

EXTRA

New York

London Edition

Paris

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces
Vol. 5 No. 121—1d.

in the European Theater of Operations
SATURDAY, MARCH 24, 1945

EXTRA

Patton Dashes Across Rhine

Doughs Worm Out of a Nazi Where the Snakes Are



U.S. Army Signal Corp Photo
Taking nothing for granted, these 5th Division infantrymen accept with caution the directions of a German youth, who is pointing to snipers hiding in a building in Worms, Germany.

Nazis Say Russians Fight At Goltzow, 30 Mi. from Berlin

Red Army troops smashed at both ends of the Eastern Front yesterday as German commentators reported new Soviet attacks along the central Oder River line due east of Berlin and indicated that a major offensive against the Nazi capital was imminent.

Berlin reports said Marshal Zhukov launched attacks in the Kustrin area, but claimed that the assaults broke down. Later, however, German Radio, quoting a front-line reporter, admitted that the Russians, attacking with six infantry divisions and two tank brigades, "managed to break through our front and spearheads reached Goltzow." Goltzow is about six miles due west of Kustrin and 30 miles east of Berlin.

Battered Troops Retreat

Farther south, battered German troops retreated toward the Sudeten foothills as Marshal Koniev's force accelerated its advance toward the great industrial center of Moravska Ostrava, focal point controlling German communications in Bohemia.

At least five German strongpoints, barring the way to Czechoslovakia and the Moravian Gap, were directly menaced by Koniev's swiftly-moving columns. Assault forces were said to be fighting in the streets of Neisse.

Northeast of Neisse, the Russians were believed to have cut the Neisse-Ottmachau highway, while south of the city, other units crossed the Neisse-Ziegenhals railway.

On the northern sector, Zhukov's right wing continued its attacks against Stettin and the waterfront and parts of the city were reported burning after heavy shelling and bombing.

Mounting in Intensity

Farther east, German commentator Von Hammer said the battle on both sides of Danzig was mounting in intensity and claimed that all Soviet attacks against Gdynia and Zoppot had been held. The German high command, however, admitted withdrawals at Gdynia and one report placed the Russians within two miles of the port.

In East Prussia, Marshal Vassilievsky's men were reported fighting in the streets of Heiligenbeil—the last Nazi stronghold along the shore of the Frisches Haff.

Between Lake Balaton and the Danube, in Hungary, the Germans retreated as Marshal Tolbukhin's forces increased their attack, but the Nazi high command claimed the Soviet thrust toward Komarom had been stopped.

Vignette of War

Now Vertical Lebensraum

MAYEN, Germany, Mar. 23 (AP)—The Americans found what amounts to an underground city under the wreckage of the town of Mayen.

Civil affairs were administered from a town hall carved in the rock under a 12th-century castle. A subterranean passage about 1,200 feet long with wide galleries housed the municipal staff, police and fire departments as well as a large segment of the city's population.

The 3rd Army found 3,500 persons taking refuge there. Another Mayen cave sheltered 2,000. For a time during the air raids 12,000 persons lived underground in the two caverns.

Japs Admit Quitting Tokyo

Guam, Mar. 24 (Saturday) (AP).—American carrier planes destroyed or damaged 731 Japanese planes in raids on Southern Japan on Mar. 18 and 19. Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced today. Previous Press reports said that 475 planes had been destroyed.

One-fifth of Tokyo's industry was crippled and an estimated 1,200,000 workers made homeless by the Superfort raid on Mar. 9. 20th Air Force HQ disclosed last night, while Tokyo Radio reported that nearly 3,000,000 persons have been removed from the Japanese capital in one of the greatest mass civilian evacuations of the war.

Brig. Gen. Lauris Norstad, 20th Air Force Chief of Staff, said it would be three months before 20 per cent of Tokyo's fire-blitzed industrial installations could be restored to operations. Between 200,000 and 250,000 homes and industrial buildings were destroyed.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Shigeo Odachi told the Jap Diet (Parliament), a Tokyo broadcast said, that the city now had fewer than 4,000,000 inhabitants and that more were scheduled to leave. The city's pre-war population was about 7,000,000 the world's third largest.

Radio silence still cloaked the U.S. 5th Fleet following its recent aerial foray into the Inland Sea. Tokyo claimed the fleet was headed southward toward the Ryukyu Islands, between Japan and Formosa.

In the Philippines, 40th Infantry Division doughboys jumped the narrow strait from invaded Panay to capture Guimaras, in the 27th island landing of the campaign.

Ask That GIs Attend Frisco

WASHINGTON, Mar. 23 (ANS)—If Sen. Olin D. Johnston (D.-S.D.) and Rep. Henry M. Jackson (D.-Wash.) have their way, an American soldier would be included in the U.S. delegation to the world security conference in San Francisco next month.

They have introduced a resolution in the Senate and House respectively urging that a GI—with a rank no higher than a sergeant—be included in the American delegation.

The Congressmen's move followed a proposal by Joseph W. Frazer, a Detroit automobile manufacturer, that a British and Russian soldier be present at the conference as well as a GI.

Texas and South Carolina already have passed resolutions urging soldier representatives at the talks, while Maryland and Rhode Island are currently debating the issue.

The Des Moines Register and Tribune, in a poll, discovered that 83 per cent of those asked favored a World War II vet sitting in at the eventual peace conference. Four per cent said no, while 13 per cent were undecided.

Kesselring, New German Chief In West, A Master of Defense

Appointment of Field Marshal Albert Kesselring as German commander in the West in place of Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt, reported from 21st Army Group HQ, brings to the Western Front a tough, 60-year-old Bavarian, cool to the Nazis but one of Hitler's ablest generals. Veteran of 40 years' service in the Army and the Luftwaffe, Kesselring has had a role in the Battles of Britain, Russia and Italy, where his shrewd use of terrain, artillery and limited forces has resulted in a dogged retiring action up that rugged peninsula.

Kesselring's shown ability to make the most of limited resources is believed responsible for Hitler's decision to replace the 70-year-old von Rundstedt, who has been regarded as one of the pillars of the Reich. In the days of German blitzkrieg, Rundstedt won fame for his command of the Polish, French and Russian campaigns. He was commander of German forces in France when the Allies invaded, but it was the late Field Marshal Erwin Rommel who directed the actual enemy operations, seeking to hold out at Falaise, although Rundstedt urged a withdrawal to better defensive terrain.

Although loyal to Hitler, Kesselring has never manifested his Nazism; he was one of the few Wehrmacht officers who did not congratulate Der Fuehrer on his escape in the July bomb plot. A friend of Reich Marshal Hermann Goering, Kesselring helped build up the Luftwaffe and directed the aerial razing of Rotterdam and, with Field Marshal Hugo Sperrle, the subsequent Battle of Britain.



Field Marshal Kesselring

Shot down three times, Kesselring was primarily known as an air officer before his appointment as commander in Italy in 1942. Best examples of his tactics were the German defensive battles at Salerno and Cassino. By bringing such a tactician to the Western Front, Hitler apparently hopes to make the Allies fight for every inch of ground beyond the Rhine.

Site of Crossing Not Disclosed; Ruhr Ablaze from Raids

WITH U.S. 3rd ARMY, Mar. 23 (AP).—The 3rd Army crossed the Rhine without firing a shot during the night and today established a firm bridgehead on the east bank.

The first wave of doughboys paddled across the river at 10.25 PM, and ten minutes later sporadic shooting broke out as additional waves crossed the moonlit river.

(No indication was given where the crossing was made, but the Germans reported early yesterday that amphibious tanks had crossed at a point 12½ miles south of Mainz).

Caught completely by surprise, the Germans failed to fire a single round of artillery until two hours after the first doughboys were over the Rhine.

Germany's industrial Ruhr and the great plain leading to the north of the Reich was ablaze yesterday. Allied airmen, out for the third straight day of record operations to break the back of enemy forces in the path of Allied might massed on the Rhine, in the northern sector of the Western Front, struck again through towering clouds of smoke and dust at front-line targets, ammo dumps, oil supplies, troop concentrations, signal centers and suspected enemy HQ sites.

2,500 Heavies Hit Reich's Industries

The giant Allied air onslaught on the Ruhr roared into another day yesterday as an estimated 2,500 heavy bombers and fighters joined Continental-based tactical forces in blistering marshalling yards, railroad bridges and troop concentration centers in the Reich's smoldering industrial area.

The 8th Air Force led the attack with a salient of 1,250 heavies and 350 fighters which battled through intense flak to pound at ten marshalling yards and junctions in and around the Ruhr. Once again the bombers made their assaults through ideal weather, and airmen returned with precisely drawn accounts of bombs plummeting down directly on objectives.

The Fortresses and Liberators struck at yards in Osnabruck, Rheine, Munster and Coesfeld, on the northern fringe of the Ruhr; in Recklingshausen and Gladbeck, in the heart of the area; and in Hengstey, Unna-Dortmund, Holzwickede and Siegen, east and southeast of the Ruhr.

Flak, which spewed up in heavy bursts over the northernmost targets, was still the main opposition for the 8th. The fighters sighted few enemy planes and managed to shoot down only one—a training plane. One small force of Me109s made a half-hearted pass at a group of Libs but fled when U.S. fighters dove to the bombers' defense.

The RAF also dispatched a strong force, breaking their daylight effort into three separate operations. In the morning, Lancasters juggled 11-tonners over Bremen in their relentless attack on Reich rail bridges, spiraling their giant loads toward a span across the Wesel. In the afternoon more Lancs, ranged over a favorite area, Bielefeld, to drop six-tonners on a bridge across the Weser northeast of the city. In the third operation, Lancasters hit fortified troop positions on the east bank of the Rhine.

Munitions Production Down 2% in February

WASHINGTON, Mar. 23 (Reuter).—Although munitions production in the U.S. during February was higher on a daily basis than in the two previous months, the short month produced a total of about \$4,736,000,000—two per cent less than called for—a War Production Board report disclosed tonight.

Bombers Play Hell With It

The Ruhr Is Almost Was

This was the Ruhr yesterday, as seen by 8th Air Force airmen returning from raids over the vast Nazi arsenal:
1/Lt. Dale E. Dunn, of West Bend, Ia., a fighter pilot with the 361st Mustang Group: "Over the Dusseldorf area there was a solid overcast 10,000 feet high from smoke of I don't know how many fires. All afternoon long there was a steady stream of heavy bombers and fighters going in and out, smashing up the Ruhr with high, medium and dive bombing. Every time I turned my neck there were more bombs raining down and more smoke and fire coming up."

1/Lt. Homer G. Powell, of Portland, Ore., of the same group: "The Ruhr is lit up, messed up, and ruined. The hearts of the cities are dead. I don't see how they could move anything out of there any more except by horse and buggy at night."

Sgt. Joseph K. Hammer, of Sacramento, Cal., a Fort nose gunner: "The weather was so good that I could see lines and lines of freight cars stacked one behind the other in marshalling yards. But after our bombs struck smoke and dust just obliterated everything."

'Can Cross Anytime, Anywhere'—Bradley

Operations on the northern stretches of the Western Front continued yesterday for the third day to combine great aerial strikes with the war of nerves. Allied airmen left wide areas east of the Rhine Elbow a seething mass of fire and smoke as they paralyzed German attempts to hurl in strength to meet the blow which enemy reports maintain will be launched across the river in the Wesel sector south of Arnhem.

From 21st Army Group HQ, which directs Allied operations on this sector, came only a report that "vigorous patrolling" was in progress on both sides. The Germans said that artificial fog continued to cloud the area and that British artillery had opened up on targets east of the Rhine.

Bradley Reviews Campaign

Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, 12th Army Group commander, reviewing the campaign which carried out Gen. Eisenhower's dictum to destroy the Germans west of the Rhine, said yesterday: "The necessity of keeping the Remagen bridgehead small is now removed, so there is nothing to prevent us from crossing the Rhine almost anywhere at any time."

He explained that the bridgehead, now 33 miles long and more than ten miles deep, had been held for a time while the task of closing up to the Rhine along its west bank was completed in order to avoid committing too many forces at scattered points.

The Ruhr can be crossed "with the type of opposition we have been meeting" recently, Bradley said, adding the caution, however, that "I don't think we should write too glaring headlines that the war is over or anything like that—it may be almost over, it may last a long time."

Troops of the 1st Army had now set up a bridgehead within the Remagen bridgehead by crossing the Wied River in the southern sector at several points along a

(Continued on back page)

Medal of Honor to Fluckey

WASHINGTON, Mar. 23 (AP)—Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal today presented the Congressional Medal of Honor to Cmdr. Eugene B. Fluckey, of Annapolis, Md., for "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity" as a submarine commander.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Printed at The Times Publishing Company, Ltd., for U.S. Armed Forces, under auspices of The Information and Education Division, Special and Information Services, ETOUSA.

THE B BAG

NOTE: B-Bag is receiving many unsigned letters. We require your signature as evidence of good faith only.

Top-Heavy Bill of Rights

In reference to Patrick L. Carroll's talk about the GI Bill of Rights being a little top-heavy—I think he has something there.

Just how many vets will have an opportunity to take advantage of this bill? Some will be far too old to continue school and many others won't take advantage of the loan.

If the government estimates on about 50 per cent participation in the education program, that leaves another 50 per cent who profit very little, if at all.

In fairness to everyone, there should be a scale of bonuses depending on length of time in combat, overseas and in the states.—Y/1c M. K., U.S.N.

The Feminine Touch

In our opinion the Army is making a grave error in the use of our WACs. They are doing a good job at just about everything, but you don't find many in the kitchen.

This is not the fault of the boys doing the cooking. Most of them were trained as aviation mechanics, radio operators, truck drivers, telephone linesmen and just about everything but cooking.

Hiding the Films?

Why do men here in England have to sweat for months waiting for "A" films that were shown long before at West End theaters? Special Services tells us that the Government provides extra prints of the films for Army bases.

But could it be that the companies here are withholding prints long enough for us to grow impatient and pay our six shillings at the local houses?

If this is so, then Special Services should get on the ball and get the movie companies on the ball too.—Sgt. M. H. R. and Cpl. C. E. Y., Fr. Gp.

Question Box

Will you list Army medals in order of precedence and explain how ribbons representing these medals are worn according to this precedence?

(Medals in order of precedence are Medal of Honor, DSC, DSM, Legion of Merit, Silver Star, DFC, Soldier's Medal, Bronze Star, Air Medal, Purple Heart, Medal of Merit for Civilians and Good Conduct Medal. See AR 600-45.)

Hash Marks

Our spy of the home front sez many a rural romance has started off with a gallon of corn and ended with a full crib.

A Joe who has been in England too long remarked, "Fat in a woman is like sugar in tea. It soon settles to the bottom."

Lt. Herb Caen's favorite story. A meek little GI walked into a bistro, orders a shot of cognac and a glass of beer. He drinks the beer and carefully pours the cognac in a chest pocket of his blouse.



"bud," says the little guy. "I just got back from the front and I don't want any trouble. So just leave me alone."

Seems there were two GI cooks in a bistro. One was carefully nursing a Calvados while the other was swilling champagne, buying drinks for the house, etc.

Life is rough on the Home Front. Returning home on furlough one dark night, Pvt. Fred Gates of Brandenburg, Illinois, fell into a seven-foot excavation where his house once stood.

A jeep carrying a Third Army Chaplain bears this inscription: "Bringing Up Father."



When Walter Winchell listed "Churchill's private telephone number" in one of his columns he started something.

Looking at some Waves, Bob Hope quipped, "Those are the first petty officers I've seen with Petty figures." (Reference: Readers Digest, March issue.)

There is, for instance, to mention just a scattering few of the almost 200 paintings, prints and small sculptures, Wayman Adams's "Portrait of an Old Actress," which is full of old memories.

PRIVATE BREGER



"I made it myself, sir—to catch BIG rats!"

An Editorial

Pride, Sacrifice, Leadership, Glory

IN my humble opinion this photograph is a prototype of patriotism. It reflects in its simple figuration the living idealism of America—freedom and all of freedom's kinships.

Who are the four boys visible there? If we knew, could we describe them as ordinary men? I could not.

For me the upraised arm and reaching hand are pride aspirant. To me the clutching hands and inclined head are country's sacrifice.

They are one and indivisible—like America. Each knows his comrade, feels his presence. Each keeps the other's faith. The pride and glory belong to them together—and to those they hallow with an honor far greater than that which they themselves are honored by.



triumph. There on that desolate peak they've conquered a great evil.

—and pray that God Almighty may redeem them for a lasting peace. . . .

We shall perpetuate their deeds

T/5 D. Cesa.

In A Language All Can Understand

American Artists Try to Tell Britain What It's All About

By Irvin S. Taubkin

If art is, as some hold, the universal tongue, then the Goodwill Exhibition of Contemporary American Art—current at the RBA Galleries, Suffolk St., Pall Mall, in London—should be readily understood by the Britons whom it is intended to edify and impress.

For it tells them—in a way that is generally pleasant to the senses and refreshing to the spirit—that, always excepting their different environment, American artists are the same as artists anywhere else and in any time.

Each artist, of course, has his own something to say and his own way of saying it. Some succeed, and some succeed only in trying; that is to say, some speak fluently while others merely stammer.

But the effect of the whole exhibit is to show Britons that American artists, like British artists, are amazed by what they see in the world—and seek to convey that amazement, each through his own medium and technique, to the rest of us.

Maybe that makes sense. Maybe it doesn't. It will probably begin to make a little more sense, however, if you go and see these pictures for yourself. We don't know nuthin' about art, as the feller sez; but, like Whistler, we know what we like. There's plenty in this exhibit we like. There are even a few things that pass that supreme test of art—if we had the dough we'd buy them.

There is, for instance, to mention just a scattering few of the almost 200 paintings, prints and small sculptures, Wayman Adams's "Portrait of an Old Actress," which is full of old memories. And there is Alexander Brook's "Sentimental Ideas," which is rich in memories yet unlined.

There is Robert Gwathmey's "The

South," as sharply caustic as a William Faulkner story if neither as subtle nor as skillful. And there is something by Nahum Tschacbacov called "Early Morning" which suggests a need for a dose of bicarbonate of soda or something even stiffer.

"Representative" exhibits, like anthologies, inevitably show gaps at the seams. This one, for instance, seems to have a space left for the city—that peculiar social organism that is an American big city—and another, only partly, and largely unhappily, filled, for the impact of the war on the artist. Of the war paintings, John Atherton's "Invasion" is outstanding. The others, like Arnold Blanch's "This Is a People's War," are cap pistol stuff in a war of 11-tonners.

A similar exhibit of contemporary British art is planned for the States. Our bet is that it will speak largely the same message—only with a broader "a."

Nazi Flags Still Fly, But 'Majority' Has Flew

WITH 7TH ARMY, Mar. 23 (Reuter)—Black and white swastika flags, relics of the 1935 plebiscite in which the Saarlanders voted to return to Germany, still hung above the Protestant meeting house where the votes were counted when U.S. troops captured the steel center of Saarbrücken.

A gold-lettered inscription on a granite tablet outside the hall told how "an overwhelming majority gave back this sacred soil to Germany." It does not look so sacred now. Saarbrücken is in ruins. Fewer than 1,000 Germans are left in the city, which in pre-war days housed 135,000. There are about 10,000 "displaced persons," however, mostly Russians, Italians and Poles.

47% of the Ruhr Knocked Flat By Air Bombing

By Ernie Leiser

WITH 9TH ARMY, Mar. 23—The Ruhr, heart of industrial Germany and the most densely packed factory area in the world, is already 47 per cent destroyed as a result of three years of air attack, according to reports received here today.

With the loss of German Silesia to the Russians, the Ruhr—just across the Rhine from the 9th Army—provides the main source of Nazi war potential.

Capture of the Ruhr or its isolation from the rest of Germany, Army commanders believe, would throttle Nazi production to such a degree that continued organized military resistance would be practically impossible.

Photo reconnaissance shows large parts of the Ruhr already out of operation and useless to the dwindling Wehrmacht. Constant night-after-night attack by hundreds of heavy bombers in the face of the heaviest concentrations of flak in history have consistently reduced production capacity and slowed repair.

Despite the tonnage of bombs dropped—ranging from millions of incendiaries to the new super-block busters—reports indicate no German effort to remove industry from the vulnerable area and it has consequently remained the Number One target for strategic air power.

The bulk of the tonnage dropped on the Ruhr has been by RAF bomber command, but its operations have been coordinated with heavy precision attacks by the 8th AF.

In Essen, home of the sprawling Krupp works, more than 50 per cent of the built-up area has been destroyed. In Dortmund, 48 per cent has been flattened. Duisburg, at the western edge of the Ruhr valley, is 44 per cent destroyed. Destruction in the rest of the valley ranges up to 83 per cent in Bochum and 93.7 per cent in Elberfeld.

AFN Radio Program

- Saturday, Mar. 24
1200—World News.
1205—WAC's Works.
1225—Sports Time.
1230—Clear Lower Decks.
1300—Headlines—Atlantic Spotlight.
1330—Sammy Kaye's Sunday Serenade.
1400—World News.
1410—Intermezzo.
1430—Miss Parade.
1500—Headlines—American Dance Band.
1530—On the Record.
1600—Strike up the Band.
1700—Headlines—Melody Roundup.
1715—Service Dance Band.
1745—Hawaiian Serenade.
1800—World News.
1805—Mark up the Map.
1810—American Sports Roundup.
1815—Interlude in Blue.
1830—GI Journal.
1900—Headlines—Bandwagon.
1915—Music from the Movies.
2000—Headlines—Combat Diary.
2015—At Ease.
2030—Charlie McCarthy.
2100—World News.
2105—Soldier and a Song.
2115—Swingtime.
2130—Saturday Night Serenade.
2200—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A.
2205—Jubilee.
2235—Latin American Serenade.
2300—News.
2305—One Night Stand.
2330—Sign off until 0755 hours, Sunday, Mar. 25.

Sunday, Mar. 25

- 0755—Sign On—Program Resume.
0800—Headlines—Combat Diary.
0820—Personal Album.
0830—Music for Sunday.
0900—World News.
0905—Spotlight Band.
0925—Family Hour.
1000—Headlines—Religious Service.
1030—Hour of Charm.
1100—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A.
1105—Morning After (Charlie McCarthy).
1135—Showtime.

Monday, Mar. 26

- 0755—Sign On—Program Resume.
0800—Headlines—Combat Diary.
0815—Personal Album.
0830—Music in the Modern Manner.
0900—World News.
0910—Spotlight Band.
0925—James Melton.
1000—Headlines—Morning After (Mail Call).
1030—Strike up the Band.
1100—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A.
1105—Duffie Bag.

Saturday, March 24, 1945



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

SNIPER'S pet is 'scope-mounted '03—World's finest precision rifle. For a soldier who knows where to nut 'em, it's a sure killer.

Colonel Hind's School for Snipers

Col. Sidney Hinds graduated from West Point in 1940. He has been in overseas combat with the Second Armored since Tunisia. He won the all-around national championship at Camp Perry in 1926, firing all weapons except the shotgun. He fired 13 matches with 11 different rifles, including the standard 03, a heavy-barreled rifle with iron sights, a heavy-barreled rifle with telescopic sights, a 22 cal. with both iron and telescopic sights, a 38 cal. revolver and a 45 cal. pistol, also a 22 cal. pistol. He presently holds the Pan-American Individual championship won at Lima, Peru, with an 03 rifle firing over a 300-meter course, 150 shots slow fire. In 1924 he fired with the U.S. International Olympic team, also the Dewar and Pan-American match teams. In 1928 he fired with the International team at The Hague, in Holland, and in 1930 coached the U.S. national world-championship team at Antwerp.

It was the Kraut who got it in the end!

When Col. Sidney Hinds, commanding officer of the 41st Armd. Inf. Regt., sidled his "sniper gun" out of the peep, took a beautiful Kentucky windage on an estimated 900-yard range and permanently ruined the crawling Jerry's rear echelon.

This sort of stuff is everyday business for Sniper Hinds, who, despite his manifold responsibilities as CO, always manages to find a little time for "possibles" on Heinie targets. It is his first love.

Back in the States at Fort Benning some years ago, the infantry brass didn't have to look far for the officer to supervise the extra-special "sniper training" course for embryo Dan'l Boones.

Col. Hinds, who had spent the greater part of his life up to that time sniping away at all existing rifle records—and hitting them—was the ideal choice.

Methods Tried Okayed

His methods were tried, found okay—and when the 41st Regt. planted both feet on Adolf's aching back in Tunisia in 1942—sniper training became a regular part of the outfit's extra-curricular training.

The ideal sniper is a combination of eagle-eyes, Job-like patience, Indian quiet, Solomon-wise judgment and rabbit-jumping agility. In addition to all this he is a damn good soldier who pulls his weight with the individual rifle squad to which he is attached.

"A sniper is a super-rifleman," Col. Hinds explained. "And his function is comparatively simple. Equipped with an 03 and telescopic sights, his mission is to destroy specific targets. These targets are enemy officers and non-coms as well as counter-sniping against Jerry 'potshotters.'"

"As an added attraction," the colonel said, "he is sometimes sent around the flanks to pick off Jerry MG nests which are causing trouble.

Once in a while we use snipers to discourage civilian or military lunkheads who cause trouble in rear areas."

"During the recent fighting in Belgium," Col. Hinds related, "we had reports that sympathizers were tampering with our telephone wires. We notified the higher officials that we were going to post snipers and that touching the lines would be a 'kiss of death.' The next day, a devotee of the 'better life' came along with wire cutters. He lifted one of the wires. A shot split the slight ground haze. There was no more wire tampering in that sector."

How Snipers Are Selected

There are six snipers to an average rifle company. They are selected on the basis of the best shots in the company and then given an added five weeks of training. In addition to that, selected officers and non-coms of the regiment are also given sniper training so that they may become familiar with what a sniper can and cannot do.

"The first phase of the training," explained Col. Hinds, "consists of shooting at known distances using the telescopic sight. After the first familiarization firing, the second—and most important—phase gets under way. The men begin using Kentucky windage on ranges from 200 to 600 yards. They learn to estimate ranges to hair-like accuracy.

"During this phase," Col. Hinds went on, "the sniper estimates and estimates until he feels like a building contractor. He must have a good picture of the bullet's trajectory and memorize the height of the trajectory at each range up to 900 yards. By doing this the would-be sniper knows the amount he has to hold above or below the target at various ranges," the colonel said.

After a few weeks of field training, the sniper trainee with passing grades in "sniping Kraut," can hit a man at 600 yards with the first shot.

But his training is only beginning. The sniper's future is extremely limi-

ted if he is spotted by enemy slit-eyes. He must learn—and he does—the value of patience.

During his field training, he sometimes sits up in a tree for periods ranging from a half-hour to four hours, just sweating out a moving target. He never knows when the silhouette or any part of it will pop up. But he's got to be ready for it when it does. A few weeks of this and "waiting" becomes second nature. It pays off, too.

Col. Hinds related the story of Sniper Ray M. Register, Newton, Ga., of Able Company—who holds his master's degree from the sniper school.

"During the recent unpleasantness in the Ardennes," he said, "it was our job to hold the line in a certain sector. We were having the hell torn out of us by Jerry snipers. Life was pretty unpleasant.

"One of our observers finally went out and came back with the report that he thought he knew where one particularly bothersome sniper was hiding out. But he wasn't sure. The platoon leader sent Register to register, if possible. He watched the wood where the sniper was possibly hiding for about six hours. Not a peep out of Jerry. But just about dusk he spotted the Kraut—well camouflaged in a tree about 400 yards away. He got off one shot. Register reported back and his comment is a definite part of regimental history.

Right Between the Eyes

"I got him right between the eyes," he proudly said. "I think his vision is permanently obscured."

The last phase of the sniper training is specialized cover and concealment.

Before he can get his diploma, the sniper must be able to move into a firing position unseen. To accomplish this, he spends about a week crawling through bushes and woods and hedgerows and rubble.

Although he is completely camouflaged, he has to watch his derriere.

(Continued on page iv)

How to Kill Foe With First Shot

By Joe Weston
Warweek Staff Writer

WITH THE 41ST ARMORED INFANTRY REGT. OF THE 2ND ARMORED DIV.—The woods near Samree, Belgium, stank of dead Krauts as a rifle squad of Easy Company prowled through the wilderness looking for fresh meat.

Before long the squad ran across 15 Jerries with pronounced anti-American tendencies, but with a fair amount of discretion nevertheless. The Hitler heilers took off through the trees.

Easy Company opened up—standing and blazing away with their M1s. The whole trouble was that they didn't hit much except trees.

The squad leader, who had been around the front lines for quite a while and had learned long ago that an M1 properly used was a one-man army, took a kneeling position. He sighted—and squeezed off three beauties.

The 12 remaining Krauts stopped running and became very good "democrats."

The wild shooting came from the new men who had just come into the outfit the night before. It came from men who thought the non-coms and officers who drilled position and sighting and squeeze into them ever since they passed through the induction center were only kidding.

The straight "on the target" firing of the squad leader came from a soldier who had confidence in his weapon. He knew what his M1 could do—and what it could not do.

Practice—Preaches—Teaches

What Easy Company's squad leader knew and practiced, and what the new men would learn later, Col. Sidney Hinds, Commanding Officer of the 41st Armored Infantry Regiment and a combat-wise veteran of three campaigns also knows—and practices—and preaches—and teaches. For the good colonel, whose background as a rifle authority includes the all-around shooting championship of the United States some years ago, a job coaching the American team which won the championship of the world at The Hague in 1930—and a roomful of shooting trophies for various other activities is sold on the M1 rifle and equally sold on the WELL-TRAINED American rifleman.

"This is essentially a rifleman's war," the colonel said. "Although other services such as the tanks, the artillery and the air, all help the 'doggie' take an objective. But once the point is taken it is up to the infantryman to hold it. His principal means of holding the objective is by accurate, well-directed volume of small-arms fire.

"The bulk of the infantry is armed with the M1—the best basic infantry weapon of any army in the world," Col. Hinds continued, "and with that he can lay down an accurate unequalled fire power at individual enemy infantrymen. When a 'doggie'

picks a Kraut in his sights, he gets him—if he knows his M1 and how to use it."

From his own combat experiences as well as those men in his outfit who owe their lives to proper understanding and mastery of the M1, Col. Hinds developed a rifle training program which is now in effect in the regiment—and which has made the 41st Armored Infantry as "crack-shot" an outfit as there is in the Army. The program is a combat enlargement of an original plan developed by Col. Hinds at Fort Benning, Ga., carried over to Tidworth, United Kingdom—now to France, Belgium and the Reich.

"The purpose of the whole rifle program is simple," the colonel explained. "We want every rifleman to have enough confidence in his M1 to be fully aware that with it used correctly—he can hold off any reasonable number of Jerries coming his way.

"The best way to do this is a combination of three things. He must learn to shoot on a target range—not on the front lines. He must understand that the basic fundamentals—position—squeezing and aiming—are just as effective on the front lines as they are on the range at Ft. Benning. The 'bolo' there is the casualty here.

"The next thing is to develop confidence in the weapon by showing the soldier both the capabilities of the weapon and the limitations. Although the M1 is the finest rifle designed for the purpose to which it is put it still has very definite limitations.

"If the individual soldier understands these things, he understands his weapon. It then becomes unnecessary for the non-coms to order men to clean their rifles. You don't have to tell men 'to stay alive,'" Col. Hinds said.

Accuracy of An M1

In discussing the things an M1 can do if properly handled, Col. Hinds pointed out that the rifle is as accurate as the '03 up to about 400 yards, but loses accuracy slightly over that range. However, he added, the automatic firepower of the weapon and its ease of firing more than makes up for this slight deficiency. Illustrating his point about the M1's firepower and accuracy at comparatively short ranges, the colonel cited an incident which won a Silver Star for a rifleman of Charley Company during the hec-

(Continued on page iv)

Hunters learn vital areas of animals from sketches like one of bear reproduced from an outdoor magazine.



(1) Placing rifle shot correctly is the difference between a thrown or a dropped grenade. (2) In under the shoulder or through the head is about all you can do here. (3) Old time gun-fighters said "shoot 'em in the middle where they're biggest."



15th Air Force Photo

No Rifle Could Reach 'Em

By Simon Bourgin
Warweek Staff Writer

THE great air battles fought over German oil installations since last April paid off this week on the Rhine's east bank and the approaches to Berlin. The Reich is desperately short of oil, and the lack of fuel and lubricants is being set down as one of the big reasons the German Army is not counter-attacking in force. The battered state of its communications is believed to be the other reason. Both derive from the air onslaught on the Reich.

The struggle to save the oil plants is a life-and-death battle for the Nazis, and they are losing. Despite the most elaborate measures for defense and repair, the plants are turning out less than 25 per cent of what they formerly produced. The Allied air offensive and Russia's advances account for the difference.

The lack of fuel in Germany is so acute that some army units get gasoline only for actual combat. Others on their way to the front are rationed from one control point to another. Everywhere in the Reich gasoline is ladled out like water in the Sahara—which is what the Allied air staffs planned.

In April of 1944 there were 81 active oil installations in Greater Germany—23 synthetic oil plants and 58 oil refineries. By mid-February all the refineries were out of action and the synthetic plants reduced to four, none of them undamaged.

Only 45 Installations Left

Only 45 of the original 81 installations are still in German hands, the Russians having taken over the oil business in Rumania, Poland and eastern Germany. The output of German oil has been cut from around 1,250,000 tons monthly, produced last spring, to the current production of under 300,000 tons. This is far less than the Wehrmacht, the Luftwaffe and the U-boats require to satisfy even most essential commitments.

The U.S. 8th Air Force threw its full strength from England at the synthetic industry built up on the brown coal of southeastern Germany, and the refineries in the ports of Hamburg and Bremen. The U.S. 15th Air Force, based in Italy, struck across the Balkans at the great Ploesti refineries in Rumania and others in Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary. The RAF, usually attacking at night, hit the synthetic plants feeding on the hard coal of the Ruhr. The Russians provided air fields behind their lines and made it possible for the American shuttle fleets from Italy and England to reach the Polish oil field refineries.

The history of these attacks would be different if the plants remained bombed when they are hit. They do not. They are repaired quickly, and it is necessary for the bombers to return again and again to keep the plants out of commission.

An oil refinery is a complicated

industrial mechanism. Boiler houses, power plants and storage yards are spread out over many acres. When a thousand heavy bombers strike at such an aggregation of machinery it takes a great deal of work to make it function again.

After the bombing at one plant that had been attacked many times previously the manager called all workers to a meeting. The rumors that repair was not going to be undertaken were unfounded, he said. The plant would be rebuilt—just as often as the Allied air forces attacked.

Morale Drops

So seriously has morale fallen around the oil plants that the Reichsminister of War Production recently found it necessary to reassure other Reich bigwigs upon the matter. Just because the enemy destroyed the plants as soon as they resumed work didn't mean it was pointless to rebuild them. On the contrary, his telegram, later captured, read, "the successful prosecution of the war" depended upon oil reconstruction.

The High Command's policy, backing this up, is: Everything for oil. Oil repair has a claim on manpower and materials, even over aircraft production and U-boat building. Most of the 66,000 anti-aircraft guns in the Reich are around the oil plants, one installation alone having more guns for its defense than all of greater Berlin. Practically all of the Luftwaffe's several thousand fighters guard the oil plants.

Panzers Rationed

Under the squeeze for gas the number of motor transport in German mechanized outfits has been steadily cut down and horse-drawn units increased. Von Rundstedt's panzers were rationed to 160 miles, and gambled on reaching American gas stores to continue the attack.

With little gas for training, the Luftwaffe has had to send its pilots into battle untrained. No other factor could account for the Luftwaffe losses in the December aerial battles; six-to-fifteen German pilots were shot down for every American lost. For lack of fuel, thousands of retreating Germans were immobilized in the Battle of France, and much valuable equipment was abandoned. For lack of fuel a large part of the Reich's U-boat fleet has not been able to leave its ports.

Hitler's ace in the hole was a carefully-hoarded reserve of 6,000,000

tons. Then, with characteristic ingenuity, German scientists developed two new processes for turning the Reich's ample coal reserves into fuel oil and gasoline. Two dozen large synthetic plants were erected. The Rumanian fields, the best in western Europe, were put to work for the Reich and by good luck, impressive crude deposits were discovered in Austria and Hungary.

From all this Hitler was getting around 1,225,000 tons monthly when the April, 1944, attacks began. This is not much oil alongside the 18,500,000 tons the United States produces each month. But it was enough to power and lubricate the war machine that almost conquered Europe.

Germany's gradually strengthening position in oil was not lost upon Allied airmen in the early years of the war. It was just that, for the time being, there was very little they could do about it. The RAF was still too small a force. The American Strategic Air Forces had another job to do first: destroy the fighter aircraft industry in the Reich, so that the Luftwaffe could not take to the skies when the Allies invaded France. By the spring of 1944 the Luftwaffe was practically eliminated as a factor in invasion plans, and the way was clear for the heavies to take on oil.

At All-Time Low

From April until September the Reich's oil production, and its fuel supply, dropped like the blood pressure of a dying patient. In September it reached the danger point—25 per cent of the pre-attack level. Today it is below that, mid-winter air attacks and the Russian advance having brought fuel and lubricant sources to an all-time low.

It is the worst fuel famine the Reich has faced. But oil experts warn that not even the most incessant pounding of the oil targets can prevent the Nazis from collecting sufficient fuel to launch a limited offensive. Von Rundstedt is believed to have accumulated 70,000 or so tons before launching his drive. This amount, sufficient to support a dozen or so divisions, was gotten together in a matter of months by scrounging in all sectors and forcing some to go without.

When the history of the battles now being fought is written, the air offensive against German oil targets will go down as an important contribution to the Allied victory. By depriving the Wehrmacht of over three-quarters of its fuel, Allied airmen have given invaluable aid to the armies besieging the Reich in the West and the East. Germany is falling before the combined operations of Allied soldiers, and there is no better example than oil of how airmen and infantrymen together are operating to defeat the Reich.

Photo Recon Mission!

HEADQUARTERS, 9th AIR FORCE, FRANCE—How the 9th Air Force obtained for Lt. Gen. George S. Patton a detailed account of what the Germans were doing along the Saar River is shown in this series of photographs taken by Capt. Robert J. Holbury, of Sylvan Lake, Mich.

Holbury, a group assistant operation officer, flew his P38 Lightning under a 600-foot ceiling to bring back 212 pictures which revealed everything the general needed to know. To obtain these pictures, Capt. Holbury flew his plane as low as 25 feet from the ground using "dicing," a low-level photo technique, successfully done in photographing the invasion coast last spring. He flew at great risk through one of the heaviest flak routes in western Germany: from a little north of Merzig to south of Trier. Flak knocked out one of the plane's engines and its left vertical stabilizer, put holes in the horizontal stabilizer and hit the coolant system of both engines.

This mission has brought Capt. Holbury a recommendation for the Distinguished Flying Cross.



9th Air Force Photos
PAVING the way for assault infantry is the air recon pilot's job. Metert, German-held when this pic was taken, lies wide open. Merzig bridge (middle) was wrecked by Krauts—meaning Engineers would be needed. Hamlet near Wasserbillig (bottom) reveals no signs of enemy defenses. Note factories in background.

They Come from All Over!

When 'Home' Is a Foxhole It's Like New York City—
Everybody in the Squad Comes from Somewhere Else

By Ralph Harwood
Warweek Staff Writer

THE men of the squad sprawled leg-weary and wet on the floor of the barn they'd taken over for the night. At least, they hoped it was for the night. The straw was dry in the barn, and outside rain was making an icy mush of inches of snow. You never could tell, though. The three-five-nine was pushing hard.

Three times in 24 hours the company had been ordered to move up, and there had been talk of another night attack. If it came off, you could have one guess as to what platoon of what company of what battalion would wind up spear-heading the goddam thing, the men said.

Already, a couple of doughboys slept. The others took it easy, talking quietly, laughing a little now and then. Mostly they talked about Steffenhausen and the grimly funny incidents of fights before that.

Steffenhausen made particularly good talk because it had only happened the day before and hadn't yet got screwed up with the details of other days' fights. Then, too, who had ever heard of going into an attack by tobogganing on his pratt down a steep, icy hill?

The village had been pocketed by wooded hills, and all roads leading in were well covered by enemy MGs, mortar and medium guns. K Company had caught the Kraut flatfooted, however, by flanking and working quietly before dawn down a firebreak that ran from the top of one of the highest knobs to the floor of the valley.

It had been anything but easy in the deep snow. When a man wasn't sweating out his next step in the treacherous going, he was sweating out the discovery of the whole outfit by the Heinies below. And then had come the crucial moment near the bottom, where the hill fell away sharply and there was no longer any footing. So they had made the last 50 yards or so of the descent hell-bent, a la fanny. The surprise had worked beautifully. Before the enemy could come to and swing more than a couple of his burps around, he was swarmed under.

He Got An Aching Back

Now the men of the squad were kidding one Joe about his aching back. Part way down the firebreak, he had been hit from the rear by a runaway piece of bridging material that had gotten loose farther back. The blow had sent him flying as if from a catapult. His pack had saved him. A few inches either way and he would have been killed for sure, and might have been anyway. Only he wasn't, so everybody had a laugh over his close call. He laughed about it, too.

"I suppose," mused T/Sgt. George A. Bruno, of Iron Mountain, Mich., acting leader of the third platoon of K Company, 359th Inf., "that you might say these men are a typical infantry squad. They click together. They deliver the goods. Of course, if you're looking for all old-timers, then that's another matter. I don't think you could find them in this outfit. The 90th Div. has seen a little too much of the shooting for that.

Some Were Brand New

"Instead," he continued, "you're got all the variety you might expect at this late date in a fighting unit that's really been through the mill. Sure enough, there are a few of us, like Barnhart and Hartfile and myself, still around who came into Normandy on D-Day with the three-five-nine, and others like Spangler and Williams and Cox here who joined the 90th early in the game. But, at the same time, though, there are a couple of boys

like Quinn and Frye there who just came in a few days ago. Yesterday's deal at Steffenhausen was their first fighting, and, incidentally, they did all right, too.

"Length of combat time is only the beginning of the variety you'll find in the average platoon or squad today," the tech sergeant added. "Most of us are dyed-in-the-wool doughboys, for example, and never have been anything else. Mixed in now, though, and we're seeing more and more of them are fellows like Trainor and Mullian and Wheeler who are converted infantrymen from other branches of the Army. They're working out swell. The conversion idea is OK for my money."

"Speaking of differences," agreed S/Sgt. Dan W. Barnhart, the platoon guide who used to be a job painter in Palestine, Tex., before the war, "there are probably as many different kinds of jobs and as many different places in the States represented here as there are men present. These guys are just a small cross-section of Americans, any way you look at it. Maybe that's the reason they work so well together. I don't know. What do you think, Paul?"

Finish Nazis Their Aim

S/Sgt. Paul E. Spangler, of Harrisonville, Mo., 22-year-old squad leader, thought for a moment before answering. A veteran who joined the 90th Division June 14, at the height of the attack on Gourbesville, he had missed out on the Tough 'Ombre's sweep eastward last summer, when he got hit shortly before the St. Lo breakthrough. Evacuated to England, he recovered completely and caught up with the outfit Nov. 12 clear at the opposite side of France, just over the Moselle.

"One thing everybody shares alike," Spangler finally said, "is the desire to get the Germans licked completely, get the war over with as soon as possible and get the hell home where they belong. That desire cuts right across everything else. It is interesting, though, when you stop to think how different as individuals the soldiers in an outfit can be, and yet how perfectly they can work together as a fighting unit. I'm pretty sure, for instance," the squad leader grinned, "that I'm the only ex-milkman in this bunch."

He was right. There were no other milkmen.

Sgt. Frank L. Williams, 23-year-old assistant squad leader from Spring-

field, Mo., had been an independent paint contractor before going into the Army. He, too, came to the 90th Division in back of the Normandy beaches and learned to duck 88s in the hedge country. He was in on the division's fierce struggle through the early part of July at Hill 122 and on south, and took the long jaunt east to Mayenne and Le Mans the following month.

Squad Boasts D-Day Man

He will never forget the race north when the TO boys got to draw the string on the Falaise pocket at Chambois. After that came the cross-country pursuit to Rheims and the early September business around Thionville. On Sept. 18, however, Lady Luck looked the other way for a moment, and he was hit at Gravelotte as the 90th tested the outer defenses of the fortress of Metz. Not until Jan. 20 was he allowed to return to the outfit and take over the tough tail spot in his squad.

The squad boasts one D-Day man who's just as hot with a BAR now as he ever was with a welding torch for Wheeling Steel, back in West Virginia. The name is Pfc Stephen Hartfile, and his friends insist it would be squad leader Hartfile, except for the time he's lost with wounds. He got hit first at Hill 122, and again at Kerling, across the Moselle on Nov. 15. In the latter deal he was captured to boot, but got away during the American shelling of the place. He knows plenty about how the Kraut operates.

Pvt. Calvin C. Cox, 20-year-old rifleman from Cincinnati, O., joined forces with the 90th Div. June 14 also. As a civilian, he was an electric welder. He, too, was wounded at Gravelotte on Sept. 16, but did not have to be evacuated.

Reporters Fight, Too

Rifleman Kieth W. Baird, a native of Powell, Wyoming, came to the 90th Oct. 1, in the early stages of the Metz siege. A former student at the University of Nebraska, he worked as a reporter on the Billings (Mont.) Gazette back in the days when it was Mr. Baird instead of Pfc Baird.

First among the squad's several converted infantrymen is S/Sgt. Gabriel C. Mullian, of Grand Rapids, Mich., who arrived in France on D/1 with a field artillery battalion attached to another infantry division. As a civilian he was a supervisor for a chain dry-cleaning concern.

Since Dec. 24, when Mullian joined the 90th at Besseringen, on the Saar River, after receiving infantry basic in France, he has been working as an acting assistant squad leader. After shadowing the older leaders for awhile, he'll be ready to take over a squad of his own.

Another former artilleryman who now doubles on the M-1 and the bazooka in the squad is Pfc Edwin W. Wheeler, of Harrodsburg, Ky. Before the war, Wheeler, who is 20 years old, was a farmer. He came to France last July in a 105 battery, but the growing need for infantrymen changed things. He was given training in France and assigned to the 90th Division, and subsequently to the 359th Infantry, just a few days before Christmas.

He Repaired Mortars Once

The third converted infantryman in the squad used to be a mortar repair man in CWS. Before that he was a machinist in a shipyard in Philadelphia. His name is Pvt. Thomas J. Quinn, age 21, and although he didn't join the outfit until January 24, it's already clear that he's a natural as a ground fighter. In his first scrap at Steffenhausen he served as a scout, and, according to Bruno, he did all right.

It was just 16 days from a port of embarkation in the States to a place in Luxembourg called Oberwampach and a spot in the line with the 359th Infantry for rifleman Pvt. John V. Frye, of Springfield, Mo., a sheet metal worker before he put on the OD. He caught a fleeting glimpse of England and France after a swift crossing of the Atlantic, and on January 24 was learning the names and faces of the men of the squad. Less than one week later he had taken part in the action at Steffenhausen—it was all just as fast as that.

"I got to know the guys pretty well in a couple of days," said Frye, "and I had made up my mind to watch and listen and try to follow the actions of the older men. It helped plenty."

"Frye's right," chimed in Quinn, the other man who had been with the squad little more than a week, and who was quick to admit that he had been "nervous as a cat" when he went out ahead of the platoon as a scout in his first action. "It sure is good for a new man in an infantry squad to learn all he can from the

others and to copy the actions of his squad leader."

Frank Williams, the assistant squad leader, nodded his head. "I've noticed that confidence comes to new men from having guys they know and trust on their flanks," he said. "A fire fight is a poor place for strangers to try to work together."

Paul Spangler put in a word about new men in the squad from the standpoint of the unit leader. "Often," he remarked, "all you've got to have is a little patience. If a man has a tendency to hang back a little at first, sometimes you can move him back a bit. It helps him to see more men in front of him. Nine times out of ten he'll get going all right after he gets to shooting."

Don't Freeze Up Under Fire

"Incidentally," the platoon guide, Dan Barnhart, broke in, "when you mention shooting you're talking about one of the most important things for older men to drill into new ones. It's hard to get them to throw back fire sometimes when they're pinned down by enemy machine-guns. Everybody has a more or less natural tendency to freeze up in that situation. Throwing back fire is the best possible way of building confidence, I think, and it kills Germans, too. Then, also," he added, "there are things like keeping dispersed and not congregating around prisoners and always keeping on the move that should be passed on to new men."

"You're absolutely right, Dan," agreed Steve Hartfile. "There are a lot of very important little angles to this business that can be told to others, things that can help to keep them alive—and us. But I still insist that men have got to be led. You can't just tell them what to do and let it go at that. If the men can see their leaders up ahead of them, that truly gives them the courage to move forward."

Platoon leader George Bruno picked it up from there. "Both of you fellows are right," he said. "In squad leadership it's a combination of telling the men what to do and how to do it, and then setting them the example."

Strive For Balanced Squads

"Of course," he continued, "before it ever comes to that a lot can be done to assure the success of a bunch like this. If necessary, we re-make whole squads to get the best possible proportion of experienced men and new men. And that doesn't mean that we jerk fellows around at will, without their having any say in the matter. Wherever possible, and it usually is possible, when a man wants to transfer to another squad to be with a buddy, or because of personal differences in his old squad, his request is granted."

"Yeah," Bruno concluded, glancing about in the half-light at the figures here and there in the straw. "I think you could say these guys are a typical squad, all right. They stick together. They deliver the goods. And right now there isn't a one of them that's half as concerned about his next brush with the Kraut as he is over whether we get to spend the rest of tonight inside here in the dry. They're typical doughboys, all right."

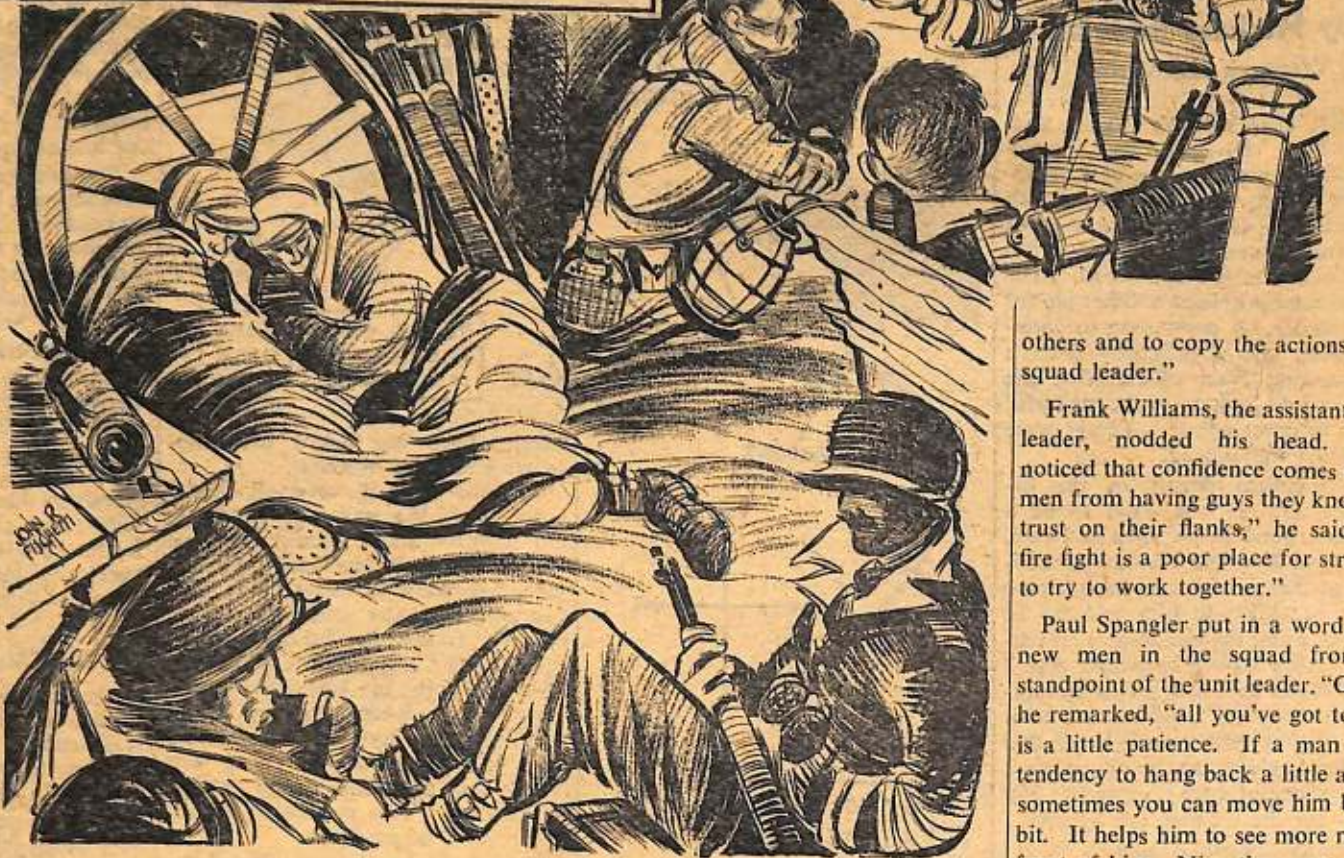


Illustration by John R. Fischetti

The "Rabbit-Punch Attack" Trick

Krauts Looked Wrong Way One Time Too Often

By Michael Seaman
Warweek Staff Writer

INSIDE GERMANY, with the 90th Infantry Division—The unteroffizier, senior noncom of Kampfgruppe Keitel, was well pleased with himself. The German radio had just announced that the Reich would withstand its test of fire and blood. Also, he had been promised another pip for his shoulder. A promotion to unterfeldwebel, and a prophecy from a high-ranking Nazi official that the Reich would endure, were wonderful things to contemplate. Things were going very well indeed.

He breathed deeply of the fire-scented air. It was good to be a German, good to be alive and safe. In another hour the five German civilians at the stone house would serve a hot breakfast to him and the 12 privates using the building as an outpost. After eating he would march six of the 12 men back to the Kampfgruppe command post because their tour of duty was over. Later that day he would return to the outpost with rations of candy, cigarettes and liquor for the six men left behind.

Then all hell broke loose.

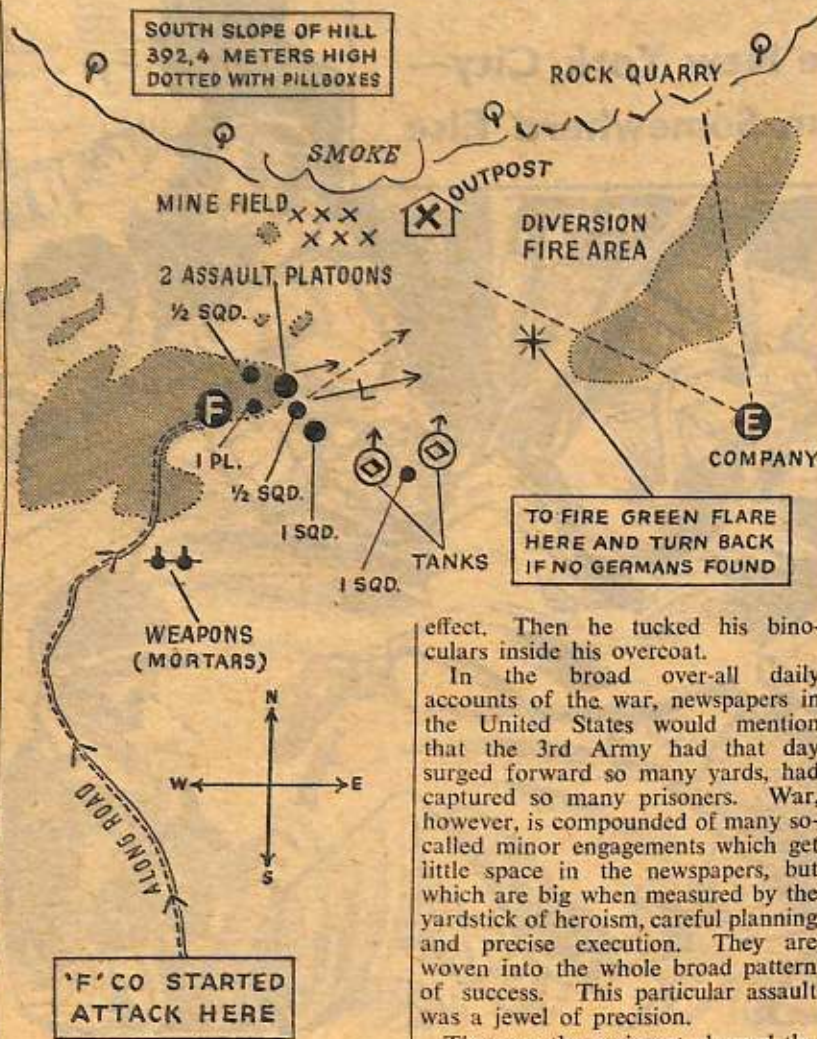
Barrage Tricks Krauts

Earth-shaking sounds blasted to shreds the cold, still air of the winter morning. Thin, shrill hisses exploded into star dust of flesh-ripping bits of shrapnel. Smoke grenades blossomed into huge black flowers on the hill behind the outpost. The sergeant flattened himself on the ground and, belly down, crawled to the vibrating house.

Inside the house confusion commanded the situation until he shouted down the screams of the civilians and ordered the privates to battle positions. The attack was coming from the east. His men got ready for attack from that direction. For 15 minutes the din of mortar, machine-gun, artillery and rifle fire kept him straining his eyes toward a draw east of the house, the logical place for an infantry assault.

From the opposite side of the house yells, like the ones the sergeant heard in American sound-films before the war, showing Indians attacking a settlement, were suddenly added to the bedlam. He was wrong! The attack was coming from the west.

Before the sergeant could rearrange his men, a burst of rifle fire ripped away the lock of a door on the west side of the house and it swung violently inward. The unteroffizier forgot his dignity and took a run-out powder from the first floor. Next, the sergeant looked out from under the bed where he was hiding with a private, smack into the bayonet and



muzzle of an M1 held menacingly by S/Sgt. Arthur Keenan, Philadelphia, Pa.

"Get the hell out of there!" meant little to the sergeant under the bed as words, but the way Keenan said them and the way he jabbed the steel toward the German sergeant made a quick impression. From the ground floor he could hear the commands of other American soldiers. Keenan locked the sergeant and the private in a closet and searched the second floor for more Germans. There was none. Keenan was amazed that the sergeant and the private had ducked out of a fight. It was the first time in his battle experience that such a thing had happened. In the excitement of attack Keenan overlooked the fact that surprise is a very disorganizing factor.

The Mission Was Finished

In the cellar 11 other German soldiers surrendered. The assaulting platoon, led by Keenan, rounded up the 13 soldiers and five civilians for the march back to our lines. The mission was finished.

Outside the house a green parachute flare floated slowly to earth. High on a hill and some distance from the stone house the commanding officer of "F" for Fox Company of the 358th Infantry Regiment smiled and turned to an aide. He spoke one brief sentence: "They're on their way back with the bacon." A call was put through to regimental headquarters to that

effect. Then he tucked his binoculars inside his overcoat.

In the broad over-all daily accounts of the war, newspapers in the United States would mention that the 3rd Army had that day surged forward so many yards, had captured so many prisoners. War, however, is compounded of many so-called minor engagements which get little space in the newspapers, but which are big when measured by the yardstick of heroism, careful planning and precise execution. They are woven into the whole broad pattern of success. This particular assault was a jewel of precision.

The way the regiment planned the capture of the Huns needed for interrogation without suffering so much as a scratch casualty was not the result of chance but of careful planning and co-ordinated attack.

Value of Prisoners

Several days before the attack a patrol of E Company, in contacting G Company on its left flank, had captured two German soldiers. Interrogation of the Krauts disclosed that six Jerries, armed with one machine-gun, three bazookas, grenades and rifles were entrenched in a building at an important crossroads. The Regimental Battalion, Lt. Col. Jacob W. Bealke Jr., ordered the 2nd Battalion to capture the men at the outpost for vitally needed information about enemy movements and defenses.

At noon the next day, the 2nd Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Robert H. Shulz, presented the mission to his staff. F Company was to storm the outpost, take the Huns prisoners and return as quickly as possible. The staff studied maps of the location for a long time and planned every detail of the attack very carefully. The assault was to jump off at 0800 hours the next day. Fifteen minutes before that time the 344th Field Artillery began firing heavy concentrations of shells on a draw behind and to the east of the outpost. The diversionary fire was in an area from which the Huns would nominally expect an infantry attack, the ruse that threw the sergeant and his 12 men completely off balance.

The 345th Field Artillery stood by to interdict several targets on call. E Company, 2,000 yards from the stone house, was delivering heavy diversionary mortar, machine-gun and rifle fire in the same area. All this added up to the Germans' belief the attack was to come from the east. Meanwhile, 4.2 mortars were smoking the south slope of a hill dotted with pillboxes and trenches, blinding any defenders there to the actual route of the attack. Two tanks on a slight ridge, southwest of the house, were ready to fire on targets of opportunity, or to button up any pillboxes that might open up and to silence automatic weapons in the draw.

F Company was at this time moving northwest through the woods on a ridge overlooking the outpost and then it moved east and northeast under the cover of the nose of a hill. Everything was going as planned.

At the edge of the forest, and to the left of the two tanks, two squads of riflemen from the company were deployed to cover the two platoons assaulting the outpost. Another squad was deployed for local support of the tanks.

The first rifle platoon, consisting of 34 enlisted men under 1/Lt. James E. Davis, Miami, Fla., burst from the covers of the woods like Comanches

at exactly 0815 hours, the time planned. They swarmed down on the house said to be the outpost by the two prisoners bagged by E Company. That house was empty, proof that all information given by Nazi prisoners must be taken with more than just a grain of salt. They remained in and around the house, however, to give additional support to the second platoon under Keenan, which attacked the second of the five houses at the crossroads. It was there the human loot was taken.

The prearranged green parachute flare was seen at 0845, the precise time planned for the completion of the mission. At 0847 F Company outpost called to regimental headquarters that its assault platoons were on the way back "with the bacon."

That the careful planning paid off big dividends was evident from the stories told by the prisoners. All of them had expected the attack to come from the east, and they were set for it. The attack from the west demoralized them. Some were literally caught with their pants down. Three Jerries were marched to the Pee Wee cage with blankets draped around them and their pants slung over their arms.

Data Must be Collected

The action demonstrated the following tactical principles for a small scale assault, a report to regimental headquarters stated:

All available information as to the enemy, his activities, and the terrain over which the attack is to take place, must be collected and given to all men who are to take part in the attack.

Enough time must be allowed for the formulation of plans and the plan must contain a very limited objective.

Map studies must be complete. All leaders should make a ground reconnaissance after they have studied maps of the objective. An aerial survey for all key leaders is recommended when a plane is available. Lt. Davis gained much useful information by flying over the cluster of five houses at the cross roads in Germany.

There must be a co-ordinated plan of diversionary fires delivered if possible from a key terrain feature from which the enemy would logically expect an attack to come. The value of this was proven by the fact that 13 Jerry soldiers and five civilians in the outpost were completely fooled by our diversionary fire before and during the attack.

Supporting fire should be heavy enough to keep the enemy in his bunkers and pillboxes.

Use of smoke on all hostile high ground to blind the enemy's observation is necessary.

Communications, always critical during an attack, must be sure. The 536 radio used for inter-company contact did not work to satisfaction in the attack. The sound-power phone was excellent. Where possible

wires should be strung right behind the attacking parties for quick and sure communication to the command post and supporting elements.

The prearranged parachute flare was valuable for it told the supporting weapons that the raiding platoon had completed its mission and that it was withdrawing. Supporting weapons continued firing for 15 minutes after the flare was sent up to cover the withdrawal of the assaulting company and its bag of prisoners. The 4.2 mortars likewise continued to smoke the hill behind the outpost for 15 minutes after the flare shot into the air.

A thorough study for minefields should precede an assault raid. Only from information from the prisoners did the attacking company discover that it had traveled through a heavy minefield. Frozen ground prevented casualties before the assault. This was the first information the prisoners told their captors for they did not want to be marched to our rear area through their own minefield.

Every German civilian should be suspected as a potential dealer in death. When Keenan blasted away the lock on the door leading into the outpost an aged German was behind the door, a heavy club upraised, ready to strike him. A poke in the stomach with the bayonet took all the fight from the old man. Civilians should be removed from combat areas to our rear for security reasons.

Those are the lessons of an offensive patrol. They apply just as well to many other types of action in the field.

Sergeants Corner

The M1 sometimes has a little trouble with the rear sight because it comes loose. New men are prone not to check this frequently. Always check the sight scale for tightness and adjustment. Run the sight down to the bottom of the scale. Set the sight scale and tighten.

Use the hasty upslung almost all the time for more accurate fire. Easy to carry and much steadier and accurate shooting.

In winter fighting snow gets between the stock and the operating handle. It melts and freezes, causing stoppages. This is remedied by tying bandages around the stock to cover the opening. That keeps it warm.

Keep an eye peeled for Kraut machine-guns firing tracer bullets wildly. Don't fall for that old gag—there's always another one firing ball ammunition right on the beam and just about ground level. He's the one you're not supposed to see. Don't get careless, Mack, and think those Krauts are losing their aim. You might lose your life if you do.

If you want to improve your effectiveness with your light machine-gun here are a couple of ideas passed on from the boys right up at the front:

Install a BAR bipod on the trunnion of the LMG. A stock made of sheet metal reinforced with wood and shaped a lot like the MG42 that the Krauts use is attached to the pistol grip with four screws. Makes a handy mount and you can move plenty fast with that rig.

Several BAR men have reported good results with the Kraut-killing racket using the BAR without any mount at all. They just lay it on the hedgerow, or anything convenient, and lay it on.

More About

How to Kill Foe

(Continued from page 1)

tic days of battling around Geronweiler, Germany, recently.

"One of the squads made a successful attack on a strong point," the colonel related, "but was hit with a counter-attack shortly after. About fifty fanatical Jerries were coming strong—and they were coming fast. The squad had to move—but hup-hup. One man volunteered to cover while the men moved. Armed only with his M1 he stood his ground, knocked off sixteen of the frenzied Fritzes, and stopped the rest of them cold. He did it with a hasty upslung, in perfect prone position, a sweet M1—and a barrelful of guts," the colonel concluded.

One of the prize pupils of the colonel's "rifle school" is Pfc Virgil Slover, of Harlan, Ky., a squirrel-shooting joker of Fox Company.

Slover's biggest distinction was that he was probably the only guy in all Kentucky who couldn't hit a dime at 600 yards with a blindfold over one eye. As a matter of fact, Virgil had a hell of a time even qualifying for marksman.

They all laughed when he sat down to shoot—back in England.

But they didn't know what Col. Hinds' rifle school could do.

A few months later, in the middle of the Ardennes bulge, Pfc Virgil Slover caught a Jerry patrol in his sights. Range 400 yards. Windage—Kentucky. Six shots. Five Krauts, One M1.

But the M1 isn't all beer and skittles. It has limitations. It is not a tommy-gun or a BAR and it is not designed to fire effectively at tanks and airplanes. In addition it is not, too, effective at excessive ranges.

"The M1 is not supposed to be used like a machine-gun," said Col. Hinds. "Many men attempt to shoot it too fast. Pick your targets and shoot at them. But don't try to spray an area unless you are in a close spot and want to clear your way out."

"At ranges over 500 yards," Col. Hinds continued, "the M1 is not too good, especially in this country with the foliage and the ever-present ground haze. Don't try to be a sniper with it."

"And finally, the M1 is not generally effective against tanks and aircraft. Firing just gives away your position and just usually wastes ammunition," he said.

That is the story of your rifle. Joe with an M1 is definitely a better man than Fritz with a Mauser. — But use it right!

More About

Colonel Hind's School

(Continued from page 1)

Other snipers are posted around the neighborhood and they have instructions to shoot—with live ammunition. All in fun though.

"Another and just as important point in the sniper training," said Col. Hinds, "is for the sniper to be able to get back to his own positions and to move around to another position without being seen by Jerry. His life expectancy is shortened somewhat if he doesn't move pretty quickly and quietly after exposing his position with fire. Jerry counter-sniper fire is pretty effective at times," he said.

The last few days at the school are used for dawn and dusk sniper training. The sniper learns to adjust himself to the dawn ground haze and other hazards of the early morn as well as putting his cat eyes in working order for the dusky evening, when he may have to go out and "do a job."

For his graduation present the sniper is given full possession of his special 03 and the telescopic sight. It becomes his very own to have and to hold and to clean until death do them part.

"And," remarked Col. Hinds, "he sleeps with that rifle. He takes care of it like a bottle of cognac in the middle of the Reich. There is no greater love than that of a sniper for his rifle."

After the colonel left the area, Lt. William Woodbury, who acts as the company sniper gunsmith—just for the love of it—popped up with a good yarn.

"The colonel is no Pentagon Building sniper," he said. "He can shoot better than any sniper in the regiment. I remember back in Sicily," he recalled, "when we were held up near Palermo at a pass by an 88."

"While the infantry went around to clean it up, Col. Hinds took a couple of shots at the emplacement—just to see what would happen."

"He squeezed off two at 700 yards. He squeezed off two more. The 88 stopped firing."

When the infantry took the position, they found two very dead Krauts and two more in a very friendly mood.

"He's that kind of a guy," the lieutenant said.

Champ's Kid Still Packs Punch



HAWAII, Mar. 23—This is jive on the cymbals, Hollywood style. Seaman 2/c Jackie Cooper, former film star, "sends" women Marines, members of the first contingent to reach Hawaii, in an impromptu jam session at a native feast in honor of the female Leathernecks.

Ticked Off the Global Wire

Urges Congress Force War Crimes Group End Secrecy

WASHINGTON, Mar. 23 (AP)—A demand that Congress pry the lid of secrecy off the Allied War Crimes Commission was made yesterday before the House Foreign Affairs Committee by Rep. Emanuel Celler (D-N.Y.), who called for a "full-time debate" after Herbert Pell testified that he does not know whether he is still the U.S. representative on the Commission.

"The work of the United Nations Commission cannot remain secret," Celler said. "Let the pitiless light of publicity reveal the places where ineptitude, indecision are crippling its efforts."

Pell was called to review the work of the Commission until early this year, when he was dropped by the State Department, which said the action was necessary because Congress had failed to appropriate funds for U.S. participation.

Formal charges against Hitler were not preferred until last Winter, Pell said. They were then presented by the Czech government. Asked about the delay in Hitler's case, Pell said it was simply because no government had reported him.

MOSCOW, Mar. 23 (Reuter)—Soviet quarters look with little favor on the United Nations War Crimes Commission, which was recently criticized in the Russian press for its "slow tempo" and for having spent too much time on debating procedure.

Italy Wants Nazi Labor

ROME, Mar. 23 (AP)—Italy intends to ask the Allies to see that Germany provides forced labor battalions to reconstruct agriculture and industry devastated by the Nazis, Mauro Scoccimaro, Communist Minister for Occupied Territory, declared yesterday.

No Plan for Hull Replacement

WASHINGTON, Mar. 23—President Roosevelt has no plan for naming anybody to replace Cordell Hull as senior adviser to the American delegation to the San Francisco Conference, the White House said last night.

Spain Charges Japs Murdered Spaniards

MADRID, Mar. 23 (AP)—Spain drew closer to an outright break with Japan today as the government formally charged the Japanese with the "systematic and premeditated" murder of 162 members of the Spanish colony in Manila prior to its liberation.

Says UNRRA Has 'Paralysis'

CAIRO, Mar. 23 (Reuter)—The Egyptian Mail, an English-language newspaper, today said the UNRRA organization showed grave symptoms of "premature paralysis."

Champs du Broadway

NEW YORK, Mar. 23 (BUP)—The first shipment of French brandy and perfume—8,500 cases of cognac and four cases of perfume—since 1940 has arrived in the U.S.

Help Wanted

Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, The Stars and Stripes, 20, Cavendish Sq., London, W3, or APO 413, U.S. Army, Telephone U.K. Base HQ, Ext. 2131.

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Dog Tags Found: ELMER P. GRAHAM, 13028977—Your dog tags have been found.

Leafs, Bruins Win Again In Stanley Cup Battles

MONTREAL, Mar. 23—It was another great evening for the underdogs in the National Hockey League playoffs for the Stanley Cup last night, the surprising Toronto Maple Leafs downing the champion Canadiens, 3-2, here for win number two in their series and the stubborn Boston Bruins bopping the Detroit Red Wings for the second straight time by a 4-2 margin at Detroit.

Stanley Cup Playoffs table with columns for First-Third Series and Second-Fourth Series, listing Toronto, Montreal, Boston, and Detroit.

margin at the end of the first period as a result of his goal with Bob Hamilton's assistance. Emile Bouchard tied the score momentarily for the Canucks in the second chapter by roaring through unassisted, but Lorne Carr put the Leafs back in front with a backhand shot off a pass from Sweeney Schriner, and Nick Metz shoved home the clincher unassisted with an 18-foot shot.

The final Canadian counter came late in the third frame when Bouchard carried the puck down to the Toronto cage and passed out to Elmer Lach, who zipped it through.

Bruins Never Lag: In scoring their victory over the Red Wings at Detroit the Bruins were never behind after going out in front on Jack McGill's unassisted score, but the victory may have cost the Boston team the services of Herb Cain, who was dumped into the boards in the first period and taken to the hospital with a probable broken collar bone.

Harold Jackson tied it for Detroit midway in the second stanza with a 54-footer on a pass from Bill Quackenbush, but Kenny Smith sent the Bruins to the van on a pass from McGill and the Wings never caught up. Paul Gladu added to the Bruin lead on a pass from Armand Gaudreault, and after Eddie Bruneteau lifted Detroit's hopes with a goal on a pass from Earl Siebert in the third chapter Pat Egan, the National League's bad man, came through unassisted for the visitors to see things up.

Detroit has not been able to get the lead on the Bruins since the series started, the brief tie during last night's battle being their best effort.

Bears Clip Indianapolis To Take Two-Game Lead

HERSHEY, Pa., Mar. 23—The Hershey Bears took a two-game lead in their semifinal Governor's Cup playoff series with the Indianapolis Capitals with a 3-2 victory before 4,200 fans.

Hal Cooper and Jim Drummond scored in the opening period for Bears and Drummond repeated in the second chapter, while the Capitals' first goal was pushed home in the first chapter by Fido Purpur and their second was registered by Dick Kowcinak in the second session.

AHL Playoffs

AHL Playoffs table with columns for W, L, T, P, listing Hershey, Cleveland, Buffalo, and Indianapolis.

Behind the Sports Headlines

NEW YORK—Ball players who have been awaiting word from Washington before announcing their plans for '45 have already started drifting back, with Bill Nicholson, Chicago Cubs' slugger, the first to notify the boss he'll be on hand soon.

Searsella and Ken Raffensberger of the Phillies; Bucky Walters and Ed Heusser of the Reds; Pete Coscarat, Lee Handley and Allie Rubeling of Pittsburgh; Arnold Thesenga of Washington; Denny Galehouse, Chet Laabs and George Caster of the Browns.

BEAR MT., N.Y.—Branch Rickey, president of Brooklyn's Beloved Bums, admitted today that Dixie Walker, the "Peepul's Cherce," is holding out.

ATLANTA—Jimmy Griffy, 15-year-old sandlot catcher who was batboy for the Chattanooga Lookouts last year, was signed to a player's contract yesterday by the St. Louis Cardinals.

NEW YORK—Mrs. Dorothy Campbell Hurd Howe, one of the most famous women golfers of all time, was struck by a train and killed at Yemassee, S.C., on Tuesday, her relatives disclosed yesterday.

Tennis Troupe to Tour Overseas: SAN FRANCISCO, Mar. 23—Outstanding tennis stars now in service will embark on a round-the-world tour to entertain servicemen on far-flung battlefronts.

Roped



Billy Arnold, favored Philadelphia welterweight, hits the ropes after he was hit a staggering blow by Rocky Graziano during their bout at Madison Square Garden. Graziano scored an upset TKO in the third.

NYU and Ohio State to Tangle For Eastern NCAA Cage Title

By Jay Barnes: Special to Stars and Stripes

NEW YORK, Mar. 23—New York University and Ohio State advanced to the Eastern NCAA basketball tourney final before 16,000 fans at Madison Square Garden last night, the Violets drubbing Tufts College, 59-44, and the Buckeyes conquering Kentucky, 45-37.

Compared to the Garden Invitational games the NCAA openers were mediocre. In the first game the Tufts hoopmen, rated 28-point underdogs, stunned NYU with their aggressive tactics and led for the first seven minutes on the firing of Bob Skarda and five-foot-six Johnny Cumiskey, but the Violets regained their balance to lead 27-22 at the half and after that nobody worried much.

Sid Tannenbaum was high for the Violets with 17 points and Cumiskey hit 14 points for the Bay State team, all on long shots.

In the feature game Ohio State led from the start in a sloppy battle that left the fans who stuck it out yawning. Six-foot-nine Arnie Risen netted three quick baskets after Don Grate started the scoring and Kentucky never caught up.

Thirty-nine fouls were called in the game, 21 against the Buckeyes, but the free throw shooting was atrocious. Kentucky made 15 and missed 12, while Ohio State sank only 11 and missed 13.

Don Grate, the Buckeyes' All-America forward, and Rod Caudill paced the Ohio State attack with 15 and 14 points respectively and Jack Tingle collected 11 for Kentucky.

Gray Drives in 3 Runs As Browns Top Toledo, 6-5

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo., Mar. 23—Pete Gray, St. Louis Browns' one-armed outfielder, belted out three singles and drove in three runs to pace his mates to a 6-5 victory over their Toledo farmhands here yesterday.

Brownie Rookies Earl Jones and Johnny Miller allowed 11 hits in seven innings, while their mates collected seven.

Help Wanted

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Dog Tags Found

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Diamond Preview

Bucky Walters Only Bright Star In Reds' Plans

By Charlie Slocum: Special to The Stars and Stripes

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Mar. 23—Bill McKechnie's evaluation of the Reds' chances at the start of spring training was "Brutal," but he heaved a great sigh yesterday when the WMC ruled that players could leave their war plant jobs to return to baseball.

For to Deacon Bill that means just one thing—Bucky Walters.

There was a report that Bucky intended sticking to his Philadelphia war job, but the Deacon is confident now that his 23-game winner and Mister Nighthall of '44 will show up.

Probably no pitching staff in the league has been sliced like the Reds'. Arnold Carter (11-7) and Walters are the only members of last year's staff definitely not in uniform.

Clyde Shoun, Tommy De La Cruz, Harry Gumbert and Jim Konstanty are in service and Ed Heusser's status is uncertain.

That leaves it up to such worthy oldsters as Horace "Hod" Lisenbee, Guy Bush and Walter "Boom-Boom" Beck, all over 40.

McKechnie, who isn't given to weeping, has a just cause to cry over his catching. His entire one-man catching staff of Ray Mueller, who set a National League record by catching every game last year, is in service.

"It'll be pitch and pray," McKechnie said. "When Mueller went away we lost the equivalent of three pitchers. Not only was he the best catcher in the business, but he made a good pitcher a great one."

Joe Just, Veteran Johnny Riedle up from Birmingham, and Al Lakeman from Syracuse will do the catching.

Another blow for McKechnie to take is the loss of Shortstop Eddie Miller, considered in Cincinnati and elsewhere every bit as good as Martin Marion. Miller is headed for service, but McKechnie hopes to have him for a while anyway.

Frank McCormick will be back at first base for the eighth straight year, Steve Messner will play third and Woodie Williams second. The fight for the fourth infield job will be among Walter Flager, Joe Beeler, Ralph Kraus and Kermit Wahl.

The outfield picture is rosy with Dain Clay, Eric Tipton and Gerry Walker coming back. On reserve will be Al Libke, who hit .307 at Seattle last year.

CAGE RESULTS

DENVER AAU TOURNAMENT: Phillips Oilers 47, San Francisco AC 40, Denver Amorose 51, Camp Robinson 43

Dick Tracy



Li'l Abner



By Chester Gould: By Al Capp

Some Soldiers Sit—Some Soldiers Fight—Some Sit and Fight



The war is fought on many fronts, some of them forgotten in the Allied sweep toward the Rhine and Berlin. Here in the French Alps is one of them. U.S. troops live in dugouts high in the mountains and are supplied by mule teams because of the rugged terrain. From left, a lone sentinel stands guard at the frontier; mules lug the ammo over mountain paths to American positions; a 75-mm. howitzer rents the sky as it shells enemy positions; and, in the monotonous lulls, a GI stands outside his dugout to shave and groom himself for his next appearance in the line.

Around the 48 Yesterday

Draft Drops to 93,000 A Month After June 30

WASHINGTON (ANS)—In requesting the Congress appropriate \$54,500,000 for Selective Service during 1945-46, President Roosevelt declared that the mobilization of "the largest armed force by far in the nation's history" would be completed by June 30.

The President said that after that date the average monthly draft would total 93,000 men. He added that the chief task of the draft during the next year would be to obtain "needed replacements to cover losses and discharges."

The House passed unanimously and sent to the Senate a bill extending the draft law until May 15, 1946.

Mr. Roosevelt added that because of the steadily dwindling supply of available registrants, draft boards would have to draw more heavily on older and occupationally deferred groups.

Before the President's request reached Congress, Maj. Gen. Stephen G. Henry, Assistant Army Chief of Staff in charge of personnel, told the House Military Affairs Committee that induction calls would average 135,000 monthly until June.

The President also asked for \$1,120,000,000 to finance the 19 civilian war agencies, including \$48,000,000 for the War Production Board, \$178,000,000 for the Office of Price Administration, and \$54,000,000 for the Office of War Information.

The figure was a cut of \$46,000,000 from the amount allocated this year, but considerably less than the \$113,000,000 drop anticipated when the President gave Congress his budget message last January. (Stepped up war production and other unexpected problems made the smaller cut necessary, the White House said.)

Now Her Cup Runneth Over

CAMP LEE, Va. (ANS)—When a WAC major complained over the non-delivery of 15,000 brassieres, the Quartermaster looked around and found them in the crockery supplies' warehouse. Somebody had taken the size labels on the boxes too literally: "Cup One, Cup Two, Cup Three."

Belligerent Co-Belligerents

TOLEDO (AP)—Approximately 650 members of an Italian service unit working at the Rossford Ordnance Depot went on strike in an effort to gain recognition as soldiers, instead of prisoners of war. The strikers were placed on a bread and water diet and confined to barracks.

Clang, Clang, Clang Went His Folly

SAN FRANCISCO (ANS)—Francis Van Wie, the trolley car Casanova who loved well but not wisely, was found guilty on three counts of bigamy by a Superior Court jury of nine men and three women which deliberated only ten minutes.

The former street car conductor, who assertedly married a dozen women without benefit of divorces between ceremonies, was found guilty of charges brought only by the last three ladies in his life.

Van Wie, a one-time lion tamer, admitted that he was more afraid of the combined tongues of his wives than of a cageful of circus beasts. He said he had expected the guilty verdict, but expressed regret that none of the three wives who had preferred charges had come over to offer condolences.

The 58-year-old romancer is liable to a five-year imprisonment and a \$5,000 fine on each of the three counts.

Treasure

PITTSBURG, Kan. (ANS)—The finder of a pack of cigarettes advertised he would return them to their lawful owner if said owner could identify the brand, the number of butts in the pack and also prove his age was more than 16 by producing a Social Security card or a draft card.

Oscar Loses His Head

HOLLYWOOD (ANS)—Actor Barry Fitzgerald accidentally beheaded his Oscar while practicing golf swings indoors. His mashie struck the gold-painted figure with which he was presented last week for acting excellence and the head rolled off as it crashed on the floor.

They Never Had It So Good

ATLANTA, Ga. (AP)—One of the most difficult problems facing some returning servicemen is the readjustment to civilian incomes. S. G. Springfield, a War Manpower Commission director, declared in a speech here.

He cited the case of a discharged 26-year-old Air Force lieutenant-colonel who gave up an Army income of about \$7,200 yearly for a \$2,080-a-year newspaper job.

"His boss was overjoyed to see him and assured him his job was waiting at \$40 a week instead of the \$36 which he was making when he entered the service," Springfield said.

"When these officers come back to civilian life they must be ready to accept a much lower salary scale, even though they are well above the pre-war level."

Mayor's Brother Shot

GARY, Ind. (AP)—Lawrence Finerty, brother of Mayor Joseph Finerty, was shot and killed behind his home as he returned from a trip with his wife. A witness said a small man with a sawed-off shotgun fired the shots.

Manpower Delays Cruisers

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Serious manpower shortages at the Philadelphia Navy Yard may delay completion of the carriers Princeton and Valley Forge, Rear Adm. Milo F. Draemel, the Yard's commandant, declared.

But the Doughs Will Cool Him Off

Colonel Has Temper-ature

By Don Whitehead

Associated Press Correspondent
WITH 1ST ARMY, Mar. 23 (AP)—Officers and men of the 1st Infantry Division hope some day to get a good look at the Nazis' terrible-tempered Col. Becker.

If anybody else captures him they are going to be sore. The 1st Infantry regards Becker as one of the toughest, meanest, roughest officers who ever sent troops into counter-attack—often against the 1st Infantry.

Prisoners taken from his 5th Paratroop Regiment are always willing to talk about him. One of their stories concerns a German soldier with frozen feet. On the way to a hospital the soldier had the misfortune to meet Becker, who asked what was the matter.

"My feet are frozen," said the soldier. "What color are they?" asked Becker.

"White," replied the soldier. "Then go back to your foxhole until they turn blue," said Becker.

On another occasion, Becker heard complaints that the feet of his troops

were freezing as they stood in their foxholes.

"Then they can kick each other to keep them warm," said the Colonel.

Becker's soldiers said that he contends there is no such thing as frost-bite.

The terrible-tempered Becker is always sending orders to "fight to the death" and "do or die," but seldom gets any closer to the front than seven miles, his men claim. It was agreed, however, that he packs a stiff counter-attack.

"If he has just ten men, he will send five of them in to make a counter-attack and use the other five as reserves," said Maj. John Lawton, of Berkeley, Cal.

West Fronts -

(Continued from page 1)

14-mile front. The crossing did not expand the original bridgehead to any great degree, however. Resistance in the north, central and southern sectors of the Rhine east bank positions was reported to have tapered off.

The German report of the 3rd Army's Rhine crossing said it was made under cover of artificial fog and with strong artillery support, the soldiers using both amphibious tanks and assault craft.

Enemy reports also told of the Germans having foiled other American attempts to cross the Rhine near Dusseldorf and south of Cologne. These claims also went without Allied confirmation.

In the Saar-Palatinate, where the Germans had only a small triangle left in which to attempt to pull out the remnants of their forces, 3rd Army troops captured both Landau and Speyer, the last towns of any size in the region. Doughboys were still mopping up in Ludwigshafen. A final total on prisoners taken in the combined push by the 3rd and 7th armies was not yet available, but that it would be great was indicated by the 3rd's toll of 65,000 within the last 11 days.

UNRRA Aids Warsaw Poles

WASHINGTON, Mar. 23 (AP)—UNRRA officials revealed today that the only Polish group with which the organization would deal was the Russian-recognized provisional government in Warsaw.

The announcement apparently closed the door to the exiled Polish government in London. Herbert H. Lehman, Director General of UNRRA, said the Warsaw government "exercises actual control in the area" in which relief will be provided.

There have been difficulties in obtaining Russian visas for the UNRRA mission to travel across the Soviet Union to Poland.

Lehman also announced the resignation of John P. Gregg as chief of the Polish Relief Mission in Washington, and said that he would be succeeded by Mikhail Menshikov, who was Soviet delegate to the first UNRRA mission in Atlantic City, and has been a member of UNRRA since then.

Japs Open New Drive In Central China

CHUNGKING, Mar. 23 (AP)—Using 60,000 troops supported by mechanized units, the Japs have started a new drive in China from positions northwest of the central China city of Hankow, the Chinese Army command announced today.

A spokesman said the objectives of the drive were to seize the wheat crop of southern Honan and northern Hupeh provinces, destroy the airfields and remove the Chinese threat to Jap communications and the Peiping-Hankow railroad.

Bill Would Increase Family Death Benefits

WASHINGTON, Mar. 23 (AP)—Legislation to provide 50 per cent increased benefits for survivors of service personnel killed in action or dead of combat wounds was introduced in Congress by Rep. John Kean (R-N.Y.).

The monthly rates would be: Widow without a child, \$75; widow with one child \$120, and \$20 monthly for each additional child.

Jerries Now Obey Their Own Signs



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo
Fleeing Nazis left this propaganda sign behind in Worms, Germany, but U. S. tankmen forge ahead completely undisturbed by the inscription: "See Germany and Die."

Terry and the Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate

By Milton Caniff

