

## Enemy Retreating, Draws In Its Flank

Luftwaffe Bombs U.S. Patrol as Wounded Yanks Get First Aid



Associated Press Photo

Wounded American soldiers receive first aid (foreground) as two Axis bombs burst simultaneously on both sides of an advancing column of U.S. trucks and light armored equipment patrolling a Tunisian valley. Picture was radioed to London from Algiers via New York.

## 8th and 5th Armies Push For Junction

Rommel Doomed, Europe Invasion Near, Says U.S. Spokesman

Hammered continuously by land, air and sea, Axis forces retreated along the coast road towards Sfax, 70 miles north of Gabes, yesterday as the Eighth Army swept through two more towns, Oudref and Metoui.

Simultaneously American and French troops made important gains in the Gafsa and Kairouan sectors, and there were indications that Rommel was drawing in his flank forces to join the main stream of retreat to the north.

In the extreme north British troops recaptured Sedjenane in the Anglo-American First Army's drive toward Mateur and the extreme tip of Tunisia, where Rommel must fight or attempt an Africa Dunkirk.

In Washington Elmer Davis, director of the Office of War Information, predicted Rommel would be defeated "in time to permit an Allied invasion of Europe this year."

### Junction Is Imminent

As the Allied armies advanced, the British and Americans came closer to the junction which they are expected to make now within a matter of days, if not hours.

At Oudref the Eighth Army hit the highway leading up from the coastal area to the El Guettar hills, where the Americans were fighting. The Americans, meanwhile, advanced far enough to capture the important junction of the roads from Gabes and Kebili to Gafsa. Thus it appeared certain the Yanks and Tommies would drive down the road to join hands in a short time.

Attacking along the road towards Gabes, American tanks at noon Tuesday cut the Kebili road at its junction with the Gabes road and took the important junction.

There were signs the enemy forces southeast of Guettar were retiring to the northeast. They were laying minefields, which usually means withdrawal.

An indication that the Fifth and Eighth armies might already have achieved a junction, although it was not announced by Allied headquarters, was given in a broadcast last night by Berlin radio, which said:

"The aim of the British and American operations, namely, the junction of the Eighth Army with American and French forces, could not be achieved until today."

### Naval Bombardment

The retreating Axis columns were being subjected not only to the heaviest aerial assault ever delivered by the Allies, but also to bombardment by British naval vessels lying off the coast, according to Algiers radio. A previous Algiers report that the Navy was landing men at Sfax apparently was unfounded, for there was neither confirmation nor any further mention of it.

Berlin admitted further withdrawals and forecast heavier pressure from Allied forces. The Americans pushing east from El Guettar had thrown several hundred tanks into their attacks, but, the radio said, these had failed.

Advance guards of the Eighth Army, (Continued on page 4)

### Italians Used Allied Safe Conduct Passes

CAIRO, Mar. 31 (UP)—Many Italians hastened to present "safe conduct" leaflets which had been dropped to them by Allied aircraft, when they were captured on the El Hamma front, it was revealed here today.

These leaflets urged them not to fight for Hitler, told them that Allied forces were closing in on them from all sides, and warned them against a repetition of the Nazi treachery at El Alamein, when five Italian divisions were left to their fate.

The leaflets gave instructions in English, French, and Italian to Allied outposts that Italian soldiers presenting them were to be disarmed, fed and given medical attention if necessary, before being sent to the rear areas.

## Fortresses Raid Rotterdam, Hit Nazi Shipyards

Ack Ack Heavy, Fighters Make Weak Attacks; One Bomber Lost

Flying Fortresses raided shipbuilding and ship repair yards at Rotterdam, Holland, in daylight yesterday. It was the third raid on the vital target, site of the huge Wilton shipyards, major building and repair facility for enemy surface craft.

Intense and very accurate anti-aircraft fire was experienced over the target area, but fighter opposition was light, returning pilots reported. One bomber failed to return, Eighth Air Force Headquarters announced.

The American striking force was composed of Flying Fortresses, escorted by RAF, Dominion and Allied fighter planes, which also carried out a diversionary sweep.

Heavy clouds over the target area prevented detailed observation of results, but some crewmen could see their bombs burst in the harbor dock area.

Rotterdam harbor, one of the largest in the world, serves the Ruhr Valley via inland waterways.

The Rotterdam attack rounded out the heaviest month of bombing by the Eighth Air Force since it began operating from Great Britain in August, 1942. It was the ninth U.S. raid during March and the 18th since the first of the year.

One formation of Fortresses which dropped bombs in the target area was led by Maj. Algene E. Romig, of Canton, Ohio.

His crews reported seeing less than a dozen enemy fighters. These attacked (Continued on page 4)

## U.S. to Double '42 Ship Output

WASHINGTON, Mar. 31 (UP)—The record shipbuilding output of 8,000,000 tons in the U.S. last year will be more than doubled in 1943, the report of the Maritime Commission disclosed today. The commission previously announced the 1943 target could be increased to 20,000,000 tons, present shipyard capacity, provided materials and supplies are available.

A total of 8,090,800 tons of merchant shipping was placed in service in 1942, not counting about 800 smaller vessels constructed for the armed services. This was 3,000,000 tons better than the record year in the last war.

## SOS Chief Praises Red Cross Clubs for Cheering Soldiers

By Bryce W. Burke  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

Maj. Gen. John C. H. Lee, Service of Supply chief in the European Theater of Operations, yesterday toured American Red Cross clubs in London to express his appreciation and thanks to employes and volunteer workers for U.S. servicemen.

"I speak for all Americans when I thank you from the bottom of my heart," Gen. Lee said at the Washington club. "God bless you all."

"I can't hope to thank you adequately for your work because words would fail me, but we won't forget what the people have done for the Americans here in the British Isles," he continued.

### Visits 13 Clubs

CHICAGO, Mar. 31 (AP)—The hazards of blind flying will be conquered through a "startling development" in aviation research, it was stated by Ernest Breech, Bendix Aviation Corp. president, yesterday.

Breech would not go into detail, pointing out that "these developments are so broad in the scope of their application for military purposes." He said, "I can give you a positive assurance that fog, even at night, will join the long list of weather hazards conquered by man in his urge to fly."

Accompanied by Brig. Gen. P. B. Rogers, headquarters commandant London Base Command; Harvey Gibson, Red Cross Commissioner in Great Britain; G. Ott Romney, director of all Red Cross clubs; Lt. Col. Richard S. Pickens, SOS Public Relations officer, and two aides, Maj. J. F. K. Royston, of the British Army, and 2/Lt. Raymond V. Chandler, Gen. Lee visited 13 establishments.

At the Milestone club, Gen. Lee met 1/Sgt. William A. Snodgrass, of Kent, Ohio, and T/Sgt. Vincent Ciacchilo, of Brooklyn, N.J., who are spending their

(Continued on page 4)

## Grays,—Division Five, Favored In Cage Meet Final Tonight

By Charles F. Kiley  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

The basketball championship of the European Theater of Operations, first major sports title decided among American forces in the British Isles, will be settled tonight when the two survivors of a formidable 16-team field meet on the court at Albert Hall.

The final, at 8 P.M., will be preceded by semi-finals this afternoon bringing together the four quintets that successfully emerged from quarter final competition yesterday afternoon and last night. A "consolation" game between the defeated semi-finalists will be played at 7 P.M. before the finalists take the floor.

Following the title game, individual and team awards will be made by Maj. Gen. John C. H. Lee, commanding general SOS in the ETO.

The semi-finalists to come through yesterday's actions were Southern Base Section which defeated the Fourth Port Ramblers, 37-15; London Base Command, an easy winner over the —th

Division Blues, 41-21; Eighth Air Force Service Command, a two-point victor over Eighth Air Force Fighter Command, 37-35; and —th Division Grays which subdued the Eighth Air Force Composite Command Playboys, 50-25.

The Grays, winners of two games yesterday, (Continued on page 3)

### New Policy on Tickets

Loges and grand tier seats, as marked on tickets, will be reserved seats for today's basketball games at Albert Hall.

All other seats in the house will be open to American and Allied servicemen free of charge. They may bring one guest, who will also be admitted free. Doors will be closed when house is full.

## RAF Condemns Dive-Bombers; U.S. Builds One Stukas Proven Obsolete In Desert Warfare, Statement Says

The dive-bomber, subject of stormy argument since the Nazis used it to blast open World War II, yesterday was alternately attacked and defended by both Axis and Allied authorities.

A statement from Royal Air Force headquarters in North Africa condemned the Stuka dive-bomber used by the Luftwaffe as "an obsolete weapon," and declared that so few of them are on operations in Tunisia today that they are not a serious battle factor.

Almost simultaneously, reports reaching London from usually reliable sources inside Germany said that the Stukas—Ju87Bs—which dive-bombed the way for the Wehrmacht into Poland, the Low Countries, Norway, Greece and Crete, no longer are being manufactured for the Luftwaffe.

Meanwhile, in America, the North American Aviation Corp. revealed that it has built a new high-speed version of the P51 Mustang fighters which is equipped with air brakes for dive-bombing.

"A careful analysis of hundreds of Stuka dive-bombing attacks shows that the average amount of damage which they did was minute compared with the losses suffered," according to the RAF statement issued in Africa, the United Press reported.

"Their slow speed in a dive, which dictated exactly where the bombs would fall, made them ideal targets for anti-aircraft gunners, and they would fall easy prey to Allied gunners," the statement (Continued on page 4)

## U.S. Announces Post-War Talks

WASHINGTON, Mar. 31—President Roosevelt announced today that it was likely a Russo-American conference on current and post-war problems was likely to take place in the near future. At the same time the State Department disclosed that 38 nations had been invited to a conference with the United States April 27 on post-war problems.

The President withheld definite information, but made it clear that he and British Foreign Minister Anthony Eden had drawn up plans in their consultations for further talks with various members of the United Nations. Mr. Eden left for Ottawa, Canada, yesterday.

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Furloughs

We are happy to announce that plans have been completed to give a furlough of thirty days to all officers and enlisted men who have served in this theater for one year. Furlough time can be spent in the United States, and the S.S. Normandie, specially re-equipped to insure every comfort, has been pressed into operation to provide a quick shuttle service between Great Britain and the States. The Normandie, in addition to its regular crew, will have an auxiliary crew of WAACs. These young ladies will be carefully selected for appearance and grace, so during off-duty hours they will be available for troop dances which will be held nightly in the grand salon of the Normandie.

USO camp shows are doing their bit by offering a daily matinee, which will feature "The Rockettes," supported by an all-star cast of radio and screen personalities, including Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, Gypsy Rose Lee, Jack Benny and Betty Grable.

The Governor of the State of Texas has promised a sufficient number of Texas long horn yearlings to provide "inch-thick steaks" for each evening meal. "Nothing is too good for our boys," said the Governor of Texas, promptly seconded by the Governor of Rhode Island, who has assured military authorities that his State will provide a generous supply of fresh eggs for each man's breakfast. Florida, too, is offering all the citrus fruit "veterans" can possibly consume on the return voyage.

Arriving in New York, the Normandie will be met by Mayor LaGuardia, who will give each officer and enlisted man a key to the city and a date with a charming debutante.

First-class tickets from New York to the soldier's home will be a gift from the American Red Cross, and local civic organizations are now completing plans to insure a proper "home town" welcome complete with a parade from railroad depot to the hero's own home.

Requests for furlough should be forwarded in triplicate to Stars and Stripes, where they will be carefully filed until next April Fools' Day, on which date we hope to have the entire plan in actual operation.

Denmark and Democracy

"More than 90 per cent of the population of Denmark went to the polls this week and cast an overwhelming vote for democracy. The holding of free elections in a Nazi-dominated country is in itself a remarkable phenomenon, explained only on the ground that the Germans still miscalculate the extent of their failure in Europe," reports the New York Times, and continues, "Hitler's famous intuition has led him into military disaster in the east, but in the political field it has been an even poorer guide."

"Beginning with England and not ending with Russia, Hitler has misjudged the temper of every nation he has attacked or tried to woo. Denmark remains as completely unknown to him as the United States. It is this complete inability to understand the psychology of other peoples . . . a blind spot that defeated Germany before . . . that made his new order a fantasy long before it became a nightmare."

The elections in Denmark were evidently permitted as a demonstration. It was confidently expected that two years of "benevolent" occupation and Nazi propaganda would give triumphant strength to the carefully nurtured and self-endowed Danish Nazis. But what was demonstrated was something quite different. Whether or not the result was influenced by the appeal broadcast by the Danish Minister to the United States, who begged his countrymen to seize the opportunity to show their sentiments, the vote was 15 per cent higher than in the last election, and all the democratic parties gained at the expense of the extreme left and right. The Nazi vote was insignificant.

Surely this is indicative of the trend of world thinking. People everywhere are turning again to democracy, shying away from both left and right radicals, for, after all, there is little to choose between the two. It is an ill wind that blows no one good, and the dangers faced by all the people of Denmark have given them a new faith in themselves, and faith in the wisdom and goodness of the common people is faith in democracy.

Hash Marks

The ETO championship basketball tournament now going on in Royal Albert Hall is a super duper athletic affair, indeed—but we hope it doesn't become an annual event.

This may come as a shock to the Medical Corps, but a health service commission reports that witch doctors are



still preferred by many African natives, even though they can have the services of a qualified doctor. So we suggest the medics add a witch doctor to their staff—to take care of the goldbricks.

Perhaps a certain Mr. and Mrs. Sanders were looking into the future when they named their son "Soldier." "Soldier" is now in the army and this week showed further talent by blossoming out as a basketball star, scoring 19 points as his team, the Playboys, won a tournament victory.

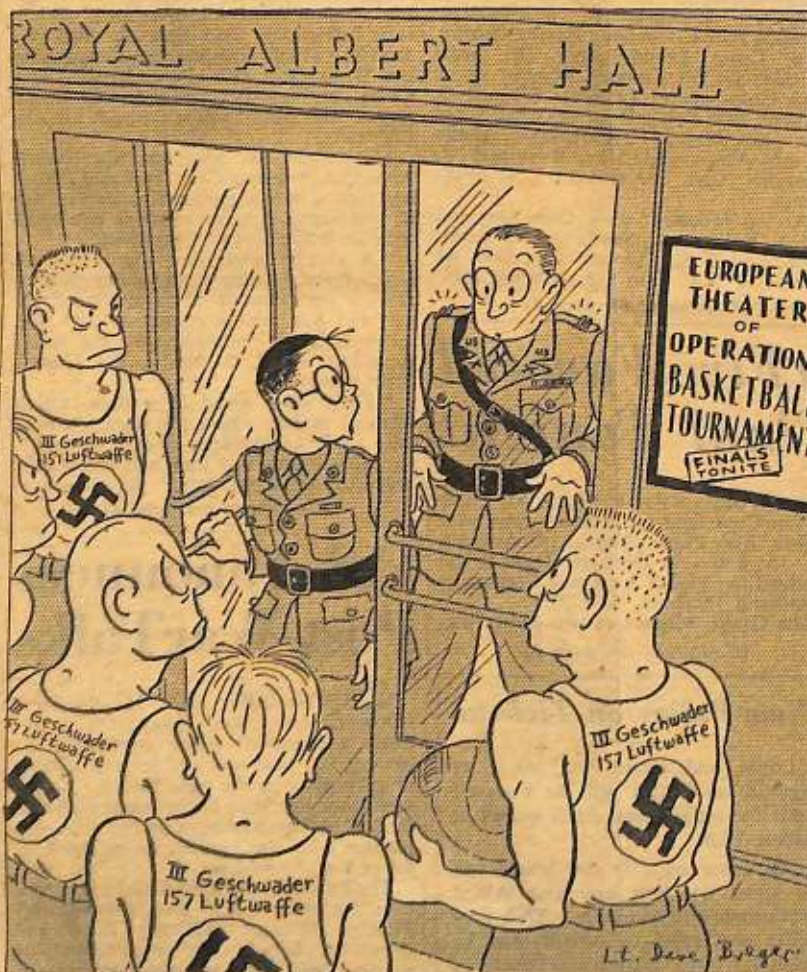
Back in the States they are still having polls of one kind and another. In order to find out what GI Joe likes to eat the Army sent a Master Sergeant and a picked crew around various camps to ask questions. After interviewing several thousand dogfaces, the M/S came back with the remarkable "discovery" that GI Joe's favorite meat was HOT DOGS. Listen, sarge, take it from a guy who knows—somebody's been kidding you!

Where telephone service is concerned we have long been taught to picture operators as "the voice with a smile."



Last week the manager of a telephone company—a guy named Daubendiek—stood a good chance of going to jail because he faltered in that belief. When his A ration book for a company car ran out, he applied for a C book to get more gas. The ration board said that he would have to fill out a new application form. This so enraged Daubendiek that for two hours no subscriber could get anything out of his phone except a voice which said, variously, "Daubendiek speaking; no gas, no calls; speak to the ration board," or "This service is kind of punk; just like the gasoline situation." After a half-hour of this garble, one irate customer tore his phone from the wall for emotional relief.

J. C. W. PRIVATE BREGER

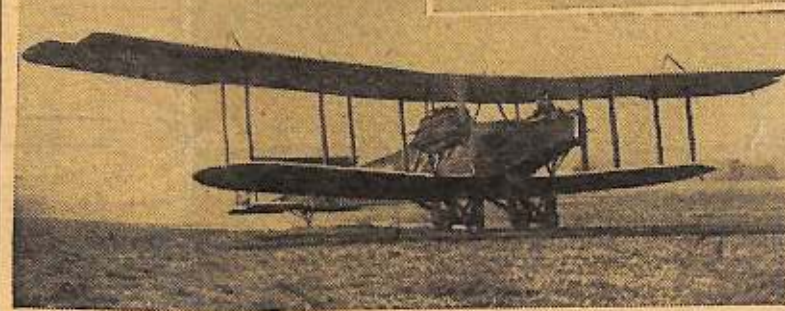
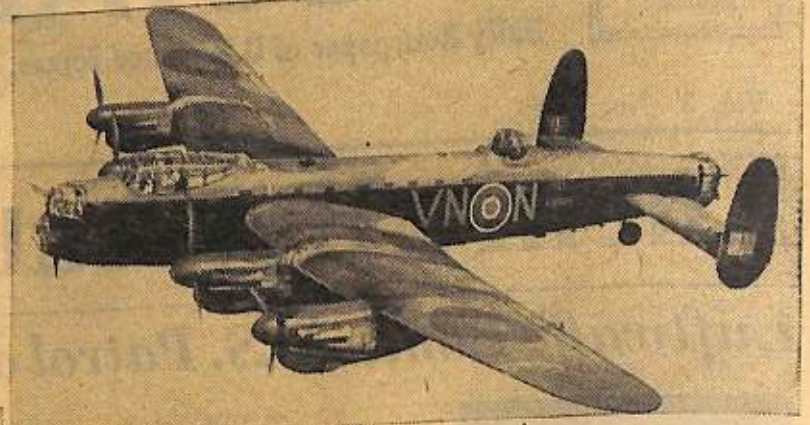


"Sir, they insist they're eligible for this tournament!"

The RAF Spans a Quarter Century

Against Odds of 7-1 They Won Battle Of Britain

Twenty-five years old today, the Royal Air Force is carrying its share—and then some—of the Allied war burden. Yesterday, Philip Bucknell told of the RAF's beginnings in World War I, its struggle to build a strong attack and defense during peace. Today, he completes the story of the RAF at war.



An RAF Lancaster bomber (above) on operation over enemy territory today can carry a bomb load as high as 16,000 pounds (this is reduced however by increasing the distance it must travel to its target). The Handley Page bomber (left) handled the bulk of the bombing missions for the RFC in the last war with a bomb load of about 2,000 pounds.

During the 84 days in which the Luftwaffe persisted in its daylight raids it lost 2,375 aircraft. The RAF lost 375 pilots killed and 358 wounded. But it had won the daylight battle of Britain.

The Germans changed their tactics. The night blitz began. In the ten to 14 hours of winter night, German bombers came over British towns in relays of 250 at a time. Operating from French bases less than 100 miles away the bombers would come over three and four times a night, dropping up to 500 tons of bombs. They caused much damage. Today RAF and USAAF pour down two and three times the weight of bombs on German towns in the course of an hour.

The RAF put into the sky Beaufort night-fighters, with secret locating instruments. Eighteen German bombers were shot down one night. Night raiding was becoming expensive. The German efforts against this country died away. From June, 1941, until today, raids on this country have been light and sporadic.

Yet all this time the RAF was expanding. Gradually it went over to the offensive. It had been the first to open bombing warfare independently of the land army. On the night of May 11, 1940, 18 Whitley bombers dropped bombs on the railroad system at Munchen-Gladbach, and carried on with attacks on Hamburg and other strategic points. But the RAF had insufficient machines to make bombing attacks effective.

The Big Bombers

In 1941, it was a different story. Stirlings, Halifaxes and Manchesters, well armed machines capable of carrying several tons of bombs long distances, came into operation.

Spitfires and Hurricanes established fighter supremacy. In the last 10 months of 1941, 4,250 German and 1,100 Italian planes were downed for the loss of fewer than 1,800 British airplanes.

In 1942 the RAF got into its stride. It started to hit the German where it hurts the most—Essen, Hamburg, the Ruhr, Mainz, Munich and Berlin. The toll of devastation of German industrial towns grew. Wilhelmshaven lost 118 of its industrial acres; Rostock, 130; Mainz, 135; Lubeck, 200; Dusseldorf, 380; Cologne, 600.

Across the length and breadth of the Nazis' conquered lands—from Naples to Berlin, from Trondheim to Lorient—the RAF spread destruction. The big Lancasters bulked above the flames of German targets.

Then, on Aug. 17, 1942, a force of American heavy bombers took off from British bases, crossed the Channel and bombed the Nazi rail facilities at Rouen, in Occupied France.

The Royal Air Force and the American Air Force were back together again, only a few months short of their first joint effort over the lines of the German spring drive in 1918.

That Rouen raid last August was the forerunner of the round-the-clock raids of today.

The rest of the story is being written from day to day above the battlefields of Africa and the Far East, above India and the oceans of the world and over Europe, which is not a battlefield yet.



The Blushing Bride

Why do they say "the blushing bride," I've often heard it asked, And somehow or other the reason Has never been unmasked; But when you come right down to it, When all is done and said, When she thinks how she struggled to land him, Why wouldn't her face be red?

Jazbo

Telegrams were out calling up the trained reserves from the Auxiliary Air Force and the Reserve.

During the long period of the "phony war" the RAF was busy. In the first two years, aircraft of Coastal Command—largely Consolidated PB 2Ys and Hudsons—ranged 40,000,000 miles over the seas. Reconnaissance planes flew out over the Maginot Line, probing German defenses.

Bombers flew over enemy territory dropping bundles of propaganda pamphlets. The value of these raids in total war was heatedly debated, but bomber pilots and navigators learned their way around in the dark skies, over blacked-out Europe.

Targets Plotted

Railways, factories, supply depots were plotted. Intelligence officers gathered information from the pilots on their return. Pictures were taken. The "bundles for Germany" policy may not have paid high from anti-morale standpoints, but Bomber Command Wellingtons and Whitleys were plotting the way Forts, Libs, Stirlings and Lancasters now follow.

Against the odds, the RAF threw everything it knew into the fight against German land forces and the Luftwaffe as Nazis swarmed over Europe in the summer of 1940. Outnumbered sometimes seven to one, Spitfires and Hurricanes sought combat with Heinkels and Messerschmitts over the German lines. Diving down into Norwegian fjords, through dense snowstorms, planes of Bomber Command blasted German shipping.

Holland, Belgium, France. The RAF was there. At that time they were still a small force. New British models were slow coming off the lines. American help came slowly. Soldiers crouching unprotected under vicious dive-bombing on the beaches of Dunkirk cried angrily, "Where is the RAF?" It was there, but there were not sufficient crews to stem the tide.

In the dark days of 1940, when Britain stood alone, and people watched the skies, the Air Ministry put into effect vast expansion plans. Lease-lend came into operation, American aircraft began to flow to the aid of the RAF. In Canada and the other Dominions, the Empire Training Scheme was started, which, together with home training, is providing the RAF with somewhere around 30,000 trained pilots and air crews a year.

Hard Days Ahead

But the hard days were ahead, the days in which Winston Churchill, Prime Minister, said: "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

On Aug. 8, 1940, the Germans launched upon this island the first of the mass air attacks that were to last until October. Over the fields of Kent, the Estuary of the Thames and the rolling country of southern England, German planes, bombers and fighters, at heights from 500 feet to five miles, came to crush British defenses.

Five hundred men in Spitfires and Hurricanes stood against them.

The Germans sought the decision by sending over five main types of bombers—the Ju87, a dive-bomber; the Ju88; various types of the Heinkel 111 (the flying pencil); the Dornier 215 and the Dornier 17.

They came over in their hundreds. They were thrown back. They brought fighter protection and they doubled that protection. Fighters flew above, below and surrounding the bombers. But in the first seven days 472 German aircraft were brought down over England. On Aug. 15 smoking ruins of more than 180 planes littered the English countryside or floated awhile on the sun-lit Channel.

Flanagan Wins Third Straight At St. Edmunds

Gilroy and Raber Score First-Round Kayoes; Lehan Victor

By George Butler

Stars and Stripes Special Correspondent BURY ST. EDMUNDS, Mar. 31—Pfc Thomas Flanagan, 157, powerful muller from Jersey City, N.J., outpointed Pfc Ken Hepburn, of Boston, Mass., 160, in a three-round slug fest here last night before 800 soldiers and civilians to win the main bout of a ten-fight card.

Hepburn, former Golden Glove fighter, won something of a moral victory by sticking three rounds with the hard-punching Flanagan, who was victorious in a recent Stars and Stripes match in London. The "Jersey bouncer" polished off his opponent in 45 seconds in a recent fight here.

Last night's fistic engagement was the third in a series sponsored by The Stars and Stripes and the American Red Cross. They were refereed by Sgt. Charles Sanza, of Minersville, Pa., middleweight champion of the Eighth Air Force and Sgt. Frank Jones, of Cincinnati.

Briefest blitz of the evening came when Cpl. John Gilroy, 147, folded up his opponent, Pvt. Charles Miller, of Buckwana, S.D., 150, with a barrage of blows and won a knockout in just 28 seconds. After a salvo of hits to the stomach, Gilroy connected with a terrific right to the jaw to end the match.

Pvt. Charles Raber, of Blacksville, W. Va., 157, launched a panzer attack on Joe Morling, 157, RAF fighter and when the smoke cleared, the West Virginian had his opponent stretched on the mat in 60 seconds. It was the third knockout of the evening.

The most evenly matched battle was staged when Pvt. Jim Eleazer, of Utica, N.Y., 165, lost a decision to Cpl. Mitchell Lehan, 165, of Toledo, Ohio. Both fighters were cautious and showed little inclination to start any fireworks until the third round. The audience's reaction indicated that the judges' decision did not meet with unanimous approval.

After the fights a banquet was held by the Red Cross at the club here for the fighters, their managers and handlers. Here are the summaries of the rest of the fights:

- Pvt. Ruben Aho, Superior, Wis., knocked out Cpl. John Kilpatrick, of Birmingham, Ala., 165.
Pfc. Milton Deronen Biloxi, Miss., 150, won a TKO over Cpl. Mervin Renquist, 147, in the third round.
Pfc. Tony Camerillo, of Los Angeles, 135, won a TKO in the first round over Pfc. Henry Koenig, Grand Rapids, Mich., 135.
Cpl. Kenneth Stranne, Springfield, Mass., 185, outpointed Cpl. Charles Musse, Newton, Mass., 185.
Pfc. John Finn, New York, 150, outpointed Sgt. Laurence Eckelson, of Vassar, Mich., 147.
Pvt. Charles Eatman, of Bremerton, Wash., 125, outpointed Pvt. Joe Wilson, Boston, Mass., 125.

NEWS FROM HOME

House Turns Down Ruml Plan For Income Tax Collection

WASHINGTON, Mar. 31—The House of Representatives turned down the controversial Ruml Plan for income tax collection last night in a roll call vote which showed 215 Congressmen opposed, 195 in favor.
The Ruml scheme had been violently opposed on the grounds that it would have handicapped the nation's war effort by failing to collect approximately \$10,000,000,000 in income taxes on last year's earnings.
Critics said most of the total would be in the higher brackets and called the plan a subterfuge by which high salaried groups sought to write themselves a tax moratorium in a year of skyrocketing war profits.

months for destroyers. They are 300 feet long—a third longer than the British corvette—and carry the same type of armament as destroyers.

US Steel Head Dies

NEW YORK, Mar. 31—James A. Farrell, 80, former president of the U.S. Steel Corporation, has died at his home here after a long illness.
Farrell saw the U.S. Steel Corporation grow from a few scattered mills to the largest industrial unit in the world, destined to employ 200,000 workers and engage in such allied industries as railroad, public utility, shipping and mining.
Farrell was credited with the building of U.S. Steel's great merchant fleet and he took a keen interest in developing foreign trade.

Honor Farmers

ST. PAUL, Minn., Mar. 31—Gold and maroon banners with the letter "A" in the center are being awarded by Gov. Harold Stassen to Minnesota farmers who are doing a good job in producing extra food for war needs. The banners, and a silver lapel button, are intended to be the agricultural equivalent of the "E" banners awarded industrial plants.

Minister Was Dishwasher

BOSTON, Mass., Mar. 31 (UP)—A dishwasher at a brookline cafeteria, known only as "George," was revealed, when he died here, as the Rev. George Zarman, 53, wealthy graduate of three universities.

LIZ BURNER



FOR YEARS I'VE BEEN MADLY IN LOVE WITH LORD CECIL CESSPOOL!! I'VE PRAYED THAT HE WOULD MAKE ME A CESSPOOL TOO! THOSE CESSPOOLS!! AH-H!! THEY HAVE A CERTAIN AIR ABOUT THEM--



BUT (SIGH) HE'S NEVER ASKED ME TO MARRY HIM, BECAUSE HE'S NEVER BEEN QUITE SURE THAT MY SOCIAL POSITION IS EQUAL TO THE STANDARDS OF A CESSPOOL!!



THIS WILL CLINCH IT!!—THE FACT THAT I HAVE BEEN SELECTED TO INTRODUCE THE SOUTH'S MOST EXCLUSIVE DEBUTANTE, CARAMEE BACK—FROM OLD VIRGINNY, TO NEW YORK SOCIETY!! I'LL CABLE HIM AN INVITATION, IMMEDIATELY!!



THE NEXT DAY— THIS CLINCHES IT!! IF SHE IS SOCIALLY STRONG ENOUGH TO SPONSOR THAT DEBUTANTE, SHE DESERVES TO BECOME A CESSPOOL'S MATE!!

THIS CLINCHES IT!! IF SHE IS SOCIALLY STRONG ENOUGH TO SPONSOR THAT DEBUTANTE, SHE DESERVES TO BECOME A CESSPOOL'S MATE!!



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By Carl V. Coffey

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Southern Base Got This Rebound



S/Sgt. George Fox (19) grabbed this rebound for his Southern Base Command team, who later reached the semi-final round of the ETO cage tourney by knocking out the Fourth Port Ramblers, 31-15, on the Albert Hall floor yesterday afternoon.

Red Wings, Bruins Advance To Stanley Cup Hockey Finals

NEW YORK, Mar. 31—Overtime goals by two rookies—Adam Brown, and Ab DeMarco—gave the Detroit Red Wings and the Boston Bruins close victories to advance the Wings and the Bruins to the finals of the Stanley Cup playoffs in the National Hockey League.
At Toronto, Brown, wing forward, brought up from Indianapolis only last week, shot home a sudden-death goal to give the Detroit Red Wings a 3-2 overtime victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs to clinch their Series A cup playoffs, taking four games in the best-of-seven series.
After an initial scoreless period, Mud Bruneteau, right winger, put Detroit in the lead. Joe Carveth put the Wings two

up with a solo effort early in the third period, then Maple Leaf Jack McClean took a pass from Bud Poile to open the Chicago scoring and Sweeney Schriner came through with the tying goal with Bill Taylor and Lorne Carr assisting. Brown took Grosso's pass and shot the puck into the opening side of the Leafs' net for the winning goal, putting Detroit in the finals.
Meanwhile at Boston, DeMarco tallied the deciding goal as the Bruins staged an uphill battle to halt Montreal's fighting Canadiens, 5-4, in the other overtime tilt before 14,394 roaring fans at Boston Garden. It was the fourth victory for the Bruins in the five games of the best-of-seven Series A.

Basketball Tournament Box Scores

Table with columns for Playboys-38 and Bomber Command-27. Lists player names and scores.

Table with columns for London B.C.-41 and Blues-21. Lists player names and scores.

Table with columns for Grays-52 and AGS-24. Lists player names and scores.

Table with columns for Fighter Command-35 and Service Command-37. Lists player names and scores.

Table with columns for S. B. S.-37 and Fourth Port Ramblers-15. Lists player names and scores.

Table with columns for Grays-50 and Playboys-26. Lists player names and scores.

Table with columns for S. B. S.-37 and Fourth Port Ramblers-15. Lists player names and scores.

Table with columns for Grays-50 and Playboys-26. Lists player names and scores.

Southern Base Jolts Ramblers; LBC Five Wins

Grays,—Division Quintet, Favored to Cop Tourny Title

(Continued from page 1)

terday, established themselves as tourney favorites and definitely the team to beat for the title. They overpowered the AGS, 52-24, in a first-round encounter yesterday afternoon, and then returned last night to flatten the Playboys in the quarter-finals.

The Grays used their first team in only the first half against the AGS, with George Buckless, Paul Kasnik and Mike Holenda, erecting 27-9 lead and leaving the rest to capable second stringers. Against the Playboys, who defeated Eighth Air Force Bomber Command, 38-28, in the afternoon, the Grays started slowly, but the momentum of their fast breaking attack increased as the game progressed.

With Holenda registering nine points and Kasnik eight, the Grays held a 26-16 lead at the half. Jim Sharp, with eight points in the second half, kept the offense moving at high speed.

Standout for the Playboys in both of their games was Pvt. Soldier Sanders, sharpshooting Indian from Tahlequa, Okla., who accounted for 19 points against Bomber Command and 11 against the Grays.

Outstanding game of the tourney so far was last night's encounter which resulted in a hair-raising last second win for Service Command against Fighter Command.

Trailing by seven points, 33-28, with five minutes left in the game, Service Command tied the score at 35-35 on Walter Machock's long shot with 58 seconds to play. Ray Zimmerman's one-handed peg from 25 feet out won the game with 15 seconds on the clock. Machock and Zimmerman were both substitutes.

After breaking a ten-ten tie to finish the first quarter with a two point lead, Fighter Command held the upper hand all the way until the Zimmerman-Machock combination came through with their Merriwell finish.

Lt. Don Texdahl, burly Dick Moffatt and Alex Walterson kept the Fighters on top until the last minute with timely shots and smooth floor work. Little Don Samsal and big Herbert Christin, were the Service command work horses until Zimmerman and Machock took charge in the closing moments. Texdahl, Moffatt and Christin shared scoring honors with nine points apiece. Walterson and Samsal hit the basket for eight.

First team to gain the semi-finals, the Southern Base Section cagers overpowered the Fourth Port Ramblers in the first quarterfinal yesterday afternoon. Led by slender Bill Blake, forward from Newburgh, N.Y., who set a scoring pace for both teams of 14 points, the Base Section five got off to a flying start, holding a lead of 12-1 in the first quarter and 19-7 at the half. Fred Winton, Dick Smutzler and Bill Campbell joined Blake in the second half attack and a runaway of the contest. The Ramblers were obviously worn out from their close one-point victory over the Londonderry Navy team on Tuesday.

London Base Command entered the semi-finals by walloping the 11th Division Blues in another free-scoring afternoon tilt. Following the example set by Southern Base Section, the London dribblers roared away to a swift lead and kept pouring on the heat. London held a 10-0 advantage in the first period and was in front 14-0 in the second quarter before the Blues broke the spell as Joe Seveiro's shot from mid-court gave his team its first points. The London boys, however, continued their assault and led 19-2 at the half. Led by Doyle Hood, Howard Brown and Hal Kalmeyer, the Blues outscored London, 13-6, in the third quarter, but fell apart again in the last period as the London five scored 16 points to the Blues' six. Harold Heath, who tacked ten points on to the 15 he tallied the day before, Red Ettinger, Dom Restifo, and Buddy Hoffman, were London's best. Repeating his standout performance of the first round, Ettinger was a tireless sparkplug for his team.

The Blues showed a complete reversal of the form they displayed in the first round. London's early lead left the Blues disorganized and in the second half the game turned into a rout.

The semi-finals send London Base Command against Southern Base Section at 2 PM and the Grays against Service Command at 3 PM.

Here is the schedule of today's games: 2 PM—Southern Base Section vs. London Base Command. 3 PM—Grays vs. Service Command. 7 PM—Consolation game between the semi-final losers. 8 PM—Final between winners of two afternoon games.

Ulster Handball Tourny At Belfast Red Cross

BELFAST, Mar. 31—Soldier and technician four-wall artists begin play this week in the Red Cross club's handball tournament.

One of the outstanding matches of the tournament will be a second-round affair between Ray Pauley, Lockheed technician from Madison, Wis., and Cpl. Jacob Miller, of Minneapolis, Minn. Both drew opening round byes. The winner will rank a heavy favorite to win the tournament. A dark horse in the meet is M/Sgt. Ralph B. Portnov, of Indianapolis, Ind.

# British Pursue Rommel North Yanks Advance

## 8th and 5th Armies Drive Toward Quick Junction On Gafsa Road

(Continued from page 1)

smashing through hastily built fortifications among the olive groves and cereal crops of the southern Tunisian plains, maintained contact with Rommel's rear-guards as they retreated toward Sfax.

Mainly the defenses consisted of road blocks and minefields. A few rearguard actions were being fought, with the Nazis throwing in tanks and cleverly concealed artillery, but no strong counter-attacks were being made.

Allied air forces, operating from both the desert to the east and Tunisian and Algerian airfields to the west, continued to bomb and strafe the retreating enemy transport columns and troop concentrations in what was probably the heaviest air offensive ever carried out by the Allies.

### Hundreds of Sorties

The long Axis flank, from the north to the south of Tunisia, was punished by hundreds of Allied aerial sorties. Most of the targets were roads, bridges and railways behind the enemy's lines.

Most concentrated attacks were made on targets in the Sfax-Gabes area. Along the road to Sfax, Hurri-bombers and Spitfires kept up their attacks on the retreating enemy columns, troop concentrations and gun positions.

In the north Allied troops occupied at 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon the village of Medjenane, a thin straggling line of bomb- and shell-torn buildings.

Capture of Sedjenane placed the Allies within 28 miles of Mateur by road, but the country facing them is densely wooded, very hilly and full of difficult ravines, which will slow their progress.

Its occupation gave the Allies possession of the Axis communication center for the northern tip of the Tunisian front and left the enemy no chance but to retire further up the road toward Mateur.

### Enemy Still Resists

Although the Allies scored a decisive victory in the three-day offensive along the important northern road, two small pockets of enemy resistance remained.

One unit was still resisting in thick stubble growth in a valley just south of Sedjenane. Another battalion, apparently in desperation or in an effort to fight their way back to the German positions, attacked Allied positions on Djebel Coucha, on the right flank.

It was not immediately apparent whether the enemy was seeking to set up a defensive position on the high ground just east of Sedjenane or retire approximately ten miles further to positions on Green Hill and Bald Hill, from which he debouched for the attack earlier in the month in the drive which pushed the Allies 25 miles back and threatened Beja.

# Plan Free Legal Advice for Army

NEW YORK, Mar. 30 (AP)—Free legal assistance for all soldiers has been planned jointly by the War Department and the American Bar Association, it was announced today.

The War Department has announced that a legal assistance officer—a commissioned officer who is an attorney—would be appointed for each post and camp in the United States. Similar aid may be made available for posts and camps overseas at the discretion of the commanding officers and legal representation of soldiers abroad will be available at their homes through correspondence.

In the ETO, no officers have been appointed as legal advisers under the new plan but soldiers may consult any judge advocate for assistance in legal matters. The American Red Cross also aids servicemen in London through Gwen Winningham, a graduate of the Houston (Tex.) Law School, who has an office in the Rainbow Corner club.

## April Fools' Programs At Red Cross Clubs

April Fool's day dances and a party and quiz program are scheduled at London Red Cross clubs tonight.

The Hans Crescent club has a dance from 7.30 PM to 10.30 PM, with Cpl. Barnard's orchestra.

There is a square dance from 8.30 to 10.30 PM at the Mostyn club.

An entertainment and quiz program is scheduled at the Rainbow Corner from 3 PM to 6 PM.

Miss Frances Day, radio artist, and the Coconut Grove rumba band will entertain at a dinner-dance and cabaret from 7 PM to 11 PM at the Charles Street Nurses' club.

## Msgr. Spellman Sees De Valera

DUBLIN, Mar. 31 (AP)—Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, of New York, called on Eamon DeValera at the Government Building here this morning after celebrating Mass at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral.

## Italians Want Invasion, Freed Prisoners Assert

ALEXANDRIA, Mar. 31 (UP)—Italian people are eagerly waiting for an Allied invasion of Italy, according to British soldiers freed in the prisoner exchange at Mersin, Turkey, last week.

They frequently spoke to the Italians and when they left their prison camps civilians whom they had met around the camp urged them to return and whispered: "Make haste."

They believed the poor food conditions in Italy were responsible for the feeling.

## Russians Hold Nazi Air Jabs

### Ground Fighting Quiet. Planes And Artillery More Active

By the United Press

Air and artillery action has increased along the Russian front, while the comparative lull in the ground fighting continues, both Russian and German reports said yesterday.

The heaviest air activity was on the southern end of the front, where the Germans hold a bridgehead in the Kuban area.

"Air activity has lately shown a great increase on the southern front. The Germans are sending over groups of ten, 15 and 20 aircraft to bomb our positions, but are unable to cause any substantial damage," Moscow radio said.

A dispatch from Moscow said in one attack by about 100 planes the enemy lost 27 when Russian fighters attacked.

Moscow said 16 German planes were destroyed and eight others damaged in a Nazi attempt to bomb a river crossing and railway line with a large formation of bombers.

Heaviest artillery action was along the middle course of the northern Donetz where a German Panzer division with artillery support is trying to establish a bridgehead across the river. Russian artillery shelled German tanks and infantry, destroying four tanks and dispersing a battalion.

Russian dispatches said the Nazis were shelling Leningrad from the southern approaches and carrying out intensive day and night bombing attacks. The northern positions held by the Finns are almost entirely inactive.

Russian reports said that heavy rain was increasing the mud which has already stopped major operations on the central front before Smolensk. Local attacks are continuing.

## John Paul Jones Flag Starts Annapolis Trip

LEEDS, Mar. 31—A hand-stitched reproduction of the flag John Paul Jones left on his sinking Bonne Homme Richard on Sept. 23, 1779, started its long journey to the halls of the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., in a ceremony at the Civic Hall here today.

Two of the women who made it, to commemorate the American naval victory over HMS Serapis—and the fact that the two navies are now engaged in war against a common enemy—presented it to Mrs. E. M. Cardwell, who later will hand it to Adm. Harold R. Stark, Commander, American Naval forces in Europe.

## Court Clears Sentry in Killing

Pvt. Herbert A. Brundrick was acquitted by a court-martial yesterday of charges of unlawfully killing John Neill, 54, a longshoreman employed on the Liverpool docks where Brundrick was a sentry. The court was told that Brundrick fired after Neill failed to heed a challenge.

# Lo the Poor Bugler! His Outfit Wants Jive, But He Can't Swing

Bugler Pfc Howard Ralston, is unhappy.

Ralston read the March 20 story about Pfc Clarence Zylman, of Muskegon, Mich., now with Special Services, ETO, who's been giving bugle calls in Boogie. This resulted:

"Dear Editor—This is no social letter, but a letter pleading for help. It means life or death to me. I am a bugler and when my brother soldiers read in your paper about Pfc Clarence Zylman, the Boogie Woogie Bugler, and how he swings First Call, they want the same from me or else—

## Gen. Lee Visits U.S. Clubs in London



Maj. Gen. John C. H. Lee chats with T/Sgt. John E. Lang, of Omaha, Neb., T/Sgt. Orlin G. Lunt, of Montpelier, Vt., and S/Sgt. Ernest C. Wurm, of Springfield, Ore., at the American Red Cross Rainbow Corner

## SOS Chief Sees Red Cross Clubs

### Lauds Service Provided For American Troops In England

(Continued from page 1)

furloughs here. The two men are members of an Air Force unit in Iceland.

Cpl. Henry Chambers, of Pasadena, Cal., the General's Negro driver for the last 16 years, conducted his boss through the Duchess club for Negroes.

At Rainbow Corner, Gen. Lee asked Seaman Joseph F. Faist, of Union City, N.J., "Haven't we met before?" and said it was nice to see a seafaring man ashore. Faist said he had never met the general before.

T/Sgt. John E. Lang, Omaha, Neb.; T/Sgt. Orlin G. Lunt, Montpelier, Vt.; S/Sgt. Ernest Wurm, Springfield, Ore., and S/Sgt. Merle F. Wolf, Riverside, Ill., shook hands with the general at Rainbow Corner.

"Pardon me for butting in," Gen. Lee apologized to Pfc John Rogers, of Detroit, as he interrupted a conversation between Rogers and a Red Cross worker to shake hands with both.

During his five-hour trip through the clubs, the general made a score of short speeches of thanks to the workers for their efforts in making Red Cross clubs into homes for men of the U.S. services.

He talked with receptionists, dish-washers, charwomen, chefs and waitresses, had coffee at the Milestone club, lunch at the Washington, coffee and doughnuts at Rainbow Corner and Coca-Cola at the Jules club.

The SOS commander congratulated Chef Louis Boutheymy at the Mostyn club for "as fine a kitchen as I have ever seen in the Army," and for the economy he practices with food.

During the day, Gen. Lee visited the following clubs and inspected dining rooms, kitchens, bedrooms and lounges in each: Milestone, Eagle, Hans Crescent, Washington, Charles St. Nurses' club, Batts club, Reindeer, Eagle club dormitory, Jules, Duchess, Liberty, Mostyn and Rainbow, Corner.

## Bath Red Cross Club Offers Swims in Spa

BATH, Mar. 31—Soldiers' swimming sessions at the Spa, in Bath's famous warm mineral waters, have been arranged at 7 PM every Wednesday by the Red Cross club here.

An invitation dance is scheduled for Apr. 19 at the Red Cross Pump Room, with the all-soldier "Statesman band" playing.

## Blondie

By courtesy of King Features Syndicate and the London Daily Sketch



# Bombers Stop Enemy Convoy To New Guinea

## One Destroyer Probably Sunk as Allies Force Japs to Retire

ALLIED HQ, Southwest Pacific, Mar. 31 (UP)—A third Japanese convoy attempting to land supplies in New Guinea has been forced to retire after being attacked by heavy Allied bombers, according to today's official communique.

The convoy, which comprised four destroyers, was first sighted southwest of Kavieng, but bad weather conditions held up the attack until it was only five miles from Finschafen, the important Japanese base on the Huon Gulf.

Reports received so far show that one destroyer has probably been sunk off Finschafen.

### Gasmata Blasted

Gasmata, strong Jap base on the south coast of New Britain, was attacked by Allied heavy bombers yesterday, which dumped 1,000-lb. bombs on the airfield and strafed runways and installations nearby.

While shadowing enemy shipping off the south coast of New Britain, an Allied heavy reconnaissance plane was attacked on three different occasions by formations up to nine enemy fighters.

This plane completed its mission and returned safely after knocking out four enemy planes.

Heavy bombers attacked enemy coastal bases at Cape Orford, and Ubili, New Britain.

# Rotterdam Hit By Fortresses

(Continued from page 1)

formations flying behind and ahead of Maj. Romig's Forts, but did not fire on a single plane of his command.

Another group reported fighter attacks over the North Sea by a force of between 25 and 50 FW190s. Crew members said the German pilots came in singly, made one attack and then headed for home.

S/Sgt. Leonard Hunt, a right waist gunner from Bell, Cal., said that for one brief period 20mm. shells were bursting around his ship and others in the same formation.

"Boomtown Junior," piloted by Capt. Clyde D. Walker, of Tulsa, Okla., made a run over the target and planted bombs with one engine out of commission and another developing only one-third of its normal horsepower. 2/Lt. William J. Read, of Siloam Springs, Ark., Capt. Walker's co-pilot, described the situation laconically.

"We had engine trouble as we approached the target," he said.

The navigator of another Fortress, which experienced the heaviest fighter opposition of any participating in the raid, was 2/Lt. Wilbur M. Smith, of Rhineland, Wis. "The Jerries were pretty thick for a while," he said.

The Rotterdam raid came only a few hours after RAF Mosquitos had carried out a low-level attack on electrical factories at Eindhoven, Holland.

Skimming low over a rough sea, the RAF Bomber Command planes crossed the Dutch coast at dusk Tuesday and dodged through light flak as they stormed across the low-lying Dutch meadows on the way to the target.

Weaving in and out between trees, church steeples and factory chimneys the British bombers unloaded over the huge Philips factories at Eindhoven, chief source of supply for the radio tubes on which German military communications largely rely. Seriously damaged in another raid four months ago, the factories had just resumed full production.

# Stukas - - -

(Continued from page 1)

pointed out. It added that there had been occasions when "considerable formations" were shot out of the sky.

It was pointed out that the RAF statement from North Africa referred only to the Stuka dive-bomber, the original Ju 87B. There are other types of dive-bombers in operation, some of which have been ordered by Britain from the U.S.

Both the American Army and Navy list dive-bombers in their battle lineups; the Navy has used the SBD2 (Douglas) for some time, the Army has its A24 and A25, modifications of the basic Navy model.

In London, air officials had no confirmation of the Associated Press reports that Germany no longer is building the Stukas, but RAF authorities for some time have indicated unofficially that they believed the dive-bomber to be outdated in the face of fast fighters and accurate ack-ack.

The new fighter-dive-bomber built by North American was reported in Washington to be a 400-mile-an-hour ship with six machine-guns, bomb racks and dive brakes, designated as the A36.

The P51 Mustang, its prototype, is in service in the ETO as an Army Cooperation plane, with scores of successful attacks on Nazi targets in Europe to its credit.