

Wie weit ist es entfernt?
Vee vait ist ess entferrnt?
What distance is it from here?

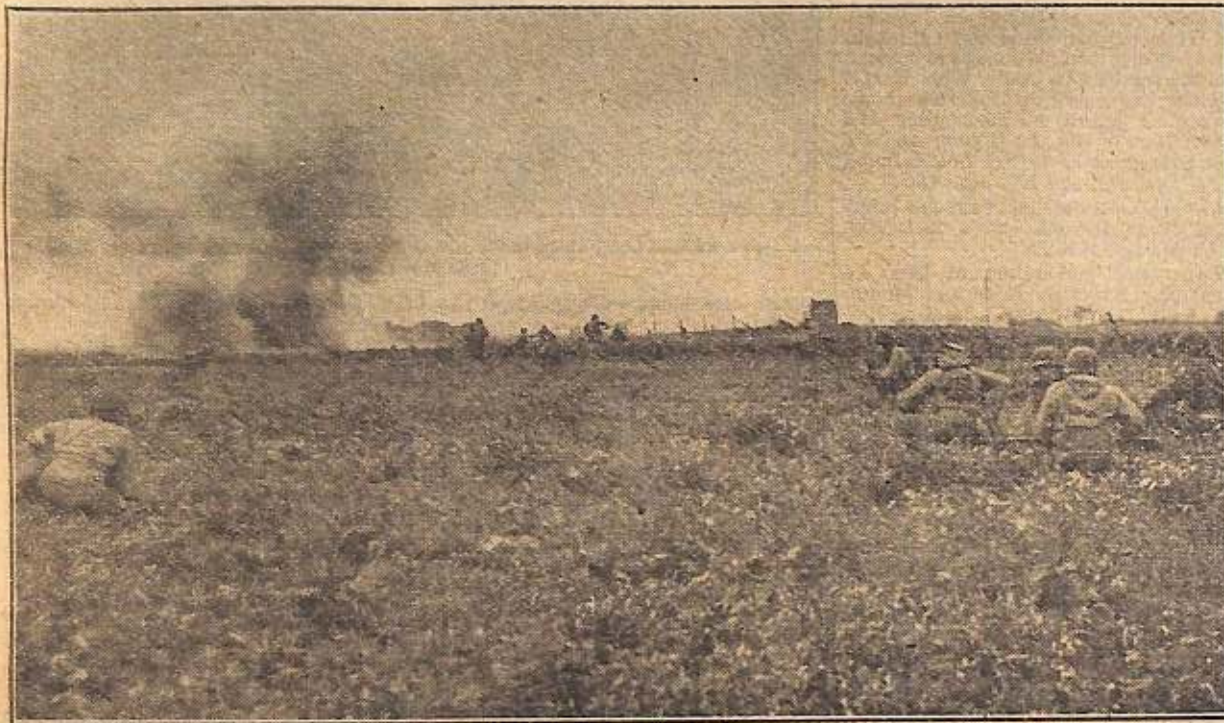
Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces in the European Theater of Operations
VOL. 5 No. 17-1d. TUESDAY Nov. 21, 1944

Bonsoir
Bawn-swar
Good evening

Cigarette Sales to U.K. Noncombatants Halted

French at the Rhine; Metz Falls

Widening the Breach in Fortress Germany



Butt Ban On to Ease Shortage for Fighters

Cigarette sales in all United Kingdom PXs were halted last night to all U.S. Army personnel except combat soldiers, replacements and hospital patients. The ban on cigarette sales was ordered for an indefinite period by Lt. Gen. John C. H. Lee, Communications Zone commander, because of an acute shortage of smokes for combat soldiers. Beginning this morning, cigarettes will be sold only to combat airmen, hospital patients, troops in Ground Force replacement centers and line soldiers recuperating in rest areas. These men will get five packs a week. The order banning cigarette sales did not specify whether cigars and pipe tobacco were also excluded from the weekly ration. However, when Com Z personnel in

An Editorial

As the voice of the American serviceman in the United Kingdom, The Stars and Stripes hereby directs this question, which is in the minds of every GI smoker, to Washington: "Where are the cigarettes?" This question, which in view of the earlier cut in the ration and last night's announcement that the entire sale of cigarettes was being banned to non-combatants, we believe to be a reasonable one and necessary.

Certainly nobody begrudges the fighting men in the air or on the ground what smokes are available. They deserve them. But looking coldly at the fact of the shortage itself, and equally coldly at the innumerable and confused reports and unofficial explanations from the home front as to what the situation is there and here regarding cigarettes, we believe it is time the soldier's voice was heard. Where are the cigarettes?

France took a similar bust one week ago, the order there clearly barred cigars and tobacco, as well as cigarettes. The only explanation of the order was the shortage of smokes for combat troops. No reason was given for the existence of this shortage. As a result of the ban on American cigarette purchases, American consumption of British cigarettes was expected to rise sharply. However, no shortage of British smokes was anticipated last night. A spokesman for the British Board of Trade in London told The Stars and Stripes: "Increased American purchases of our cigarettes will bring no hardship to British smokers. We have plenty to supply any demands." United Kingdom soldiers first began to feel the pinch of the cigarette crisis a week ago, when PXs reduced the weekly ration from seven to five packs. As in the U.K., PXs in France reduced the ration by two packs one week before suspending sales entirely.

12 Yule Gifts Per Man (Ha)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (ANS)—According to Postoffice statisticians, if you're a GI overseas you should be averaging 12 Christmas packages this year. Of course, you may get nothing more than one parcel containing shoe-shine equipment from the local politician, but here are the statistical facts: More than 82,000,000 parcels have been cleared for shipment to servicemen overseas, Postmaster General Frank Walker said today. The Army total is 61,641,487 for five million men. Navy men will receive about 25,000,000 parcels. Meanwhile, postal officers warned that this was the last week that GIs in the U.K. may reasonably expect to mail gifts and greeting cards and get them home by Dec. 25.

Plan for Administering Enemy Areas Is Set Up

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (Reuter)—Acting Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr. announced today that much of the plan for the administration of enemy areas by the European Advisory Commission already had been set up but that owing to military considerations the details could not be released to the public.

Flower Hurls Pot at Noel

NEW YORK, Nov. 20—Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia leaped from Flatbush's corner last night and sent Noel Coward reeling with a right swing for the British author's slur at Brooklyn soldiers in his book "Middle East Diary." "Brooklynites know their own boys and I don't think Coward knows much about American he-men. They say he's an actor and a poet. He's a poet—so was Oscar Wilde," the Mayor said.



Pushing beyond Aachen in the new thrust into the Reich, First Army men, above, move across a field under fire. In lower photo, two Ninth Army soldiers, concealed behind mounds of hay, man a mortar in front of a German barn.

'Must Shatter Japan for Good'

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Nov. 20—Warning that destruction of Japanese power "may prove to be a harder task than we now think," Navy Secretary James V. Forrestal told War Bond salesmen here yesterday that "if we fail to shatter that power now, I very much fear that . . . the job will have to be done all over again within 20 years—and at many times even the present cost." Forrestal reviewed what the Navy had achieved with 69 billion dollars since July, 1940: Sent to sea 10,300,000 tons of ships; built and equipped 300 advance bases; convoyed 61,000 ships in the Atlantic and Pacific; and landed 1,200,000 troops in assault waves on enemy beaches.

Carol at Rio
RIO DE JANEIRO, Nov. 20 (Reuter)—Ex-King Carol of Rumania arrived here today, accompanied by Madame Lupescu and a small retinue.

Snipers Mopped Up By 3rd Army Yanks; Belfort Captured

All organized resistance in Metz has ended, a Reuter dispatch from the U.S. Third Army revealed late last night.

In one of the swiftest drives since the Normandy breakthrough, tanks and troops of the First French Army yesterday captured three villages near the junction of the French-Swiss-German border after vanguard units had stabbed to the Rhine River at dusk on Sunday night.

Getting back their own in payment for the 1940 Nazi blitzkrieg, the French blasted through the Belfort Gap, covering 30 miles in two days, and took the fortress city of Belfort, beating down enemy troops on the western approaches at Fort le Sulbert and the town of Essert.

Nazi Oil, Rails Hit By Heavies, 700 Fighters

After three days of inactivity, approximately 160 Eighth Air Force Fortresses yesterday bombed the Scholven-Buer synthetic-oil plant at Gelsenkirchen and railroad yards at Munster.

More than 700 Mustang and Thunderbolt fighters escorted the heavies and strafed targets in the Coblenz, Weisbaden and Bonn areas, shooting up rail and road facilities. Of 18 fighters reported lost, ten were believed to have landed in friendly territory.

Italy-based 15th Air Force heavy bombers pounded oil refineries at Blechhammer, in Upper Silesia.

RAF Lancasters in daylight yesterday bombed targets in the Ruhr.

Stepping up the aerial offensive in close support of advancing U.S. ground forces, Ninth Air Force aircraft flew more than 1,800 sorties Sunday against enemy troops, fortified towns and communications.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that America's newest and fastest bomber, the Douglas twin-engine A26 Invader, designed for low- or medium-altitude flying, was now in operation with the Ninth Air Force.

The Invaders joined Marauders and Havocs in a 200-bomber attack Sunday on the German town of Merzig, 32 miles northeast of Metz.

Thunderbolt, Mustang and Lightning fighter-bombers shot down 15 enemy planes and destroyed 270 motor trucks and over 300 rail cars, disabled 46 locomotives and knocked out 28 gun positions, flying more than 1,300 sorties.

Reds Battling For Rail Hub

MOSCOW, Nov. 20 (AP)—Russian troops were reported today to be fighting on three sides of Hatvan, hub in north-eastern Hungary of four rail lines leading northward into central Slovakia and westward to Vienna.

Capture of Hatvan, 13 miles southwest of Gyoegyoes, which the Red Army took last night, would give the Russians control of one of the main passes through the Matra Mountains into central Slovakia and might enable them to cut off German forces in eastern Slovakia.

The Budapest sector was comparatively quiet, and it appeared that Marshal Rodion Malinovsky, Red Army commander on this front, was working to neutralize the enemy forces in north-eastern Hungary before striking to capture the Hungarian capital.

(Reports from Berlin said the Red Army had begun an offensive southeast of the Baltic naval base of Libau, in Latvia, where a force of 300,000 Germans had been cut off in the drive that liberated Riga, the capital.)

While the French operation—which threatens the German forces in both the Vosges Mountains and in the southern chain of the Siegfried defenses—stole most of the thunder from yesterday's operations along the Western Front, the American and British armies already in Germany made steady gains against opposition which was fierce in places and virtually non-existent in others.

Most of Metz Falls
In Metz, where the Germans had been expected to fight to the last, general enemy resistance was reported to have ceased as Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's troops crushed the Gestapo-led Volkssturm troops. One barracks in the northwestern sector still held out, and there was sporadic sniping. The German columns still in retreat east of Metz took a heavy pounding from Allied strafing planes.

Sunday's air operations in support of Western Front ground gains totalled 4,000 sorties.

The French drive to the Rhine—announcement of which came as a surprise,

! WITH THE FRENCH FIRST ARMY, Nov. 20 (UP)—A German battalion in which every man was deaf and dumb has been captured near Hericourt, on the Belfort front.

A labor battalion, it was sent to the most forward positions, because the deaf-mutes did not panic. They could not hear the noise of battle, so it had no effect on them, it was said.

since prior to it the French were reported about 17 miles from the border river at the nearest point—turned the whole southern flank of the German defenses in the region of the Swiss border.

Dispatches from Basle, near where the French now stood, said that German troops had retreated into Switzerland, giving up their arms to Swiss frontier guards. The Germans gave up St. Louis and Hueningen, about a mile north of the triple border junction. German civilians also fled across the Swiss border.

The French captured Hengenheim, Burgfelwarden and Neuweiler, all in an arc northwest of Basle. Only two forts of the Belfort defenses were said to be in German hands.

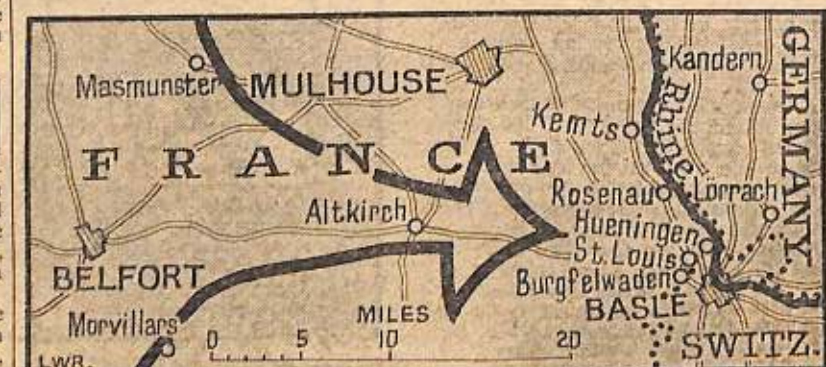
Tanks at Mulhouse
Twenty miles east of Belfort and about eight miles west of the Rhine, Allied tanks were reported to have reached Mulhouse, another German stronghold.

More than 10,000 German prisoners were taken by the French since they began their drive to smash the enemy line hinged on the Belfort Gap.

On the Allied front in Germany, weather stepped in again. British and American troops moving northeast and east from Geilenkirchen threw back two enemy counter-thrusts, one of which gained some ground before the position was restored.

The Germans have brought up rein-

(Continued on page 4)



THE STARS AND STRIPES
 Printed at The Times Publishing Company, Ltd., for U.S. Armed Forces, under auspices of the Special Service Division ETOUSA.
 Contents passed by the U.S. Army and Navy censors; subscription 26 shillings per year plus postage. ETO edition. Entered as second class matter Mar. 15, 1943, at the post office, New York, N.Y., under the Act of Mar. 3, 1879. All material appearing in this publication has been written and edited by uniformed members of the Army and Navy, except where stated that a civilian or other outside source is being quoted. Editorial office—The Times, Printing House Sq., London, E.C.4 (Tel. Cen. 2000). Business and circulation offices—37 Upper Brook St., London, W.1 (Tel. ETOUSA 2133).
 Vol. 5, No. 17, November 21, 1944



NOTE: B-Bag is receiving many unsigned letters. We require your signature as evidence of good faith only. Your identity will not be revealed if you inform us you want your name withheld.—Ed.

Sound Advice to Brooklyn

Nov. 15, 1944
 Dear Stars and Stripes,
 As an ETO Brooklynite may I suggest that the Society for the Prevention of Disparaging Remarks about Brooklyn go and collectively jump in Gowanus Canal. If Mr. Noel Coward on his trip to the Middle East saw some Brooklyn GIs who were little, who were lying in tears because of what Mr. Coward considers only a bullet wound or a fractured arm—so what? That is Mr. Coward's own opinion and it tells us something of Mr. Coward's own personality—but then again—so what?
 Certainly it is no excuse to launch a vituperative attack on Mr. Coward and by implication on our British friends. This type of careless talk has destroyed much of the goodwill which we have built up here and has made Brooklyn really seem silly.
 That Borough President Cashmore should stoop to a demagogic demand for an apology from Mr. Coward is a sad commentary on the leadership in Brooklyn. Better will be offered when we get back home from the ETO.
 Brooklynites can help their boys in the ETO who live and die in common with their English Allies by shutting up and ignoring such silly organizations as the one responsible for this nonsense.—Sgt. Irving Bearman, 32178648 AC.

Protest Mascot Shooting

Nov. 16, 1944
 Dear Stars and Stripes,
 We are the oldest heavy bombardment group in the ETO and naturally we have a lot of pride in our outfit. On Nov. 15 we find a new putsch has begun. Before we have a chance to get wind, our squadron mascots are picked up by the Military Police and shot. These dogs undoubtedly have more service in the ETO than the damn rookies that ordered and did the job.
 These dogs never bothered a soul and seldom if ever went near the mess hall. Therefore, no legitimate reason for their execution existed. If a squadron cannot have a mascot just how in the hell do the higher ups expect to maintain morale? We're here to bet that the name "Bomber" lives longer in the memories of the men than the Himmler that started this.—Plenty of browned off GIs, Bomb Sq.

Would-Be Mail Joe's Gripe

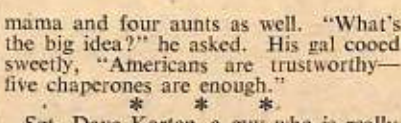
Nov. 16, 1944
 Dear Stars and Stripes,
 I've just read in the "Stripes" the reason for the delay in the mail delivery service—are you kiddin'! I, and thousands of others like my mail starved self, can absolutely see no reason whatsoever for any delay in mail delivery because of priority to the front-line GIs. Sure the front-line boys should be given priority, but it seems to me that there should be enough personnel at the postal bases to insure uninterrupted mail service to all, whether he be in the front lines or elsewhere.
 Now don't tell me that there aren't enough men to be had because I know different. You see I have just emerged from several of the Army's Replacement Depots at which I asked to be reclassified as a mail clerk; was I—no! Their answer was that they had a sufficient number of men for said service. If this be the case, then why not get them on the ball?—Low Morale, Sta. Hosp.

Who Gets the Cigarettes?

Nov. 17, 1944
 Dear Stars and Stripes,
 It's agreed that the boys at the front should have all the cigarettes they want, plus candy and other things. They're going through hell, I'm only going through my month's pay. But where in hell are all the smokes going that people back home hear are for the boys overseas? How about all the cartons different clubs, associations and factories send over—pro gratis? I got a pack last Christmas and a carton coming over on the boat a year ago, and consider myself lucky in that point.
 Clean up the canteens on all the troopships, PXs in the States, and this "help yourself" at the Red Cross clubs. Some GIs go into hospital for a couple of weeks and come out with two or maybe more cartons they were given free. The average GI doesn't want to get his cigarettes free, he'll pay for them and be satisfied. But, hell, a guy wants more than five packs a week. It's T.S. when you have to offer a buddy a Player long about the end of the week, at 50c. per 20 it ain't hay, but it sure as hell tastes like it.—S/Sgt. R. Lane, Bomber Group.

Hash Marks

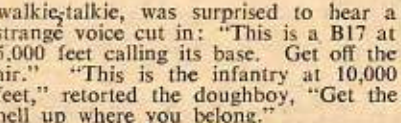
Today's daffynition: A bachelor is a guy who prefers single blessedness to double bedlam.
 * * *
 Signs of the Times. On a foxhole in the South Pacific are these words:
 Through these Portals
 Pass the fastest mortals.
 * * *
 Then there was the woman who wanted a divorce merely because every time she sat on her husband's lap he started dictating letters.
 * * *
 GI philosophy. There are two periods to a man's life when he doesn't understand women. Before and after marriage.
 * * *
 This one comes from Sicily. Sicilians keep a close eye on their daughters and a GI calling for a gal to take to a dance found he was expected to escort her



mama and four aunts as well. "What's the big idea?" he asked. His gal cooed sweetly, "Americans are trustworthy—five chaperones are enough."
 * * *
 Sgt. Dave Karten, a guy who is really on the ball, has reached a conclusion which leaves us no corner in which to hang our heads. He sez: "When you copy from one source, it's plagiarism. When you copy from five sources, it's research. When you copy from Esquire, Readers' Digest and Joe Miller's joke book—it's a hashmark."
 * * *
 And then there was the Sad Sack who slipped up behind his mess sergeant and whispered, "Any Spam, Sam?"
 * * *
 Overheard: She prefers the classics—Moonlight Sinatra being her favorite.
 * * *

90% With Her

Hutton was pretty crummy and I hope some smart fellow on your staff realized it. I've been in four years, and just because my mother, father and sister aren't in it, don't make me mad. Mrs. Le Gassique's got about 90 per cent of the Army fellows around here with her.—Cpl. A. R. Mason, Bomb Sq.
 I'm surprised and ashamed that you would print Mrs. Le Gassique's letter.—T/Sgt. E. G. Dickinson, Bomb Sq.
 Hutton reflected the attitude of many GIs, an attitude based on misunderstanding and thoughtlessness. We complain that our citizens' attitude is not similar to ours. Why should it? They are not faced with the realities confronted over here. The truth is that we, living under abnormal conditions, have changed. Returning to the U.S., we are resentful of the more normal attitude and existence.—Sgt. Don Richner, Bomb Sq.
 I, and probably many other "GI Joes" in this God-blessed land of fog and rain, agree with Hutton and Price on many points. In comparison with the British people back home are living like kings.—Cpl. William J. Herlihy, ASC.



The infantry is still the Queen of Battles. A GI on ski maneuvers in the Rockies, reporting to his CP on the walkie-talkie, was surprised to hear a strange voice cut in: "This is a B17 at 5,000 feet calling its base. Get off the air." "This is the infantry at 10,000 feet," retorted the doughboy, "Get the hell up where you belong."
 * * *
 Another Daffynition: A hypocrite is a GI who smiles when he pulls KP.
 * * *
 Compromise: A GI said, "Sir, I'm not asking for 20 days, 15 days or even ten. All I want is a three-day pass." The CO replied, "I can't give you three days or a weekend nor 24 hours—but you can have a bed-check pass." "I'll take it," said the GI.
 * * *
 Afterthought: Love is one game that is never called off on account of darkness.
 J. C. W.

Rose and a Thorn for the Home Front
 Hutton-Price-Mrs. Le Gassique Tussle Turns into Free-for-All

A recent letter in these columns by Mrs. Harold Le Gassique, of Chicago, wife of a soldier in the ETO, which protested against a series of articles about the home front by two Stars and Stripes reporters, Bud Hutton and Ben Price, has created a storm of replies, pro and con. Hutton and Price lamented the seeming lack of awareness at home of the war; Mrs. Le Gassique argued that they were guilty of sampling errors, that America is war-conscious, and that folks at home are trying to keep America the place its men and women overseas remember and cherish. The Stars and Stripes, interested in what GI Joe and Jane think about it, makes an open forum of the debate with a few of the letters received.



Two women at home share in the war effort—they're shown making tests in an industrial plant.

No matter how greatly civilians expend themselves, it cannot be compared to what the GI in the foxhole is going through. But no soldier is stupid enough to demand sacrifice for its own sake. What the GI rightfully demands is that folks back home have some healthy understanding and appreciation of what he is going and will have gone through.—S/Sgt. Louise Janus, WAC Det., Hq. and Hq. Sq., ASC.
 Mrs. Le Gassique has really got something there. It reeks with fact.—Sgt. J. U. Mercer, ASC.
 Twenty-one gun salute to Mrs. Le Gassique. Reporters Price and Hutton are most emphatically "told-off"!—T/Sgt. Harold E. Allen, Bomb Sq.
 When a GI calls our paper a rag, it's OK, but when some civilian takes it upon herself to insult The Stars and Stripes, we object. Our advice to her is to read the Ladies' Home Journal and quit worrying about "Our Yellow Rag."—1/Sgt. Clayton E. Hawken and Pfc Angelo "Greek" Mavrianos, Gen. Hosp.

Mostly GI Contribution
 By no stretch of the imagination could my assignment be compared, in misery and discomfort, to that of the fighting forces. Nevertheless, men have died in my proximity, and in ways inconceivable in Mrs. Le Gassique's worst nightmares. America has sweated, but the blood and tears are, for the most part, GI Joe's contribution, and to date he hasn't struck for higher pay, or because his buddy was busted for overstaying a pass. His mental state is pretty good and he's awfully busy.—Capt. C. J. Smith, MC.
 Mrs. Le Gassique wrote, "So what, let the M.D.'d guy drive a beat-up taxicab—Hell, is there any reason why he should have the best after he was over there and is now safely back home?" We think that we who have been up front should have something better than that after we have had our lives in danger.—Boys of Ward 15D, Pvt. Leonard Simon, Pvt. Leland W. Hall, Pvt. James Amos.
 Very clever how Mrs. Le Gassique skimmed over the strike situation: "Yes, we have strikes—soon over." Yes, over as soon as the GIs marched into the coal fields of Pennsylvania and took over. Over when they marched into Philly and took over the transportation system.—

Shouldn't Have Done It
 Why was Le Gassique so indiscreet as to send the articles by Hutton and Price to his wife? Does he agree? Or has he lost faith in his folks at home? Mrs. Le Gassique's letter does not offer a solution, but only pretends to provoke more animosity.—Pvt. L. M. Harrison, Repl. Bn.
 Do we detect a sort of private war being instigated between soldiers and civilians? It's about time we stopped being kids. It might be good for morale to gripe, but if it results in kicking each other around, the fun of griping may turn into a serious problem.—T/S Paul Schwartz, Sta. Hosp.
 Mrs. Le Gassique's letter is a human, down-to-earth answer to those who are doing so much, knowingly and unknowingly, to divide the American soldier from the American people. The American soldier would be just another soldier without the incomparable skill and devotion of the plain everyday man and

Since '41, a Vast Change
Gen. Somervell Says Arms Of Today Are War-Born
 WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (Reuter)—Weapons used by the Army today are in almost every case different from those provided when the U.S. was attacked Dec. 7, 1941, it was announced by Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, commander of Army Service Forces, in his annual report.
 The infantryman has a warmer, lighter uniform, a deadlier bayonet, a semi-automatic rifle, and combat boots in place of leggings, Somervell stated.
 His report revealed the following changes in Army fighting equipment:
 A new all-metal, .45-cal. sub-machine-gun, with three times the firepower of the old Thompson gun. The .30-cal. carbine has replaced the .45 revolver.

PRIVATE BREGER



"His point is: Why should buck privates be the only ones without something on their helmets?"

AFN Radio Program

- On Your Dial
 1375 kc. 1402 kc. 1411 kc. 1426 kc. 1447 kc.
 218.1m. 213.9m. 212.6m. 211.3m. 207.3m.
- Tuesday, Nov. 21
- 0755—Sign On—Program Resume.
 - 0800—Headlines—Combat Diary.
 - 0815—Personal Album, with Anita.
 - 0830—Joe Loss Orchestra.
 - 0900—World News.
 - 0905—Music by Sammy Kaye.
 - 0925—Music—America Loves Best.
 - 1000—Headlines—Morning After (Duffy's Tavern).
 - 1030—Strike up the Band.
 - 1100—Headlines—Home News from the USA.
 - 1105—Duffie Bag.
 - 1200—News.
 - 1205—Duffie Bag.
 - 1300—Headlines—Sports News.
 - 1305—NBC Symphony.
 - 1400—Headlines—Visiting Hour.
 - 1500—Headlines—Gusman Lesson.
 - 1505—Strike up the Band.
 - 1530—On the Record.
 - 1625—Carnival of Music.
 - 1700—Headlines—Melody Roundup with Lam and Abner.
 - 1715—Canada Guest Show.
 - 1755—American Sports News.
 - 1800—World News.
 - 1805—Mark up the Map.
 - 4810—GI Super Club.
 - 1900—Headlines—GI Journal, with Bing Crosby.
 - 1930—Here's to Romance.
 - 2000—Headlines—Combat Diary.
 - 2015—Fred Wasing's Pennsylvanians.
 - 2030—American Band of the AEF (Major Glenn Miller).
 - 2100—World News.
 - 2105—Charlie McCarthy.
 - 2135—Dinah Shore Show.
 - 2200—Headlines—Home News from the USA.
 - 2205—Ten O'Clock Special.
 - 2300—Final Edition.

5,000,000 GIs Overseas, 70% to ETO in '44

The Army now has nearly 5,000,000 troops overseas, according to the annual ASF report. Of all soldiers shipped overseas in 1944, about 70 per cent went to Atlantic theaters.
 Supplies required per man overseas have increased from one ton in the last war to five tons today. One soldier's continuing maintenance requires one ton per month now, compared with half a ton in 1917-18.
 Not a single piece of anti-aircraft artillery goes back to pre-war days, nor a single piece of heavy artillery from the 155-mm. up.
 The M4 tank, the 76-mm. anti-tank gun mounted on a high-speed tank chassis, the bazooka, and the amphibious 2½-ton truck were all developed after the U.S. entered the war.
 Eighteen different rocket items were made during the year, as were new flame-throwers, new types of incendiary and oil bombs, and a new tank-destroyer item.

