

## New Britain Is Invaded by U.S. Troops

### Forts in Flak Battle

### Smoke Seen 50 Miles Off After Attack

### Heavily Defended German Northwest Target in Month's 5th Raid

Great formations of American four-engine bombers, protected by squadrons of fighters, braved thick flak yesterday to strike a spectacular blow at heavily defended northwest Germany—home of vital industry and shipbuilding.

The bombers' objective was described in the preliminary Eighth Air Force announcement only as "targets in northwest Germany," and at a late hour last night a more detailed communique had not been issued.

Returning airmen asserted, however, that their bombs churned up great black smoke clouds which rose 3,000 feet through the overcast and could be seen 50 miles away.

Likened to Kiel flak "I never saw so much flak," one pilot said, while others compared the fire to the ack-ack of last June's raid on Kiel, generally spoken of as the worst Eighth Air Force has met.

"The sky seemed full of flak for 15 to 20 minutes," one crewman declared. About 50 fighters were sent up to meet the bombers, but escorting Thunderbolts and Lightnings kept off most of them.

It was the fifth major operation of the month for the American air force, against two for the RAF. Thus, in spite of bad weather, the USAAF at mid-month has caught up to its usual pace. Twice in the past year it reached ten missions a month and in November it pushed the total to a record of 11.

The raid set sirens screeching throughout western Germany for the second time within 24 hours. RAF Mosquitoes attacked unidentified objectives in the same area Wednesday night.

60% of Reich Industry Razed WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—About 60 per cent of Germany's primary industrial targets already have been destroyed by the combined British and American air fleets, reliable sources here said.

The "primary targets" are 50 industrial centers considered essential to the German war machine, it was said.

### Icy Hearts Melted By a Hot Number At a Xmas Kettle

Remember those Salvation Army women who ring the bells and collect Christmas donations while freezing on street corners at Christmas time?

One of 'em really rang the bell the other day in Chicago. They say her kettle got filled in a hurry.

She was Loretta Pagels, who answered a hurry-up call for volunteers by rushing directly from work to her allotted corner. Trouble was, she didn't bother to change her "working clothes," which consisted of very brief panties and a revealing bodice, she being a model.

Her legs peeked through the Salvation Army cape which she threw on to take her turn at the kettle, and appreciative passersby felt the biggest tug at their hearts in years, to judge from the tingle of contributions.

### ASTP Will Be Continued But Fewer to Be Enrolled

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—The War Department has announced that the Army's Specialized Training Program is not "in the process of liquidation, although the number of men assigned to it is being reduced."

The Department said that approximately 140,000 soldier-students are now enrolled in the ASTP for study in colleges. The graduates of the first classes, which began training in April, already have been assigned to Army jobs, the Department said.

### Invasion in South France Is Coming, Berne Hears

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 16 (UP)—Berne reports quoted by the Stockholm newspaper Allehanda said today that the next Allied invasion was expected to take place in southern France instead of in Western Europe or the Balkans, as previously anticipated.

The theory is based on reports that large troop concentrations are taking place in Corsica and that the Allies are massing ships for the assault.

### 'Foot Sloggers' In Battle May Go Up a Grade

Special to The Stars and Stripes WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 — About 275,000 enlisted infantrymen are getting one-grade promotions in recognition of what the Army says are "acknowledged hazards and responsibilities shouldered by the infantry in combat."

The War Department, in announcing the promotions, said they would affect 16 of the outstanding infantry combat categories and provide pay increases ranging from \$48 to \$216 per year. The promotions were effective Dec. 13.

Lt. Gen. Joseph McNamery, deputy chief of staff, said, "The increased grades will provide more suitable rewards as well as supply the means for more careful selection of non-commissioned combat leaders."

Theater and area commanders were authorized to advance half the privates in certain designated units from grade 7 to grade 6, making them Pfc's.

Others to be given promotion were: Squad leader assistants, from corporal to sergeant; squad leaders, from corporal to sergeant or from sergeant to staff sergeant; section leaders, from sergeant to staff sergeant; platoon sergeants, from staff sergeant to technical sergeant; and battalion sergeant-majors, from staff sergeant to technical sergeant.

### Pneumonia Hits Churchill Again

Prime Minister Churchill, who has been in bed with a cold, has developed pneumonia, 10 Downing St. announced yesterday.

Condition of the Prime Minister, who is in the Middle East, under the care of physicians attached to the forces there, was described as "as satisfactory as can be expected."

It marked the second such attack for Churchill. Last year, after the Casablanca Conference he was ill for about ten days with pneumonia.

### Infantry—Real Sock Troops

## £1,800 Donation in One Lump Makes Orphan Fund History

A platoon of 18 enlisted men and a first lieutenant, all from the same infantry regiment, hit the offices of The Stars and Stripes yesterday. They didn't come to seize the place or look it over, which is the usual thing when a large group drops in.

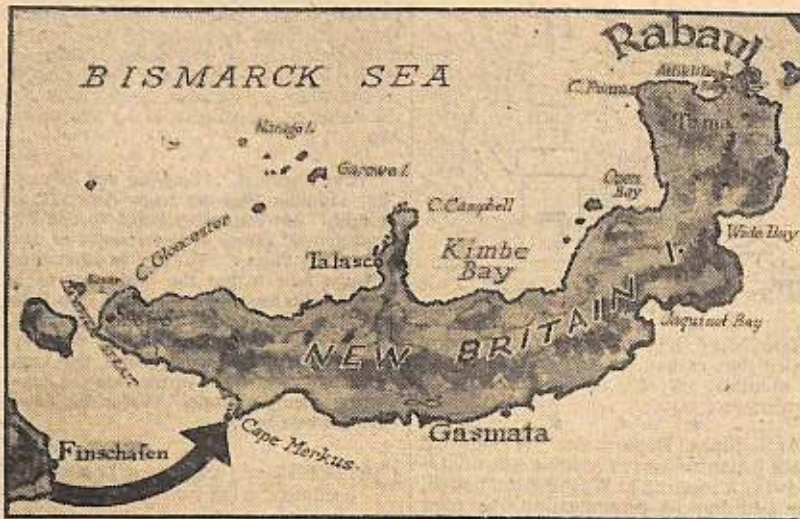
Each man carried an envelope—enclosing a check of £100—to make history in The Stars and Stripes War Orphan fund. They dropped their checks on the desk—£1,800 in one bundle—and wondered how soon it would be "before we can see the kids."

Prior to yesterday, the top contribution for supporting children stood at £1,700. It was made by Lockheed Manufacturing Co. employees stationed in the United Kingdom.

The 18 GIs represented as many companies. Three other units of their regiment sent no delegates. They already have sponsored orphans which makes the infantry regiment the first of its kind to become 100 per cent in providing British youngsters with extra luxuries for the next five years.

1/Lt. Alfred S. Anderson, of Long Island, N.Y., who was in charge, said the men "have been kicking in for a long time."

### Ever Think of Hara Kiri, Tojo?



U.S. Sixth Army troops are pushing inland after making good their landing on Cape Merkus in New Britain. Rabaul, last Jap bastion before Truk, is their ultimate goal.

### Over 50 Killed In Train Wreck

### Crack Express Plows Into Wreckage of a Derailed Flyer in N. Carolina

Special to The Stars and Stripes LUMBERTON, N.C., Dec. 16 — Between 50 and 100 persons were killed and more than 100 others were injured in a train wreck involving two crack streamliners near here early today.

The temperature was below zero, and sleet and snow had torn down telegraph lines, when the southbound train on the New York-Florida line jumped the tracks.

Eyewitnesses said passengers of the derailed train tried to build fires from newspapers to warn the engineer of a northbound train, but the warning was missed and the speeding luxury flyer ripped into one of the derailed cars, cutting it almost in half. Five coaches of the northbound train leaped the tracks and folded together like an accordion.

Just before the arrival of the northbound express two southbound freight trains had been stopped by makeshift flares.

Both passenger trains were crowded with pre-holiday travelers, many of them servicemen headed home on furlough. Soldiers from nearby posts were rushed to the scene to help extricate the dead and injured. Merchants in towns nearby stripped their stocks of blankets for survivors.

The Red Cross sent nurses and other aid to the scene. The wreckage was twisted so badly that acetylene torches had to be used to remove the injured and dead from the shattered coaches.

### Roosevelt Is Back Home White House Announces

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—President Roosevelt has safely returned to the United States, the White House announced today.

### Deep South Hit By Cold Wave

### Snow Blankets Pensacola; Freezing Temperatures Shock Gulf States

Special to The Stars and Stripes WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 — The weather man today promised relief in the next 24 hours from a six-day cold wave which brought snow to some places in the deep South for the first time in decades and sent the temperature in Owlshead, N.Y., dipping to 35 below zero.

Freezing temperatures, besides hitting the northern states, nipped Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas, northern Florida and all but the southern tip of Texas.

The most surprised city in the land was Pensacola, Fla., which was blanketed in white for the first time in years. Albany, Ga., too, saw its first snow in a decade. Businessmen at Sylvania, Ga., made snowballs from the heaviest fall in 15 years and pelted passersby.

A reading of 25 below was reported at Greenville, Me. Washington had a temperature of 14 above; Pittsburgh, 9; Cincinnati, 3; Columbus, Ohio, zero; Cleveland, 11; Chicago, 2; St. Louis, zero; Kansas City, Mo., 8; Los Angeles, 42; Miami, 59; Seattle, Wash., 30; and Duluth, 9 below.

### Bonus Measure Runs Into Delay

Special to The Stars and Stripes WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—Rep. Andrew May (D-Ky.), chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, told Congress yesterday that his committee could not submit a mustering-out pay bill until after Christmas.

May said there were too many important problems involved to rush a bill through. Among questions to be decided, he said, was whether a man who never left the United States should get the same amount as one who fought overseas.

Meanwhile, Congress was considering a "Christmas present bill" under which men already discharged from the armed forces would receive \$300.

The Disabled American Veterans Association, although urging passage of the Christmas bill, asked Congress in addition to grant all men leaving the services a three-month furlough at full pay.

Brig. Gen. Frank Hines, head of the Veterans Administration, who spoke in favor of the bill, declared that the plight of men already discharged deserved the help and sympathy of every American.

"Three hundred dollars seems necessary to tide a man over until he gets a job and finds a home," he said. "It is a purely temporary relief and does not eliminate the necessity for a scheme of permanent benefits."

### Army Death Toll 15,334; 2,010 Are Killed in Italy

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—U.S. Army war casualties since Pearl Harbor, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson announced today, included 15,334 killed, 35,049 wounded, 23,725 missing and 24,486 prisoners.

Stimson said Fifth Army casualties in the Italian campaign were 2,010 killed, 8,583 wounded and 2,826 missing. British losses, he said, were somewhat smaller.

### Yanks Seize Beachhead, Drive Inland

### Sixth Army Tanks Heading For Gasmata; Half of One Landing Unit Wiped Out

U.S. troops of the Sixth Army invaded and established a firm foothold on New Britain early Wednesday morning in the most important Allied ground move thus far to expel the Japanese from the Southwest Pacific.

A communique from Gen. Douglas A. MacArthur's headquarters said last night that Americans under the command of Lt. Gen. Walter Kreuger had seized their main objective—four miles of flat coastline—at Cape Merkus, and now were moving inland under the protection of tanks toward Gasmata, strategic Jap base 80 miles away.

Land at Three Points The landings were made at three points after a week of pulverizing air attacks by the Fifth Air Force and a 60-minute naval bombardment by strong units of the U.S. and Australian navies.

The main assault, on Pilelo, met weak opposition. One diversionary landing was unopposed, but a second diversionary force was met by heavy crossfire from 20 mm. guns. The United Press reported that half of this force was wiped out before it reached the beaches.

Pilelo was captured by noon after the Jap defenders had been annihilated by guns from armored vehicles and light tanks.

Pilelo is a tiny island just south of Cape Merkus and is the site of the most important enemy defense points in the area.

Rabaul Ultimate Objective The ultimate objective of the Sixth Army troops undoubtedly is Rabaul, 260 miles from Cape Merkus on the northeast tip of New Britain. Military observers believed the U.S. force will edge along the coast to capture Gasmata, then, simultaneously with a blow from Bougainville, swing the knockout punch in a mass air-sea operation.

The invasion convoy on the afternoon of Dec. 14 slowly steamed up the Papuan coast of New Guinea. In line in the center were transports. Ahead of them were auxiliary personnel destroyers. They were old four-stack destroyers built in the States towards the end of the last war and modified for use in amphibious operations. They carried Higgins boats on davits. Protecting the convoy were destroyers, smaller warships and U.S. Catalinas.

The operation was an elaborate one calling for three separate landings coordinated, but not simultaneous. New methods and tactics and weapons were to be employed.

Arriving off the coast of New Britain, the bulk of the troops embarked from transports into buffaloes, alligators, and assault barges. An alligator is an amphibious armored vehicle which has been used in the Solomons. The Buffalo is a larger and improved model never used before. These craft headed for a narrow channel between Cape Merkus and Pilelo, and after a heavy naval bombardment

(Continued on page 4)

### Happy Landing



Lt. Gen. Walter Kreuger On the road back, one big step



THE STARS AND STRIPES

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New Britain Thrust

China, Great Britain and the United States, through their respective chiefs of state, recently notified Japan that she was to be stripped of all the Pacific Islands seized or occupied since the beginning of the first World War, and that all territories she had stolen from China would be restored to the Chinese Republic.

In this decision the American public concurred, for nothing less would have satisfied our sense of justice.

Now Gen. MacArthur's forces have moved to carry out the will of our people in a thrust which has secured a four-mile beachhead on New Britain's shores in what appears to be the opening of a drive to secure the entire island together with its key base at Rabaul.

Rabaul, located on the northeast coast, has been built up by the Japs into their most formidable air and sea base in the South Pacific. That is why it has been universally assumed that even after the Allies have wrested New Guinea and the Solomons from the enemy, the capture of Rabaul would still be a costly and difficult task. Such estimates, thanks to air power and strengthened sea power, can now be revised in our favor.

From October 12 until the attack on New Britain was launched Jap bases on the island have been subjected to a series of devastating raids by American aircraft, some involving as many as 300 planes. The result has been the destruction of over 800 Japanese aircraft and the sinking of some 70 Japanese warships and cargo vessels. This loss to Japan has enabled our own forces to make a bold first step in the drive to reconquer New Britain. Already it is possible to foresee the day when Rabaul will fall, and on that day Japan will have lost her hold on the Southwest Pacific.

War-Guilt Trials

When the Foreign Secretaries of America, Britain and Russia met in Moscow, a joint declaration was issued containing a solemn warning that at the time of granting any armistice to any Government, those German officers and men and members of the Nazi Party who have had any connection with atrocities and executions in countries overrun by German forces would be taken back to the countries in which their crimes were committed to be charged and punished according to the laws of those countries.

Russia, having recently captured a few of those accused of war crimes, has decided to bring them to trial immediately and the first of them now face a military tribunal for atrocities committed in Kharkov. Witnesses against them include victims who still carry the scars of their torture.

Before the "tribunal" are three Germans and one Russian, claims Moscow radio. Capt. Wilhelm Langfeld, one of those on trial, has admitted having systematically tortured Russian prisoners to draw from them military secrets. He stated that this was a common practice in the German army.

Pravda, reporting the trial, said yesterday: "The whole Soviet land is watching... our country as well as all people under the German yoke expects a terrible and just sentence."

In the days of peace it was hard to believe stories that came out of Germany regarding concentration camps and the treatment of Germans by Germans. But now, having seen British women and children machine-gunned from the air by low-flying German raiders, and having seen school houses deliberately bombed in terror raids, we are willing to accept the fact that some Germans will stoop to any brutality.

But even these should not be convicted without trial. In Russia one has already admitted his guilt. May justice be swift and sure in his case and in all others to follow, for the hour of retribution has struck.

Relief For All

The United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration has completed its organization at Atlantic City and is a going concern. Already Congress has been asked to make the first appropriation costs.

And speaking on the Atlantic City conference, the Chicago Sun reports that it clarified anew the collective nature of this world relief effort. UNRRA, reports the Sun, is thus neither the creature nor the responsibility of any single country; but an expression of the common interests of all allied nations. All have a stake in prompt and efficient relief not only for humanitarian reasons but for the reason that the absence of such relief would precipitate a scramble for supplies and widespread resort to nationalistic controls, embargoes and regimentation.

UNRRA is the first step toward an orderly flow of goods across national lines and as such may help set the pattern of a new world.

Hush Marks

The Meanest Man in Town? We've just heard about a mess sergeant who breaks up ping-pong balls in the powdered eggs to make the boys think they're getting the real thing.

Each mail brings new applicants for the Name In Initials Club. Today's nominees are T/Sgt. Bergstrom and an officer who says, "The following name does not wish to be president of the club, but as the name implies, would be very willing to wag in the rear rank—Captain Wallace Albert Gill."

Hitler's Secret Weapon?—The stove in a Nissen Hut.



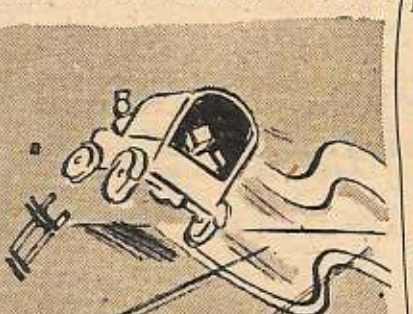
The Navy reports development of a device that makes sea water palatable in 20 minutes. A nice device to take pub crawling, we say.

Anti-climax Department. A national peace organization, in sending out invitations for a meeting in Washington, added, "In addition to promulgating the plan to save the world, we will also serve cocktails." Whoopee!

Signs of the Times. A recent want ad. for shelter read as follows: "WAVE officer needs anchor; prefers small apartment."

The smartest dog we've heard of lately belongs to William H. Jonas, of Chicago. Jonas looked out of the window and saw the canine frozen on a point. He investigated and said he found spot pointing at a hole in the ground—a pound of butter was buried there.

Incidental Information. Military trucks aren't as romantic as planes, perhaps, but while the U.S. has been turning out



140,000 military planes since 1940, we've produced nearly ten times as many trucks. The War Production Board even goes so far as to say that the ground supply of armies depends on trucks. So there, that ought to make all the Greengroins happy.

Ultimatums on the Home Front. U.S. Post Office employees at a Japanese segregation center in California shivered—their office was always cold, they lamented. Then they discovered that the Jap internees were playing basketball in a well-heated gymnasium. Their current decision: "No Heat—No Mail!" J. C. W.

Notes from the Air Force

1/Lt. D. D. Hutchens is a Fortress pilot who thinks his ship, Jo Mo, is maneuverable enough to take on Nazi fighters in dogfights, if necessary. During a recent raid Jo Mo left formation after a 20mm. hit the left wing just behind the No. 1 engine. Then the waist guns broke off the mounts as enemy fighters zipped in for a kill.

S/Sgt. Mike Jasinski defended the right waist by holding his .50-caliber and firing it while Lt. Hutchens kept ducking away from the interceptors with the help of cloud cover, evasive action and novel tactics.

One fighter, however, hung on for 15 minutes. Every time the fighter lined up his prey Hutchens used the old corkscrew method, turning suddenly into the attack. Down to 5,000 feet, the Jo Mo limped to England and an emergency landing on an RAF field. When the crew finishes its tour they say they are going to change the name of the ship from Jo Mo to Ne Mo.

A new manual, "Handling and Releasing Homing Pigeons from Aircraft in Flight," has been distributed to combat and ground crews of some units of the Army Air Forces. The new booklet tells airmen how to get the birds out of a plane, with messages, when the ship is in trouble. One trick is to drop them inside a paper bag so they fall clear of the prop wash before their wings burst the bag. The manual also has instructions on capturing enemy pigeons. Water and food are the best bait.

OFFICERS and men of a heavy bombardment wing headquarters squadron, holding a reunion at a Fortress division headquarters to mark a year in the ETO, interrupted their program recently to observe a minute's silence in memory of men reported missing in action. The reunion, planned by M/Sgt. John F. Landy, of Philadelphia, S/Sgt. Donald C. Schaller, of Lancaster, Pa., and S/Sgt. John W. Lauer, of West Allis, Wis., revolved around a full course turkey dinner prepared by M/Sgt. Estill R. Chadwell, of Brock, Ky., enlisted men's mess sergeant. Speakers included Lt. Leonard B. Flemmons, Waco, Tex., former squadron CO; Lt. Col. Daubrey H. Maury, Washington, station commander; Maj. John W. Wischart, Houston, Tex.; Capt. George W. Warren, Anaconda, Mont., and Capt. Marston S. Leonard, West Newton, Mass.

1/Lt. Avery Ink, of Cleveland, is the second pilot at Lt. Col. Elliott Vandevander's field to complete his tour of missions without one abort. His Fort, the Groundhog, has never yet had to turn back for any reason.

1/Lt. Duane W. Beeson, of Boise, Idaho, a Thunderbolt ace, has destroyed six German planes, although he always has flown at the rear of his squadron—where fighters ordinarily have the least chance to get in a crack because the leaders get there first.

Beeson attributes a lot of his success to a gunnery contraption he rigged up. He practices deflection shooting on the contraption, which includes a seat, foot pedals and a stick, a sight, a model airplane for target, and an electric light to register his score.

Some members of Fortress ground crews sweat out missions by playing cards, or talking, or writing letters, but Sgt. Robert Gholston, of Union Springs, Ala., crew chief of Blind Date, cuts hair. His customers sit on an old Fortress radio operator's chair, raised on an ammunition box platform.

PRIVATE BREGER



"Good evening, sir. I'm working my way through Officers' Candidate School by selling subscriptions to 'Stars and Stripes'!"

WAC Christens Gremlin He's USAFI, the Education Boy



WAC Muriel Blum, of San Francisco, christens a new Liberator USAFI in honor of the U.S. Armed Forces Institute, while Col. Leslie P. Arnold, of Englewood, N.J., chief of Air Transport Command, looks on.

EIGHTH SERVICE COMMAND STATION, England, Dec. 16—When brunette T/5 Muriel Blum, of San Francisco, cracked a bottle across the nose of a freshly-painted Liberator here the other day, she launched the career of a new gremlin soon to be seen far and wide throughout Eighth Air Force Service Command as the symbol and trade mark of the Army's education program.

The spray that came from the bottle as the attractive WAC corporal ducked behind the protection of her coat collar christened a professorial little swallow-tailed figure who'll be known hereafter as USAFI—the initials of the U.S. Armed Forces Institute.

USAFI, who looks something like Br'er Rabbit with the addition of a pot belly and a mortar-board hat, has the job of calling attention to the Armed

Forces Institute. Painted on a new trailer he'll go through the service command publicizing "mental gymnasiums" to be set up at each station—rooms to be set up by special service sections with complete libraries on technical and academic subjects.

Brig. Gen. Hugh J. Knerr, commanding Eighth Service Command, said he expected the trailer would sell the men on continuing their education despite the war. Air force officers described it as "a marvellous job of selling the soldiers the value of self-education."

The Liberator christened USAFI by WAC Blum is expected to keep the army institute before air force personnel. The name was hit upon by Lt. Burr Johnson, of Syracuse, N.Y., and the little gremlin that goes with it was painted by T/5 Frederico Jayo, of Los Angeles.

Blues in the Night

Gals Back Home Insist They're Loyal to GI Heartthrobs Abroad

(Editor's Note: There have been many complaints from GIs abroad that their girls at home have given them the air. So Ned Nordness, Associated Press correspondent, relayed these protests to the girls at home, the idea being, "Well, there you are, girls. What have you got to say for yourselves?" They had plenty, and here it is.)

By Ned Nordness

Associated Press Correspondent

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 16—Pack up your love troubles, GI Joe, and chuck them in that foxhole. The girls back home haven't forgotten to remember.

A cross-section of girls, all with sweethearts in the service, concede that while time and distance might appear to cloud the glow of that torch over there, here at home it is as bright as ever.

The gal down the street is faithful. She may trip the light fantastic with Civilian Johnny, but she hasn't forgotten to remember you across the sea.

Sure, once in a while the girl back home finds a guy who detours her heart from those "I'll be waiting for you" promises. But hasn't that happened since time immemorial? And hasn't GI Joe also sidestepped former whispered words of love?

One did, says cute Dorothy Ziegler, 19-year-old stenographer.

"Not only jilted," fumed Dorothy, "but five days after writing me how sweet I was and how much he loved me, the lug sent a letter to tell me he had married another and not to grieve too much."

"Grieve! I was shocked. We had gone together two years."

Dorothy bounced back into a civilian's arms later and she thinks he is wonderful.

Many of the boys in uniform unnecessarily bring about their own woes, the girls believe. "A one-night date and egotistical GI Joe thinks the girl is his. He can't understand when she writes to tell him of her 'sweetheart.'"

It doesn't even have to be a one-night date. A series of letters, however newsworthy and platonic, can put ideas into a serviceman's head, the girls declared.

Nearly every young woman writes to friends in the service. All of nine girls interviewed had the same experience. At one time or another the lonesome lad got serious. They had either to ignore it, kill the trend or stop writing.

Nor do the girls believe GI Joe should complain of the situation at home.

"We girls wrote the boys in Australia asking what the girls down there had that we didn't have... they married them so fast," said pretty, brunette Sarah Jane (Sally) Brown, a typist in a railroad office.

"They told us the girls had no more than we in America, but the boys had the Australian girls there with them."

"The shoe can fit the other foot. Our boy friends are far away, but we've got some at home."

Sally and Cora May Parrott, pert, 23-year-old stenographer-clerk, see nothing wrong in dating boys at home.

Says Cora: "I don't believe the servicemen have the right to ask us to huddle with our hope chest. Nor should they question our every move. When the right man comes along, you know it and so do your friends. If you go out with ten or 15 fellows, it makes no difference. Trust should be intertwined with love."

Cora asserts, moreover, "Those guys over there aren't just shy-eyed sheep in a jeep. That khaki clothes a lot of wolves—and I don't blame them for that either. The boys aren't sitting knee deep in mud in a foxhole if they've got a chance to go out with a girl. I wouldn't ask my boy friend to."

Sally, who has her heart pinned to the sleeve of a sailor in the Southwest Pacific, said her man has insisted she should go out with friends.

"That doesn't mean I'm carrying on a love affair every time I step out," she argued. "I'll be here when he comes home."

Winona Lacy, aircraft checker in a war plant, goes out with friends with her sailor's permission and insistence.

Of somewhat different views are Bonnie Ragsdale, Louise Portell and Katherine Korte, in the same plant with Winona, and Dorothy Tucony, office worker.

Bonnie summed up the views of all by asserting: "There are many other things the girl back home can do to enjoy herself instead of having dates."

Betty Ulrich, office worker, stands between the two groups.

"No, I don't go out with other men, but I can't see the harm in it. And I would not condemn my sweetheart if he had a date with a girl. After all, I am surrounded by friends and relatives. He has no one."

All of the girls write to friends in the service other than their special interest. Not all of them as yet have told the one and only of the extra correspondence.

They agree that perhaps their greatest rivals are the pin-up girls.

A friend of Cora's wrote from Guadalcanal that every picture in a magazine she sent him, dealing in leggy art, was clipped by his buddies before it got into his hands.

They seem agreed that to jilt a soldier is a serious offense. But not all are agreed as to what to do about it.

Bonnie, Louise and Katherine believe loyalty should overcome love in the ex-marching home and has a chance to renew his bid.

All the girls stoutly defend the faithfulness of America's girls back home. There is no doubt as to the loyalty of the vast majority of this group, and they are impatient to see GI Joe back home.

Cora sums it up neatly: "Certainly we are faithful. Tell the boys over there, wherever they are, that we are looking at their picture on the dresser while we are dressing for the boy at home."



# Owen Varied Giant Attack To Top Skins

## Used Running Attack, Switched to Passing Behind Nix

NEW YORK, Dec. 16—Stout Steve Owen, coach of the New York football Giants, is entitled to take a bow for giving the big city its first Cinderella football team since Lou Little's Columbia Lions journeyed west years ago and beat Stanford in the Rose Bowl.

Steve has proved himself in the last few weeks as a very astute football man with his team knocking over world champions with a running attack one week and the following week outpacing the National Pro League's best passer.

After the Giants beat the Redskins a week ago Sunday, a fan leaving the Polo Grounds was heard to remark, "Thank goodness for Steve Owen. He still realizes the value of a good running attack in these days of pass-crazy football teams."

### Paschal Scored Twice

That day Owen's Giants had belted the Redskins, 14-10, with young Bill Paschal running for both touchdowns, while the Giants' defense stopped Sammy Baugh.

The Redskins were well acquainted with the Giants' running attack with Bill Paschal going straight through the line and Ward Cuff operating on the reverses. The Skins played their defense for that running attack last Sunday, but Stout Steve foxed them by having Emery Nix show them a few things about passing.

Owen was born 45 years ago in Enid, Okla., bordering on the Indian territory. He didn't bother with the Redskins out west, but made a habit of taming them in the east, beating Washington 15 times, losing seven and tying two.

### Joined Kansas City Cowboys

Owen won his varsity letters at Phillips University in Enid for football, baseball and wrestling. He was graduated in 1921 and remained there for a year as line coach, then joined the Kansas City Cowboys, a professional outfit.

He toured the Midwest for four years with the Cowboys, then the team came to New York and joined the Giants practically intact.

Though Owen and the Giants bowed into New York in '25, Owen was a howling success, but the club wasn't. Tim Mara, who had bought the franchise for \$2,500, lost \$10,000 the first year. In 1927, only 80 people showed up for the Giant-Bear game and Mara's losses mounted, but he played a hunch and decided to hang on even after \$75,000 in the red ink appeared in the books.

### Coach Since '30

The game finally caught on in 1930 and Mara named his star tackle, Mr. Steve Owen, of Enid, Okla., coach before the '31 season.

Steve weighs 275 and was recognized in the League as a prime defensive tactician as a player. His best year as a player was 1927, when he captained the Giants. As All-League tackle, Steve bulwarked the stoutest line in New York history as the club allowed only 20 points all season and crunched on to the world championship.

Steve's Giants won two world championships and six Eastern titles, not including next Sunday's probable.

Steve says his teams reach their peak at mid-season and the Giants' late spurt this year is attributable to the preponderance of rookies in the lineup. Owen first tries to develop his running attack, then his passing. He says passers like Baugh and Luckman are born, not made, and that's why he stresses a ground attack.

## Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, Stars and Stripes, Printing House Sq., London, EC4.

### APOs Wanted

BILL (Louella) Adkins, Chicago, Ill.; Capt. D. Abramson, New York; Ozzie Bell, Washington, D.C.; Clifford Bennett, Onsted, Mich.; Robert Carr, Janesville, Wis.; John Phillips, Holyoke, Mass.; James Robert, Cazenovia, N.Y.; and Richard "Dick" Walters, Odessa, Wash.

### Lost

WEDDING Band, man's, with floral design, in vicinity of Hadleigh or Waltham.—Sgt. Joseph L. Jozczyk, care of Help Wanted.  
BUD Roll on or about Oct. 10; has my name and Serial Number.—Lt. John D. Morledge, 61798177, care of Help Wanted.  
ZIPPER Bag, cloth, containing personal articles, pictures, letters, etc., and a new wallet.—Reward if returned to Sgt. Booker T. Jones, care of Help Wanted.  
SERVICE Cap, officer's, in Jell's Bar, Bath, on Dec. 1; makers' mark.—Stephens, Miami, Florida.—Return to Lt. E. L. Decuir, care of Help Wanted.

### Wanted

CAMERA, Leica model III or IIIa with f2 Sumner or Summar lens.—Sgt. Salvatore, Seaco, care of Help Wanted.

## Phillies' Prexy



By Pap

CARPENTER

THE NEW PRESIDENT OF PHILLIES

BASEBALL IS A YOUNG MAN'S GAME

AT 26 HE'S THE YOUNGEST CLUB PRESIDENT IN THE HISTORY OF THE MAJOR LEAGUES

WE'RE GOING TO BUILD A WINNING CLUB

YOU OUGHT TO MANAGE IN BASEBALL

HE WAS A PRETTY GOOD END AT DUKES UNIVERSITY

THERE'S PLENTY OF MONEY BEHIND HIM WITH WHICH TO BUILD UP THE PHILLIES

## Paschal's Late Season Spurt Wins Ground Gaining Title

CHICAGO, Dec. 16—A ruler was almost needed to determine the National Football League's best ground gainer this year, and Bill Paschal, New York Giants' rookie scabback, edged out the Steagles' Jack Hinkle by one yard.

Paschal, former Georgia Tech freshman, piled up 92 yards against the Washington Redskins Sunday as the regular season ended and had a total of 572 in 147 attempts. The blonde grid blitz galloped a total of 280 yards through the Redskins in two games and came from deep in the pack to take the honors.

Here are the final statistics:

Player	Team	Ball Carriers			Pass Receivers			Scorers			
		Att	Yds	Avg	C'ght	Yds	T'ns	T'dns	C'vs	FG	TP
Paschal, Giants	..	147	572	3.9	47	779	11	12	36	3	117
Hinkle, Steagles	..	116	571	4.9	37	420	44	12	0	0	72
Clark, Bears	..	120	556	4.6	30	537	72	10	0	0	60

## Byrd, Ex-Yankee, Favored to Annex Miami Open Crown

MIAMI, Fla., Dec. 16—Sammy Byrd, who used to play right field for the Yankees when Babe Ruth was tired, and then turned to golf, has been installed as the favorite in the \$5,000 Miami Open golf tournament which starts here today.

"I'm just a \$25 player in this company," the former flycatcher said, "but if I can get those pitch shots working, maybe I will be in there."

Sammy shot a 70 in the practice round and now is favored over Craig Wood, last National Open champ, and Bob Hamilton, of Evansville, Ind. Byrd currently is the pro at the Plum Hollow club in Detroit and has been classified 1-A with his draft board.

## CAGE RESULTS

- Arkansas 42, Pittsburgh (Kan.) Teachers 37
- Boston Naval Receiving Station 38, Harvard 37
- Bucknell 57, New Cumberland Army Reception Center 37
- Capital University 75, Ashland 40
- Chicago University Naval 57, Northwestern Naval 35
- Connecticut 38, Worcester Tech 36
- Drew 67, Swarthmore 50
- Fl. Knox 43, Louisville 37
- Ga. 43, Johns Hopkins 28
- Iowa 58, Western Illinois Teachers 34
- Loras 58, Drake 36
- Mars Hill 44, Fairmont Teachers 30
- Omaha 60, Dana 28
- Penn State 45, Susquehanna 25
- Purdue 49, DePauw 32
- St. John's 37, Montclair Teachers 34
- St. Thomas (Minn.) 30, Gustavus Adolphus 25
- Sampson Naval 47, Hobart 44
- Texas Tech Engineers 39, Lubbock AAF 38
- Yale 66, New London MPs 30

## New Jersey Links Official Renews Plea for Courses

NEWARK, N.J., Dec. 16—John Martin, president of the New Jersey Public Links Association, has made another plea for more public links to the County Board of Freeholders. He urged a legislation creating 13 more public courses raising the total to 15. He suggested a bill calling for a referendum by Essex County voters on a \$1,500,000 bond issue to purchase property for the new courses.

Martin said the standard is 18 holes per 54,000 people set by the National Recreation Association and Essex County has a population of 837,340. He also predicted a boom in golf after the war with most people patronizing public courses.

## Dorazio to Meet Barlund; Pastor Comeback Delayed

DENVER, Col., Dec. 16—Gunnar Barlund and Gus Dorazio have arrived here to start final preparations for next Friday night's ten-round bout. Barlund was originally scheduled to fight Bob Pastor but the Army withdrew permission for Pastor to fight and Dorazio substituted.

## Diamond Bosses Fear Landis Will Release Minor Leaguers

NEW YORK, Dec. 16 (AP)—Ever since Judge Landis put down that recent minor league rebellion like a man puts the cat out at night, baseball magnates have been grabbing the aspirin bottle in anticipation of a new headache they fear the judge is cooking up.

This is the fear that the judge will liberate several hundred baseball players—some estimates run as high as 1,000—who have gone to war from the 106 clubs and 16 leagues which suspended in 1943.

When they entered the armed services these hired hands were put on the national service lists of the clubs they left. Since the leagues suspended, however, many of these players were transferred at a flat rate of \$100 a head to clubs in the leagues still doing business. They were placed on the defense lists of the new clubs and will report when they get out of the Army or Navy.

It is at this long string the judge is now aiming his high, hard one, and the report is that he may declare the whole gang free agents.

Rumors about this stirred up the recent rebellion at the winter meetings, and turned up the first serious threat in 22 years of the Landis regime in baseball. From behind the potted palms in hotel lobbies, the reports circulated at the meetings that regardless of any other reported

## Service Fives Picked To Dominate Midwest

### Charlie Hall Dead; Former Bosox Star

VENTURA, Cal., Dec. 16—Charlie Hall, 58, one of baseball's greatest relief pitchers, has died here.

Hall played with the 1912 Red Sox who beat the New York Giants in the World Series. Hall considered the highlight of his career the time in Detroit when he fanned Ty Cobb, Sam Crawford and Jim Delay in succession.

He pitched in a 13-inning game against Christy Mathewson in the 1912 series, the game ending in a 4-4 tie.

## Bobo's Board Tags Him 1-A

### Newsom Ends Eventful Week With News That He's Army Bound

HARTSVILLE, S.C., Dec. 16—The climax of an eventful week in Bobo Newsom's life came yesterday with the announcement that he is 1-A with the draft board and recently returned from six weeks' residence in Las Vegas, Nev., where he obtained a divorce from his wife Bessie Lucille Newsom.

If Bobo goes with the next group of draftees he will report to Ft. Jackson Jan. 25. Newsom's draft status occasioned a surprise in Washington and Philadelphia. Clark Griffith said he did not know what would happen to the deal whereby Newsom went to the Athletics in exchange for Roger Wolff if Bobo enters the army. Connie Mack said he understood Newsom was in 3-A when the deal was completed, but expressed confidence that Griffith would send another pitcher in case Bobo goes.

Bobo received an uncontested decree from his wife on a charge of extreme cruelty.

## Coast Football Planned for '44

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 16—The Pacific Coast Conference intends to carry on a football schedule in 1944.

"The Conference and its members," declared Professor John W. Olmstead, loop president, "are determined to maintain intercollegiate athletics and athletic competition to the utmost of their ability."

Only four members played football this year—Southern California, Washington (who meet in the Rose Bowl New Year's day), California and UCLA.

## Camp Grant, Great Lakes Have Powerhouse Quintets

CHICAGO, Dec. 16—Camp Grant and Great Lakes, along with DePauw, Northwestern and Western Michigan, appear to be the outstanding quintets in the Midwest as the 1943-44 basketball season gains momentum.

Studded with holdovers from last year's squad and bolstered by the addition of Johnny Niemierak, former Notre Dame forward, and Stan Zadel, six-foot five-inch center of the Chicago professional Bruins, the Camp Grant Warriors present one of the strongest lineups in the country.

The two newcomers joined forces with Mickey Rottner and Stan Szukala, former All-American guards, and George Hogan, members of last year's aggregation which tripped the Illinois Whiz Kids, Big Ten champs.

### Knocked Off Wisconsin

In their first two games the soldiers knocked off the Rockford All-Stars, 52-36, and Wisconsin, 51-40. Niemierak led the scoring against the Badgers with 13 points. Wisconsin beat the soldiers last year by two points.

The Great Lakes sailors, coached by Lt. Paul Tony Hinkle, former Butler University coach, are displaying the same form which last year made them one of the topflight teams in the country. Paced by the sharpshooting and all-around play of Paul Armstrong and Herman Schaefer, former Indiana University and Ft. Wayne professionals, Great Lakes won its first three games. The two forwards who have been playing together for 16 years continued their Damon and Pythias act for the Navy in victories over Glenview Naval Air Station and Chicago University. They virtually pocketed the sailors' third victory, scoring 17 points each and sinking Illinois, 52-44.

Western Michigan has won four straight and rates among the leaders because of its victories over Notre Dame and Northwestern. The Irish fell, 46-42, and the Wildcats were nosed by a basket, 47-45.

### Wildcats Missed Graham

Northwestern was without the services of All-American griddy, Otto Graham, who was among the leading Big Ten scorers the past two seasons. His return gives Coach Dutch Lonborg four veteran players, a rarity in these days. George "Sparky" Felt, Ronnie Schumacher, Nick Vodick and Graham make up the quartet which ranks Northwestern a favorite for the Big Ten title.

Purdue and Michigan are also threats for the title role this year. In two warm-up games, the Wolverines defeated Romulus Air Base and Ft. Custer, 42-30 and 46-44. Purdue showed power in whipping DePauw Pre-Flight, 46-41, in a double overtime game. The Navy team had won six of its previous seven starts. The Big Ten Conference season is scheduled to open on Jan. 3 when Illinois plays at Wisconsin and will end March 4.

The traditionally strong DePauw team is off to a flying start with five straight victories and a total of 333 points. Mainstay of the Demon attack is George Mikan, six-foot, eight-inch center, who has averaged 16 points per game and leads the Midwestern point scorers with 91.

Notre Dame, while not so strong as previously, figures to bowl over the majority of its 20 opponents. Following its opening loss to Western Michigan, the Irish won their next two starts, including a 41-21 victory over Wisconsin.

## Hospital Quintet Paces SBS HQ Court Loop

SBS HQ, Dec. 16—The General Hospital finished the first round of this Base Section Headquarters' basketball league in undisputed possession of first place with a string of seven consecutive victories which included triumphs over every other club in the circuit.

Close on the heels of the Medics were the Co. I Truckers with a record of six wins and one defeat while the Headquarters and Co. C Engineers were tied for third place with four triumphs and three setbacks.

Cpl. Al Busko, of Youngstown, Ohio, and Pvt. Cruz Nevarez, of San Bernardino, Cal., led the winners in scoring with 53 and 69 respectively.

## Cleveland Amateurs Take Inter-City Boxing Crown

BOSTON, Dec. 16—Cleveland's battling amateurs are homeland bound with four of seven championships contested in the Irish-American Inter-City Boxing Tournament at the Boston Garden. Providence, New York and Chicago each took one title.

The champions are: Bantamweight—Frank Kolarik, Cleveland; Featherweight—Frank Perone, New York; Lightweight—Leon Spencer, Cleveland; Welterweight—Bobby Zollo, Providence; Middleweight—Collins Brown, Chicago; Light heavy—Ray Standifer, Cleveland; Heavyweight—Willie Davis, Cleveland.

### Mort Cooper Rejected

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 16—The Army has rejected Morton Cooper, Cardinals' 22-game winner, for high blood pressure and an old knee injury.





# NEWS FROM HOME U.S. Rail Unions Threaten Strike In Wage Dispute

## Conference Called in Effort To Avert Dec. 30 Walkout By 5 Brotherhoods

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—A conference to avert a nation-wide strike on Dec. 30 by the 350,000 members of five railroad brotherhoods was called today by the War Labor Board.

Representatives of the unions and the railroad companies will meet Monday to discuss workers' demands for a 30 per cent wage increase to meet the rising cost of living.

A union spokesman said that 97.7 per cent of the railroad workers had voted to strike.

Declaring that "frantic, cheap appeals to patriotism" would not halt the strike, a union spokesman said:

"We believe in the long run such action by a large and powerful labor group will rebound both to the military success of the war and the present and post-war welfare of the common people of this nation."

Although there was no indication as to possible measures the government might use to halt the strike or as to proposals it would make to union representatives, it was thought in Washington that the government would demand adherence to the Little Steel formula limiting war-time pay boosts.

### Dr. J. H. Kellogg Dies

BATTLE CREEK, Mich., Dec. 16—Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, who founded the world-famous Battle Creek Sanitarium, died at his home here of pneumonia at the age of 91. He once said that he expected to live to 100. Dr. Kellogg was a brother of W. K. Kellogg, who founded the cereal fortune.

### Pennsylvania Hires Vets

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 16—Raymond Mason, state director of the U.S. Employment Service, said yesterday that Pennsylvania war plants were hiring an ever increasing number of returning servicemen. In October, he said, his staff placed 557 honorably discharged servicemen.

### Firemen Save Selectees

NEW KENSINGTON, Pa., Dec. 16—Nineteen selectees were rescued by firemen yesterday when the YMCA building in which they were being examined was destroyed by fire. Some of them succeeded in grabbing a few articles of clothing before they were carried out by the firemen.

### Army Orders More Blood

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—The Army and Navy have set their requirements for blood for 1944 at 5,000,000 pints. This figure is 1,000,000 pints more than was required this year, the American Red Cross announced.

### Mormons Excommunicate 3 Convicted of Polygamy

BOUNTIFUL, Utah, Dec. 16—The Church of the Latter Day Saints has excommunicated three members who were convicted of practicing polygamy. Those who were ousted from the church were Mr. and Mrs. John Virgil Zenz and their 17-year-old son, Frank.

They were found guilty last month in a U.S. district court of bringing a 15-year-old girl to Las Vegas for immoral purposes. The elder Zenz, who married the girl, was sentenced to five years in jail. His wife was given two years' imprisonment and the son's sentence was suspended on condition that he entered the armed forces.

### College Reunion

A dinner for alumni of Notre Dame and Minnesota Universities is scheduled at 6:30 P.M. Jan. 15, at the No. 3 Grosvenor club. Reservations to The Stars and Stripes College Registration Service, Printing Hse. Sq., London, E.C.4.

### AFN Radio Program

Operated by Radio Branch, Special Service Division, SOS, ETO.

1402 kc On Your Dial 1420 kc  
213.9m. 211.3m.  
Friday, Dec. 17

- 1106—GI Five.
- 1115—Personal Album—The Charleaters.
- 1130—Jack Payne (BBC).
- 1200—Concert for Chowhounds.
- 1230—Curtain Call.
- 1255—Quiet Moment.
- 1306—World News (BBC).
- 1310—Barracks Bar.
- 1400—Visiting Hour.
- 1430—Sign off until 1745 hours.
- 1745—Program Resume—Spotlight on Tommy Tucker.
- 1800—World News (BBC).
- 1810—GI Supper Club.
- 1900—"Seven O'Clock Sports."
- 1945—Comedy Caravan.
- 1930—Contented Hour.
- 2000—News from Home—Nightly roundup of News from the U.S.A. presented by The Stars and Stripes.
- 2010—Fred Waring Program.
- 2025—Miniature.
- 2030—Tommy Dorsey Show.
- 2100—World News (BBC).
- 2110—Hit Bits.
- 2120—Charlie McCarthy Program—with Edgar Bergen.
- 2145—RAF Symphony.
- 2225—Final Edition.
- 2230—Sign off until 1100 hours Saturday, Dec. 18.

## Nice Eyes, Too



"The girl who fills our stockings best," according to the Hosiery Designers of America, is Leslie Brooks. The blonde film actress, the stockings and the "most beautiful legs in America" are pictured above. Judge for yourself.

## Jeep Rings the Gong—Again

# A U.S. Fire Cart Comes to England

## Army's Engineers Giving the U.K. a Taste of Home

That little swashbuckling jack-of-all jobs—the U.S. Army jeep—has a new job. And it's all because Lt. Richard Rice used to be a Kansas City engineer with a fancy for fire engines.

When Army engineers took on the newly added job of providing fire protection for military supplies and installations, Lt. Rice thought it only natural to use his jeep. So he painted it red, mounted it with a gong, short ladders and reels of hose and took over as commanding officer of one of the novel engineer fire fighting platoons now serving in the ETO.

### Jeep Leads the Way

Lt. Rice's brilliant red jeep is regularly at the head of a fire-fighting force which darts about the countryside, covering the widespread area which is the responsibility of his platoon. American ton-and-a-half trucks, hauling British water-pump trailers and escorted by motorcycles, make up the main body of his speedy entourage on fire-fighting missions.

There are only a few firemen in Lt. Rice's unit, which includes a lumberman, farmer, entomologist and agricultural engineer. However, all have had experience in their new assignment at special schools in the United States. Most of the basic training came from a course given at Loyola University in New Orleans; the rest was garnered from textbooks and from long weeks of training at Camp Claiborne, La.

The first fire the unit handled was in a



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

A jeep—a red-colored one mounted with a polished brass bell—equipped with ladders, hose reels, chemical extinguishers and a water pumper in its wake, is the fire-fighting weapon shown here with Lt. Richard Rice of an engineer unit.

small Louisiana town. A bungalow was already well engulfed in flames when civilian authorities summoned the Army engineer fire-fighters.

"Well," Rice recalled, "we saved the bath tub."

### Bomber Crew Rescued

Results have been far more satisfactory since, however. All sorts of rescue work have been accomplished. One such job was the recent rescue of crew members trapped in a crashed bomber. Working with oxygen acetylene cutting torches, jacks, tackle and rigging, they prized away parts of the plane to reach the crew.

Much of the engineers' equipment has been provided under reverse lend-lease.

The British supplied 300-gallon water tanks and pumps, rubber hose and several of what are known in England as fire-tender lorries. The crew, however, is hopeful that some American fire trucks will arrive soon.

Typical of the improvisations the new fire-fighting engineers have had to make is Lt. Rice's own jeep, which is a complete fire-fighting unit in itself, including hose, pump, chemical extinguishers, ladders and a highly-polished brass bell. There's a length of rope attached to the steering column, and it takes only a tug to bring out that nostalgic clang.

"Just like Kansas City," Lt. Rice mused. . . .

## Both Sides of Brenner Hit; 8th Two Miles From Ortona

Fleets of 15th Air Force Fortresses and Liberators, attacking at a strength of more than 300 planes for the second day in succession, smashed Germany's main supply line into Italy on both sides of the Brenner Pass Wednesday as the Eighth Army pushed toward the flaming Adriatic port of Ortona in heavy fighting.

Striking their first blow at the Austrian Tyrol, the Fortresses laid high explosives across the railroad yard and terminal at Innsbruck, the junction where the rail line running south to the Brenner leaves the main east-west line linking industrial southern Germany and Austria.

Other Fortresses bombed railway yards at Bolzano south of the pass and Liberators attacked a viaduct over the Avisio river near Trento, a few miles further south. The triple attack, with Lightning

escort, was carried out without loss of a plane.

On the southern front, the Eighth Army took Berarti, two miles from Ortona, and won control of the vital lateral Ortona-Guardiagrele road at three places, forcing the enemy to supply its Guardiagrele stronghold at the western end of the line only from Chieti, 12 miles north.

Very heavy fighting was going on, marked by armored clashes in which eight Allied tanks knocked out four enemy tanks, but there was no sign of any major break in German resistance although flames in Ortona indicated the enemy was preparing to withdraw here.

Only local actions were reported on the Fifth Army's front, where an important hill near Castel San Vincenzo, six miles south of Alfedena, was taken.

## Russian Forces Advance Anew In Dnieper Bend

### Reds 5 Miles From Smyela; Battle of Kiev Salient Hangs in Balance

Red Army forces speeded their advance in the Dnieper Bend yesterday, cleared the entire bank of the river between Cherkassy and Kremenchug, and last night were within five miles of Smyela, important rail junction in the sector.

Russian units were reported closing in on Smyela from three directions, posing the possibility that the German garrison might be cut off.

Clearing of the river stretch between Cherkassy and Kremenchug placed the Nazi garrison which had been forced to evacuate Cherkassy in danger of being squeezed between the north wing of the Dnieper Bend army and the southern flank of the Soviets' Kiev salient.

Slow progress was being made toward Kirovograd, another rail center in the Dnieper Bend, and heavy aerial battles were being fought in the skies over this front.

Meanwhile, the big battle of the Kiev salient remained in the balance, although the Russians gained ground in the last 24 hours.

Attempting to exploit their successes in the Radomisl area, the Germans threw in heavy tank and infantry forces, but these were countered by Russian artillery, which in one two-hour barrage accounted for 28 enemy panzers.

As the Germans moved back in the face of the barrage, the Russians delivered a counter-attack and drove the Nazis from several villages.

German radio told of new Russian attacks in the direction of Kherson, which lies across the lower stretches of the Dnieper, and between the Pripet and Beresina Rivers, in White Russia.

### Cafe Fight Season Opens

NEW YORK, Dec. 16—The first night club fight of the 1943-1944 season took place at El Morocco when Morton Downey, the Irish tenor and former husband of Barbara Bennett, laid out Addison Randall, Miss Bennett's present husband. The fight started when Randall accused Downey of withholding permission from his former wife to visit their five children.

## Yanks Invade New Britain

(Continued from page 1)

carried out the main landings on the western side of Cape Merkus.

Two subsidiary landings were made in the same general area by troops in inflated rubber boats launched close inshore. They were made one hour before the main assault on the jetty beach. One assaulted the northeastern tip of Pilelo and scoured the shore line along the channel through which amphibious vehicles and barges would have to pass. The other landing was attempted on a small 200-yard beach some two miles east along the coast from Cape Merkus near the native village called Umtingalu. This force met heavy opposition and heavy losses were admitted.

Farther up the coast a naval force prowled the seas to intercept any Japanese warships trying to come down from north and interrupt landings. In immediate zone of the landing a force of American destroyers awaited action from Jap shore batteries which never came. Fighter cover as full as possible was provided at top and medium levels throughout the operation. Heavy and medium bombers were in the sky over the area on call if their assistance should be required by ground forces.

After the U.S. troops had gained their first objectives, the Japs sent their bombers

over to try and smash the invasion fleet, but were driven off.

The landings came as a climax to a record-breaking assault by Allied bombers which dumped 356 tons of bombs on the base in a seven-hour raid on Tuesday.

For nearly two months the Allied planes have carried out widespread bombing attacks on key supply and barge concentration points from one end of the 300-mile long island to the other.

The Allied air forces between Dec. 10 and 12 devastated New Britain with more than 3,000 tons of explosives. Bombing appeared to follow the definite pattern of knocking out the Japanese bases one at a time.

Cape Merkes was singled out for the greatest bombardment of them all—more than 100 bombers with a fighter screen delivered a record bomb load. The Japs offered no aerial interception and ground fire was weak. None of the U.S. planes was lost in the assault.

## 4 Distillers Get Subpoenas In Whisky Shortage Probe

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16—Four leading whisky distilling companies were served subpoenas by a Federal grand jury yesterday in the Justice Department drive to discover the reasons for a national liquor shortage.

The subpoenas order the Schenley Distillers Corp., Hiram Walker and Sons, Inc., Joseph Seagram and Sons Inc., and the National Distillers Products Corp., to produce their records before Jan. 6.

## 5 U.S. Vessels Sunk at Bari

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16 (AP)—The destruction of five American merchant ships in a surprise raid by German aircraft on Bari on Dec. 2 was announced today by Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson at a press conference.

Stimson said that Allied shipping in the Italian harbor was heavily damaged. Fires from two burning ammunition ships, Stimson said, spread and caused the loss of "several ships," among which were the five American vessels.

The Secretary of War estimated that there were about 1,000 casualties, including 37 U.S. Navy personnel. He reported that there was little loss of material, as most of the ships had been unloaded before the attack.

First news of the raid was given in Gen. Eisenhower's Dec. 4 communique. The Washington Post reported this morning, before Stimson's press conference, that heavy damage was done.

Asked about the Post's statement that the Americans were caught napping at Bari, Stimson flushed and refused to make a comment.

He said that recently the Germans had increased their air strength in southern Italy and had conducted some "heavy" raids on Allied port facilities.

## Terry and the Pirates



By Milton Caniff

....OUR 'CAPTAIN MIDI' IS AT WORK, EXCELLENCY... HERE IS A MOST IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION FROM OUR SHORT WAVE WIRELESS NEAR THE 'YANKEE AIRDROME!'

A CHINA NATIONAL AVIATION TRANSPORT DEPARTS FOR INDIA CARRYING CHINESE FINANCE EXPERTS!

...TWO FIGHTERS WILL ESCORT THE TRANSPORT PART WAY... ORDER THREE OF OUR AIRCRAFT TO ATTACK WHEN THE ESCORT TURNS BACK...

I HASTEN TO OBEY, EXCELLENCY!

AH, LIEUTENANT TUCKAIR, COLONEL CORKEEN... I WAS LOOKEENG FOR FLIGHT OFFICAR LEE - I HAVE A LITTLE GOOD LUCK TOKEN FOR HEEM...

HE'S IN THE AIR, CAPTAIN MIDI...

THAT CAPTAIN MIDI SEEMS LIKE A NICE GUY... HE HAS TAKEN SUCH AN INTEREST IN TERRY...

HUH? - OH...YEAH - CAPTAIN MIDI TAKES AN INTEREST IN EVERYTHING AROUND HERE...