as much as possible of two months' back pay into War Bonds.

30-Day Furloughs

Under the scheme, every man of the outfit who bought a \$25 bond received a lottery ticket. The three first prizes of the lottery, held Dec. 13, were 30-day furloughs in the U.S.

Second prize in the lottery, a phone call to the U.S. on Christmas Day, went to Pfc Laural M. Lee, of Mayfield, Ky. He will call his mother, Mrs. Oddie Norman.

Prize-winner Sherry, who bought \$500 worth of bonds, entitling him to 20 chances, said that he "couldn't believe" his luck. He added, "I got a letter from my wife today. She said she's lonely. Wow!"

Seven other men of the 82nd, including T/5 Stanley F. Allard, Cpl. John Labre, Pfc William Nauman, Pfc Henry Skvara, S/Sgt. Gordon W. Wahto, Sgt. Raymond F. Deane and Sgt. Charles Hartup, won expense-paid trips to Paris.

Wife, Tots and Steak Await Soldier

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau
BROOKLYN, Dec. 14.—There'll be steak, turkey and plenty of French fried potatoes, with cranberry sauce and apple pie à la mode waiting for Pvt. John Seery when he comes back to Flatbush from his Third Army foxhole on the German border.

His wife Alice promised that menu today after being informed that her 33-year-old husband was among the first of Twelfth Army Group soldiers to be chosen for a 30-day U.S. furlough.

"The last letter we got on Nov. 15 didn't say much," said Mrs. Seery. "He just said he was all right."

She paused for breath and then added, "Say—will I cook him a fat juicy steak with French fried potatoes—that is if I can get a fat juicy steak with my ration points? And of course, we'll also have plenty of turkey and cranberry sauce, with apple pie and ice cream to top it off."

Children Await Return

Also anxiously awaiting Seery's return home are his two children—John, seven, and Barbara, three. It was John who answered the telephone call which brought the Seery homestead the good news.

"Are you really sure Daddy is coming home?" John asked excitedly. Assured his father was on the list compiled by Gen. Patton's headquarters, John sighed and added, "Well, then we are going to have a fine Christmas."

Then Mrs. Seery came on the line. Her voice was guarded: "If the army says so it must be so, but it doesn't seem true. I hope there won't be any slip-up."

Nazis Hit Peak In Camouflage

(Continued from Page 1)

CO, who led his men in the assault across the Saar, said one of the most courageous outfits in the Siegfried fight was a smoke-generating unit of Negro soldiers. "They did a beautiful job of covering our movements—and they did it under the worst German artillery fire," Wallace said.

Men in one battalion CP who captured a Dillingen slaughterhouse were last reported supplementing their K-rations with plenty of good, fresh meat.

Nineteenth doughs and engineers on the west side of Dillingen said the Germans ought to read The Stars and Stripes and take the paper literally. The Army paper, which has been reaching the fighting men in this area fairly regularly, quoted Army sources one day as stating that Dillingen had been taken.

"That was the day we almost got to the railroad tracks," one infantryman said.

Use of Word 'Frowned' Upon

Among the prisoners taken in Dillingen was a "retired" German Army war correspondent. The German writer, who was base enough to call the retreat across France a "rout" in one of his stories, said he was kicked off his writing assignment and placed in the combat engineers.

The spookiest place in the burning city is the locomotive works, which has a huge tin roof over great expanses of space. Lt. Rollin Barnard, of Denver, Colo., said that the eerie play of fire from the flash of guns on the walls of the works at night make him think there are ghosts around.

Hodges Moves To Flank Roer

(Continued from Page 1)

towns of Simmerath and Kesternich. The second attack moved to outflank the river along the east bank. Both attacks have averaged gains of about two miles.

Meanwhile, on the "forgotten front" of Brittany's south coast, American infantry and artillery renewed heavy attacks on Germans besieged in Lorient. In a day-break attack, U.S. forces smashed all German positions south of the Etel River and narrowed the distance to the city to artillery range, according to Associated Press reports.

U.S. Third Army men in the Saar Valley battled in the Siegfried Line, beating back counter-attacks all along their front.

In northern Alsace, U.S. Seventh Army forces began a pincers movement around the forest of Haguenau, west of the captured city. Associated Press front dispatches said units advancing up the Sauer Valley north of Haguenau are almost two miles from the German frontier.

On the First Army front, the 104th Div. cleared Schophoven, as well as several enemy pockets around it, advancing to the Roer east of Pier and Merken. Ninth Inf. Div. troops took Marieweiler and pressed eastward toward the river.

Heads Engineer Command

Col. Seaton Schroeder, of Philadelphia, has been named CO for the newly-formed Engineer Command, USSTAF. The command is charged with maintaining front-line airstrips on the heels of the retreating Nazis.

