



THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations

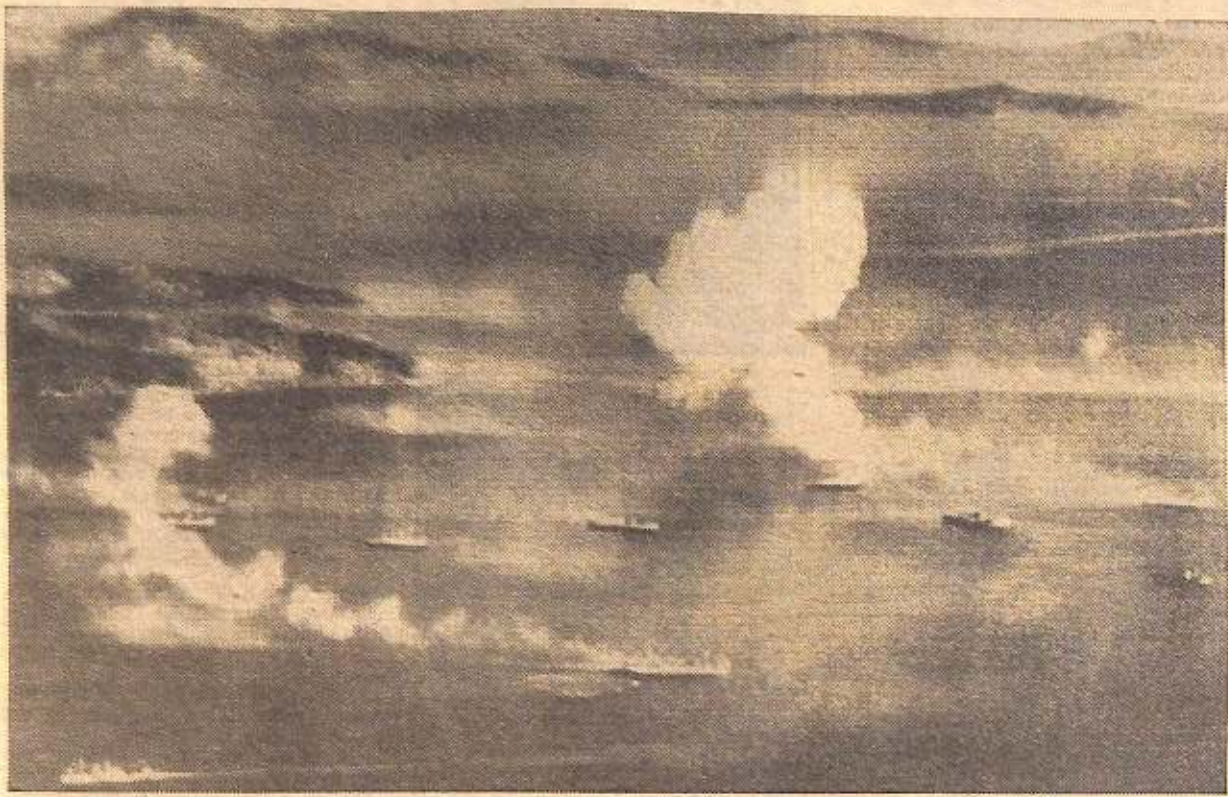


Vol. 4 No. 101

New York, N.Y.—London, England

Tuesday, Feb. 29, 1944

Navy Turns Truk Mystery Base Into Watery Grave



Associated Press Radio Photo

American-kindled flames pour from Japanese ships in a harbor at Truk—Japan's "Pearl Harbor" in the Caroline Islands—a few minutes after Naval planes struck on Feb. 13. The Navy Department said yesterday that photographic reconnaissance showed that 23 Jap ships had been sunk in the raid, instead of the previous claim of 19 destroyed. This picture—graphic evidence of attack—is the first ever taken of the stronghold, secretly fortified by the Japs for the last 25 years.

Heavies, B26s Renew Attacks, Blast at Calais

Raid Is 18th Major Smash Of Month; Flak Is Heavy; Six Bombers Lost

Renewing their campaign against Nazi military installations after a weekend lull, American heavy and medium bombers escorted by fighters bombed military targets in northern France yesterday.

Climaxing a series of daylight assaults on the area where Hitler may be building rocket guns or facilities for launching pilotless planes, the heavies boosted the record total of February operations to 18—50 per cent above the highest previous month.

Working as four separate teams, two formations of Fortresses and one each of Liberators and Marauders were virtually unmolested by fighters but met heavy flak as they ranged over targets scattered up and down one of the most heavily bombed strips of land in the world.

Six heavy bombers were lost. All of the Marauders and fighters returned safely.

RAF Mediums Join In

RAF medium bombers also joined the day's widespread blows.

The Ninth Air Force, resuming its double-edged offensive in force, sent more than 200 B26 mediums across the channel wing to wing in strong waves and divided into a number of formations to make simultaneous attacks on military objectives. One B26 task force drove 40 miles inland to blast the German air base at Rosieres-en-Santerre.

Besides the Pas de Calais targets, the Marauders struck airfields near Amiens, 40 miles from the coast.

So light was enemy fighter opposition that only one claim of aircraft destroyed was made by the escorting fighters.

A Ju88 about to take off from a field in France was hopped and destroyed by three Mustangs, piloted by Capt. Duane W. Beeson, of Boise, Ida.; 1/Lt. William B. Smith, of Bluefield, Va., and 1/Lt. Nicholas Magura, of Ansonia, Conn.

Capt. Richard J. Foster, of Philadelphia, a Fortress navigator, said, "Over our target we had the worst flak I've seen in 25 missions."

With another day to go in the shortest month, the American heavies topped all records despite the fact that February is one of the worst flying months.

The previous record operational month was November, 1943, when four-engined fleets based in Britain flew against the Continent 12 times. In February, 1943,

(Continued on page 4)

U.S. Navy to Top Rest Of World's Combined

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 28 (Reuter)—By the end of this year the "strength of American fighting fleets will equal that of all other nation's combined," Rear Adm. Edward L. Cochrane, chief of the Bureau of Ships, said here.

Warships, Planes Again Shell And Bomb Rabaul and Kavieng

U.S. warships have again shelled Rabaul, New Britain, and Kavieng, New Ireland, sinking seven ships in a co-ordinated raid with medium and heavy bombers which hit both bases within a few hours with 200 tons of bombs.

One large tanker, three cargo ships and three coastal vessels were sunk. Seven other ships set afire included an 8,000-ton and a 5,000-ton transport.

Two U.S. destroyers were damaged slightly.

Other U.S. and Australian warships prowled among the tiny islands northwest of New Ireland in the Bismarck Archipelago, hunting out Jap shipping attempting to run the Allied air-sea blockade.

In New Guinea, Allied heavy bombers dumped 102 tons of bombs on Boram airfield at Wewak and other installations.

Dive-bombers, supporting Americans and Australians moving toward Madang, on New Guinea's north-central coast, struck the bomb-pocked Madang airfield and strafed enemy patrols.

6,500 Japs Trapped In Burma; 1,500 Slain

NEW DELHI, India, Feb. 28 (Reuter)—British and Indian troops of the 14th Army, achieving what Gen. A. P. F. Christison described as "a major victory over the Japanese," have routed a force of some 8,000 enemy troops on the Arakan front in Burma, killing 1,500, wounding probably 3,000 and encircling the remainder.

The Japanese had planned to seize Ngakyedauk pass, only road connecting the British troops east and west of the Mayu range, and thus cut in half the Allied forces and deprive the Seventh Indian Division of supplies. Another force planned to isolate the Fifth Indian Division.

For three weeks aircraft supplied and maintained in action more than a division equipped with tanks and artillery. More than 1,500 tons of supplies were dropped for the loss of only one Dakota (known to Americans as the Douglas DC-3).

Author Barbour Dies
PASS CHRISTIAN, Miss., Feb. 28—Ralph Henry Barbour, author of 144 books for boys, died here at the age of 73.

10 U.S. Airmen Saved in Alps, Others Stranded, Berlin Says

Berlin radio said yesterday that ten U.S. airmen who bailed out over the eastern Alps in Friday's raid on Regensburg, 70 miles northeast of Munich, were rescued Saturday by German Alpine troops and mountain guides.

Earlier, Berlin said rescue parties were fighting deep snow and bitter cold to reach 114 American airmen who parachuted down over a wide area. Some survivors, stranded in temperatures ranging from ten to 28 degrees, were attempting to signal with flares, the broadcast said.

The ten already rescued, described by Berlin as "completely exhausted" and more or less severely frostbitten, were identified as:

Lt. Marturano, Lt. Voskav, Lt. Charles Olsen, Lt. Joseph Panuha, Sgt. Ernest Henderson, Sgt. Dunlop, Sgt. Charles Wilkins, Sgt. John Norton, Sgt. Philippe Ashork and Sgt. Paul Behn.

One airman, quoted by German radio, was reported to have said his machine "burst into pieces" at 3,500 feet.

"While drifting down on my parachute," the airman was quoted as saying, "I saw some of the parachutes of my comrades hurled against the rocks below. I landed in the snow. Two comrades came down near me."

"We attempted to fight our way forward next morning, but became exhausted. After three hours German soldiers rescued us."

Hitler Orders Pskov Held to the Last Man; Reds 10 Mi. from City

Manpower Shortage Past, Green Asserts

DETROIT, Feb. 28—President William Green of the AFL said today the period of manpower shortage in American industry had passed.

"Now we have moved to the point where men are being thrown out of work," he said. "There is some unemployment and our big problem now is the proper use of manpower."

Ulster Lockheed Workers Must Return for Draft

All Technicians Who Are 22 or Younger Affected; Others Facing Order

By Jules B. Grad

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

BELFAST, Feb. 28—A large number of technicians of Lockheed Overseas Corp., Northern Ireland, were preparing today to return to the U.S. for military induction following President Roosevelt's order that all occupational deferments be reviewed.

LOC aircraft workers, many employed in the firm's vast Ulster plant for 18 months, will report to their draft boards within five days after reaching their port of debarkation, in accordance with a recent agreement between Lockheed headquarters at Burbank, Cal., and California Selective Service officials.

All technicians 22 or younger must be sent back, it was reported, unless they choose to enlist in the Army or Navy induction offices over here. Selective Service officials have ruled that they may join other services, and six have already left LOC for the Merchant Marine.

(U.S. Army Recruiting headquarters in London said yesterday it had received several applications for enlistment in the Air Forces from Lockheed personnel. It was stated further that EOC men who enlist may be inducted with technician ratings.)

Maj. H. H. Vereen, of Miami, executive officer of an Eighth Service Command depot in Northern Ireland, said the men would leave in the next four months. In addition to the junior employees, Vereen said; others between 22 and 28, and 28 and 38 also would be inducted in the near future.

"These technicians are specialists in their own fields," Vereen declared, "and they will be difficult to replace."

Draft officials were reported to have stated that they could give no assurance that the technicians would be placed in the USAAF. The LOC workers scheduled for induction include radio mechanics, engineers, utilities specialists and consultants.

Carbine Now Can Stop Tank

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28—The U.S. Army's lightweight carbine, newly improved to give it increased accuracy, lessened recoil and reduced trigger pull, now has been equipped with a grenade launcher which gives it the same anti-tank fire power as the heavier Springfield and Garand rifles, the War Department said today.

Thus equipped, the .30-cal., 51-pound, three-foot-long carbine can stop a 30-ton tank.

The War Department statement revealed that infantry divisions now were equipped with nearly as many carbines as '03s and M1s. A soldier armed with the carbine can carry about twice as many cartridges as men using the heavier rifles.

More Canadians Arrive A CANADIAN EAST COAST PORT

BOSTON, Feb. 28 (UP)—Standard Oil Co., of New Jersey, is now heating its New England office with coal. Rationed like everyone else, it ran out of oil.

Big Ukraine Drive Renewed; Goal Is Kherson

Adolf Hitler's now familiar "to the last man" order went out to the defenders of Pskov yesterday as Russian tanks and mobile guns, spearheading the nearest of three columns closing in on the city, rolled down the last ten miles separating them from that gateway to the Baltic.

With the Russians almost on the Estonian border in the far north, Gen. Popov's troops only 40 miles from the Latvian border a hundred miles to the south, and Gen. Vatutin's army less than 30 miles from the 1940 Russo-German boundary in Poland, west of Luck, the Red Army gathered in new territory all along the front.

In the Ukraine, Gen. Malinovsky's army launched a new offensive toward Kherson and cleared 15 miles of the Dnieper's right bank in a thrust south of Apostolovo. Col. Ernst von Hammer, German News Agency commentator, said 100,000 Russians had been thrown into the fighting there. Forward Soviet units were less than 65 miles from Kherson.

Pskov Resistance Stiffens

Hitler's order—that Pskov must be held at all costs—brought a stiffening of Nazi resistance north and west of the city behind heavily protected hedgehog positions. Moscow dispatches said the Nazis were fighting "desperately" to hold back the Soviet advance and were showing no signs of breaking under the preliminary attack.

As in other battles on the northern front, Red units have a quantity of terrain led Russian ski-troops through the pine forests and around the lakes that dot the area to emerge at daybreak behind the Nazi lines in position to attack enemy supply dumps, railway lines and bridges.

The guerrilla activity underscored an assertion by Bolshevik magazine of the Central Communist Party in Moscow, that Russian partisans operating behind the Nazi lines killed more than 300,000 Germans, including 30 generals, in the last two years.

The dead included 6,300 officers and 1,500 pilots, the magazine said.

It added that guerrillas derailed 3,000 trains, blew up 3,200 railway and highway bridges, destroyed nearly 1,200 tanks and armored cars, 476 planes, 378 guns, 618 automobiles and 1,400 trucks, and blew up 895 ammunition dumps.

The chief Soviet pressure in the north was aimed at the north-south railway linking Pskov and Polotsk, 150 miles to the south. Popov's southern wing, pouring men and material in a steady stream through captured Pustoshka, 29 miles west of Novo Sokolniki, pushed within 17 miles of Idritsa junction—where the Veliki Luki-Riga and Pskov-Polotsk lines meet.

1st Absentee Ballot Reaches ETO—for Last Year's Vote

A FORTRESS BASE, Feb. 28—2/Lt. Adam A. Mackow realizes his may be an isolated case, but he's hoping New Jersey's absentee-ballot voting system gives him better service for the coming presidential election than it did for its 1943 gubernatorial election.

A B17 bombardier from Newark with 12 missions behind him, Mackow today finally received his absentee ballot for last November's gubernatorial election, which was won by the Republican candidate, Walter E. Edge.

The envelope containing the ballot was mailed from New Brunswick Oct. 11 to "Pvt. Adam A. Mackow, Fort Benning, Ga.," was stamped with 11 different postmarks, as well as four references to Army directories, and bore a request for "speedy delivery of a military ballot."

Tucked in a corner of the multi-decorated envelope also was the terse warning: "To avoid delay in delivery, please advise correspondents of your complete military address."

U.S. Loans to Help GIs Set Up in Business Again

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (Reuter)—Post-war government loans will be available to returning veterans who wish to re-establish businesses; they were forced to liquidate or turn over to others when they entered service. Secretary of Commerce Jesse Jones announced.

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Vol. 4, No. 101, February 29, 1944

Balkan Support

The announcement that Captain Randolph Churchill, son of the British Prime Minister, is now serving in Yugoslavia as a liaison officer with Tito's forces calls dramatic attention to the fact that Yugoslavia is still a very active ally in southern Europe.

Matter of fact German troops in the occupied, it would be more correct to say the partially occupied, territory of Yugoslavia are still making determined efforts to clear their flanks and communications before they can be attacked in force by the United Nations.

As Russian armies drive closer to the Balkan states in the East and the danger of Allied spring campaigns in the Mediterranean draw near, the German need to have a secure hold on this section of the "Fortress Europa" grows daily more important.

Following each of five campaigns launched by the Germans against partisans operating in Yugoslavia, the Nazis have optimistically reported their complete annihilation. Yet today, Commander-in-Chief Tito commands a growing force of over 200,000 men.

There is now a National Army of Liberation permanently in the field consisting of from eight to ten well-equipped but lightly armed divisions. In addition there are partisan detachments, civilians one day and fighters the next, who operate as guerrilla units and undertake any local or special task which may be assigned to them by military headquarters.

In Yugoslavia partisan detachments are everywhere. It is they who constantly intercept German communications in all parts of the country. In July of last year, for example, the railway between Belgrade and Zagreb was mined 22 times. In August on the same line, 28 ordinary trains and four armored trains were wrecked.

During 1943 over fifty thousand German operations against Yugoslav troops. In addition, Yugoslav troops and guerrillas have captured or destroyed large quantities of German military equipment. They have also constantly interrupted German communications with the Adriatic and the Aegean, thereby threatening the security of Balkan garrisons. And by holding up supplies and reinforcements at critical moments of the war they have assisted in Allied victories in the Mediterranean and Russian victories in the East.

Gateway to Prussia

Twenty miles to south Estonia, thirty-four miles to Latvia, that was the position yesterday of Russian forces taking part in a triple drive on the Baltic states in operations that Moscow describes as decisive.

Latest communiques place General Govorov's army within ten miles of Pskov in an advance made from the north and north-east, while General Popov's army was driving in fast from the east.

Pskov is valuable mainly as a communications center, for, situated on both banks of the Velikaya river, nine miles from Lake Pskov, its peacetime population never exceeded 40,000, and these were employed in timber mills, leather factories and some manufacture of machinery.

But Pskov is now the last Nazi stronghold between the Russians and Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Its fall will not only open the gateway to the Baltic states but also the road to Germany via East Prussia.

Under such circumstances Moscow's description of the battle for Pskov as "decisive" seems reasonable, and Hitler's orders to defend it to the last man in line with a policy that does not permit many more defeats, particularly when they involve the advance of Russian troops heading in the direction of Prussia, home of Germany's military caste.

The Bronze Star

A new service medal, known as the Bronze Star Medal, for members of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard who have displayed heroism or meritorious achievement service on land or sea has just been created by executive order.

Regulations for the award have not yet been fully prescribed, but it is to be awarded to men serving in any capacity in the armed forces against an enemy of the United States, but not involving aerial flight. More detailed regulations will be drawn up by the Secretaries of War and Navy, and will establish the new medal as the land and sea equivalent of the Air Medal. It will rank just below the Silver Star.

Hash Marks

Overheard in the chow-line at a bomber base. Spying the notice which says to empty your solids in one tin and liquids in another, a GI sagely remarked, "I take it the farmers object to mixing the liquids with the solids—the excess coffee might keep the pigs awake nights."

Overheard in a London court following a recent air raid. "My husband wanted bombing to start again so I would go out



to the country to stay once more; but I'm seeing it through this time to spite him."

Better watch yourself in these air raids, boys. Helping rescuers during a recent raid, a Canadian soldier rushed past blazing incendiaries into a room where a girl had fainted on a couch. As he was about to pick her up she came out of her swoon and slapped him. Apologies followed, but too late to save an aching jaw.

It appears to the Kitchen Kommandos at an air base over here that bread, like bombers, is arriving on the battle line bearing the names of those who had a hand in its making. Slicing bread the other day, Cpl. Glenn Hasty struck something solid. A few deft twists of the wrist brought forth an identification bracelet, complete with hidden snapshot receptacle, snapshots, and the owner's name engraved on the case. Latest reports are that the KPs are hopefully slicing bread like mad—looking for a zippo lighter!

Life must be getting "rough" on the Home Front. We have a report from Detroit that residents of that city's ultra-ultra swanky section find things so tough that they are now sharing the few chauffeurs that remain. Ain't dat just too bad!

They're either too big or too small! Our spy on the Home Front reports that a corporal from Texas was deeply upset



because he couldn't propose to his girl—his pants were too tight! He's the old-fashioned romantic type and wanted to get on his knees to do the job. However, for fear of an accident he had to put it off until the next day. The girl was disappointed and when he called for a date the following night, she announced her engagement to a machinist in a bolt factory!

Hitler's Secret Weapon? "Button 'A'" on a pay telephone.

J. C. W.

Ready to Carry Invasion Wounded

Evacuation Group Organized, Waits Start of Big Job

By Andrew A. Rooney

The first complete air-evacuation group ever organized for the sole purpose of carrying wounded men is ready and waiting in England to transport thousands of Allied casualties a day from the invasion battlefields of the Continent to secure hospitals in the British Isles.

On the day of invasion there will be a large number of evacuation squadrons with the Ninth Air Force Troop Carrier Command, USSTAF officials revealed yesterday. Each squadron is composed of 13 transport planes, each capable of carrying 18 litter patients. There is one surgeon to a flight of six planes and a



Above, aboard one of the Ninth Air Force C47s which have been equipped as compact field hospitals, a flight nurse, 2/Lt. Lillian Kinkela, former air line hostess from San Francisco, talks with two patients. Behind her are the litter patients. At left, surgical technicians load patients aboard a C47 at a Northern Ireland base for a practice evacuation to hospitals in England.



nurse and enlisted surgical technician aboard every plane.

German squadrons were used to evacuate wounded as far back as the time of their participation in the Spanish Revolution, and British and American planes have been used extensively in the Mediterranean to evacuate an estimated 60,000 casualties from battle stations, but the USSTAF group in England is the first unit of that size to be organized solely for that purpose.

Speed Saves Lives

In carrying wounded men from field hospitals to well equipped station hospitals in the British Isles, the air-evacuation group will achieve three important results:

- 1—It will reduce the death rate among wounded by increasing quicker and more complete surgical treatment.
2—It will relieve rail and ship transportation, which will be heavily taxed in the early invasion days, from the burden of carrying wounded.
3—It will eliminate the necessity of supplying any but fighting troops in the combat area.

The planes used for the evacuation of wounded will be the same C47s which drop the first airborne units onto the Continent. Medical personnel will go with the ships on their trip to the battle-front loaded with either men or supplies, and, together with doctors at field hospitals, will decide on which cases that may be moved by air. Men suffering from serious burns and intestinal wounds generally are the only casualties which can't be evacuated by air.

The ordinary casualty will receive basic treatment at emergency hospitals close to the battlefield and will be moved by air to the safer, better equipped hospitals where major surgical operations may be performed.

The hospital planes are equipped so that nurses and technicians can give plasma

Ninth Has a Separate Troop Carrier Outfit

With the disclosure yesterday of details of the flying hospital wards which will evacuate wounded from second front battle areas, it was revealed that the Ninth Air Force has a separate Troop Carrier Command operating in the British Isles.

Besides evacuating wounded, Troop Carrier aircraft will drop paratroopers behind enemy lines, tow gliders with airborne troops, land airborne troop units and their heavy equipment to facilitate repair of battle-damaged airfields, and continually reinforce isolated units with weapons and material.

Practice Shuttle

At present 200-300 sick soldiers are being taken every week from hospitals in Ireland to hospitals in England which have been set up to handle invasion casualties and are at present almost empty. For the air-evacuation group the three planes they send to Ireland every day is routine training for the job ahead.

Unlike hospital ships, which according to the terms of the Geneva Convention are protected from attack, the flying wards of the evacuation group are not guarded by international law. Hospital ships are clearly marked with white paint and red crosses, but planes can't be marked similarly because they are not used exclusively for the transport of wounded.

Hospital ships are not allowed to come into a port with a load of fighting men or any supplies and are consequently a one-way waste. Hospital planes, on the other hand, carry supplies and men to the front.

The aerial-hospital squadrons were organized back in the States in 1942 and have seen service in the Pacific and Mediterranean campaigns. Two squadrons,

working in Sicily after the landing, evacuated about 28,000 U.S. casualties. British units doing the same work took 50,000 Allied wounded off the Italian island.

In charge of organization of the Ninth Troop Carrier Command's hospital unit is Col. Ehring L. Bergquist.

"In Africa," Col. Bergquist said, "men were in hospitals on the African continent a few hours after being wounded in Italy. Many who lived would never have had a chance if they'd had to take the long boat trip.

Field Treatment Reduced

"Air evacuation has proved much more effective than having big field hospitals. This way you don't have to have a lot of medical equipment and personnel hauled up to the front. It's proved much easier to bring the patient by air to a big hospital, in safe territory, than to try and give him thorough treatment in the field."

Col. Bergquist feels that even were it not for the added safety and the space and time saved by air evacuation it would be worth while. "The idea of having a woman available to give a wounded man sympathetic care almost instantly after he is hurt makes it worth while," he said.

The nurses working with the Ninth evacuation group have been chosen by someone with an eye toward something in addition to nursing ability. The nurses are, for the most part, a soldier's dream of what his nurse will be like. All are competent registered nurses with hospital or airline-hostess backgrounds.

The nurses and enlisted technicians work as a team in one of the Army's most unique enlisted-commissioned relationships. The enlisted men, staff sergeants most of them, have been trained to help and in some cases substitute for the nurses. They have worked and trained together for from four months to a year.

A typical team is the Jones-Marshall combination. The nurse is 2/Lt. Naomi J. Jones, of Hamilton, Tex., and the surgical technician is S/Sgt. George Marshall, of Pittsburgh. Lt. Jones is a very pretty little girl with a cute, turned-up nose, all of which belies her six years' nursing experience. For a year after she completed her three-year course she practiced nursing in Texas and then, two years ago, joined the Army Nurse Corps. She is neither married nor engaged.

Marshall is a big, rough-looking boy who looks as though he might have been on the Pittsburgh police force. He was. Before he joined the Army he spent eight years as a Pittsburgh cop and, later, detective. He has been married for seven years.

"Jonesy is the best there is," Marshall says of his diminutive working companion.

"Jonesy," on the other hand, claims that "my sergeant" is the finest surgical technician in the group.

HUBERT by SGT. DICK WINGERT



"Why look girls, those three American blokes we used to run around with have their mothers over here now!"

ARMY POETS

Call to Dreamers
We issue a call to the dreamers,
To men who will dream and will dare,
A clarion call to the stalwart
Whose castles are built in the air—

And go to their death with a smile.
To arms! for the battle is raging
And war's not the horror it seems,
For it's better to die than to live in a world
That is barren and empty of dreams.

Clement L. Lockwood.
This is Bushido. These are they
Who show the West a nobler way.
Do you remember, long ago,
When earthquakes crumpled Tokyo?
With hard-won pennies for the Japs.
This is Bushido. This is how
Our children are rewarded now.
When God again afflicts Japan
Let her not look to mortal man;
And God bless those who mean to make
The whole of that vile island quake.

A. P. Herbert.
The forces of hatred are marching
And slaughtering men as they go,
And the ramparts constructed to halt them
Are crumbled and aged and low.

It is not for the men that we sorrow,
For each must come to his end,
It's the dream for a better tomorrow
Which is threatened we seek to defend.

Dreams are the facts of the future,
Miracles yet to be born,
And men who would lose them will
Borrow
A future both dark and forlorn.

Garrett, Menchaca Highlight Rainbow Corner Bill

Cage Roundup

8 Quintets Accept Bids To National Tourneys



That great Negro basketball combination, the Harlem Globe Trotters, recently set a new national record by piling up 62 consecutive triumphs. March Field put a halt to the record by taking the Trotters, 38-31. Big Joe Fortenberry, the former West Texas State star, later a mainstay with the Phillips Oilers, led the flyer assault.

Fort Warren, Wyoming, may have one of the teams to beat in the coming AAU basketball tournament if their two stars, Jules Rivlin and Elmer Robinson, are eligible to play. The undefeated Broncos' two stars are both charged with having played pro ball, and that would eliminate them from competition. Rivlin was a hot shot at Marshall College, in the East, while Robinson was a California star.

Bill Helis, the Great Greek from New Orleans, proved recently that persistence pays. Helis had tried several times to buy a horse called Valdina Zenith from the Valdina Farms, but was unsuccessful. When the Farms were sold recently to Henry Knight, Helis bought the horse only hours after the deal had been completed. The next day Zenith went out and got Mr. Helis \$5,000 back by winning the Gulf Coast Handicap at New Orleans.

Irv Shelton, whose Wyoming University gang captured the National Collegiate title last year, is getting ready to go after the AAU crown this year with his independent team, the Dow Chemicals, of Midland, Mich. Irv has Milo Komenich, center and All-American on his 1943 squad, and Billy and Buddy Hassett, the latter former New York Yankee first baseman.

Ed Beisser and Ralph Langer, who were leading Creighton to a national basketball spot before the Army grabbed them in midseason last year, are now leading the Camp Hale, Colo., hoop squad to a very fine record.

Roy Cullenbine, the former Cleveland outfielder who came to the Yanks last year and helped in the pennant drive, recently gave Marse Joe McCarthy a big boost when he told Braven Dyer in Los Angeles that he had been only two months under McCarthy, but saw and learned more smart baseball than ever before. Considering that Roy had played under Lou Boudreau, Bucky Harris, Luke Sewell, Leo Durocher and Del Baker, that's quite a plug for the Yankee mastermind.

Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, Stars and Stripes, 37, Upper Brook St., London, W.1. Telephone, ETOUSA. Ext. 2131. Unless otherwise stated in the ad. direct all correspondence c/o Help Wanted.

- APOs Wanted**
SGT. James A. Foster, Cambridge, Mass.; Lt. Joseph Freyer, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Pvt. Jack F. Gaughan, Ashby, Pa.; Louis Gerardi, Buffalo, N.Y.; Pvt. Anthony Gonnella; Lt. Charles C. Griffen; Capt. Sidney Griz, Harrisburg, Pa.; Murray Hawlin; Pvt. George Hays, Mousie, Ky.; Lt. Carroll Humphries, Uvalde, Tex.; Sgt. Louis G. Hyde; Lt. Sue Ireland, N.C.; Lt. Col. Harold C. Kaufman, Warner, Robins, Ga.; Howard King, Austin, Tex.; John V. Lundie, Natick, Conn.
- Lost**
ADDRESS BOOK, Newbury or vicinity.—Pfc Milford A. Barnes.
WRIST WATCH, "Wittnauer," with degree dial on front and my name on back; in Great Square, Shaftesbury, Feb. 14.—Sgt. Robert McIntosh, 32465140.
TOILET Kit Bags (two), one yellow leather, zipper fastener, containing toilet articles and 17-jewel Bulova wrist watch; the other, black leather, snap fastener, containing toilet articles; at Liverpool St. station or on train articles; at London and Norwich.—T/Sgt. H. C. Hopkins, 14901701, and T/Sgt. M. J. Smith, 34087126.
WALLET, brown leather, containing papers, pictures and money. My name stamped on it. Reward.—Cpl. James Burke, 3583383.
FOUNTAIN PEN, Sheffer, with my name on it at Jules Club, Feb. 20.—Lt. Henry C. McClintock.
WRIST WATCH, 7-jewel "Kilbert" at Reading Station Feb. 15. Has my ASN on it. Reward.—Pvt. Donald De Salvatore, 12003065.
HELP WANTED now has complete returns of the state and parish primary elections in Louisiana Jan. 18.
- College Reunion**
A REUNION dinner for men of the University of Southern California, Stanford University and the University of California will be held at the No. 3 Grosvenor Sq. Club, London, Saturday, Mar. 4, at 6.30 PM. Reservations should be sent to The Stars and Stripes College Registration Service, 37 Upper Brook St., London, W.1. No reservations accepted after Thursday.

Dartmouth's Record Best In NCAA Group; 2 Berths Open

NEW YORK, Feb. 28—Post-season tournaments are crowding into the national basketball news with eight sectional leaders accepting bids and other ranking fives debating or awaiting invitations.

Duke emerged the winner in the Southern Conference eliminations, the first tourney concluded, and Southeastern schools yesterday drew for places in their Louisville competition.

DePaul, Muhlenberg and St. John's, of Brooklyn, joined the Oklahoma Aggies, Kentucky and Utah in the National Invitational field, while Ohio State moved into the NCAA race with Dartmouth. Ohio State's record of 13 won and six lost is the worst of this group, while Dartmouth's 15 victories against one defeat is tops. DePaul won 18 and lost three; Muhlenberg has a record of 20 and three; St. John's sports 13 wins over four losses; Oklahoma's Aggies have stacked up 23 victories against three defeats; Kentucky has an average of 14 and one and Utah has 13 wins overshadowing three defeats.

Colgate Gains Prestige

Two more bids are to be issued for the Invitational and Bowling Green, which finished with a winning record of 21 and three; Canisius with 15 and four, Colgate with ten won and three lost, and Temple with 13 and seven are high on the list of contenders. Colgate gained prestige by topping Sampson Naval, 73-45, a team that beat Canisius earlier in the week. Temple provided one of the major upsets of the season, handing Western Michigan its first loss to a college team, 55-51.

Army's Cadets remained the only major unbeaten college team.

Norfolk Naval continued on the victory path, swamping Villanova to make its record 28 and two. Norfolk Naval Air Station's winning string was broken by Bainbridge Navy in two extra periods and Great Lakes started another string, taking two and boosting its season mark to 30 and three. Fort Warren remained unbeaten with 14 straight in the Rocky Mountain district and Mitchell Field reeled off its 13th straight and 26th in 28 starts.

Purdue and Northwestern were eliminated from the Big Ten race when Illinois upset the Wildcats, who then knocked off the Boilermakers. Northwestern was handicapped by the loss of Otto Graham, now a Naval trainee at Colgate. After Graham's departure the Wildcats lost three straight before defeating Purdue, Iowa, beaten by the Notre Dame club which put on a redhot finish, is regarded as a good bet to finish in a tie with Ohio State, which has completed the season. The Hawkeyes must beat Northwestern Friday and Saturday as the race ends.

Big Six Title at Stake

Iowa State and Oklahoma meet tonight in a game that may decide the Big Six championship. If State repeats its earlier 41-39 decision, it will clinch the championship, but a loss will put the Sooners on top and make it necessary for the Cyclones to beat Kansas Friday to get a tie.

Arkansas thumped the hapless Texas Aggies twice-to tie in the race for the crown as the Southwest Conference race came to a close and established a new scoring record with 680 points in 12 games. Arkansas may get a NCAA bid from the section as Rice is reported to be losing several regulars to the Navy before the tournament.

West Coast activity consists of playing out the schedule in the Northern Division in which Washington has clinched the title, but will be busy with four games the last week of the campaign.

Dodgers Get Ray Hayworth

BROOKLYN, Feb. 28—Ray Haworth, 39-year-old veteran catcher of the Detroit Tigers and later the New York Giants, will emerge from retirement this season with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Orval Grove In Chisox Fold

CHICAGO, Feb. 28—Orval Grove, White Sox hurler who won 15 games last season including a string of nine straight, has signed his 1944 contract.

Li'l Abner



Full Steam Ahead

By Jack Sords



MEL OTT,

BOSS OF THE NEW YORK GIANTS, PLANNING ON A FULL SEASON OF ACTIVITY FOR 1944

THE SHOW MUST GO ON!

WITH A TEAM FULL OF 4-F5, OTT BELIEVES THAT HE CAN, IN HIS 19TH YEAR AS A GIANT, GO THE FULL ROUTE OF 154 GAMES

Central Press

Hawks Move Up to Tie for 3rd As They Subdue Rangers, 4-2

CHICAGO, Feb. 28—Cully Dahlstrom shot the Chicago Black Hawks into a tie for third place in the National Hockey League last night with three goals as they defeated the hapless New York Rangers, 4-2.

Two of Cully's markers were netted in the final period, breaking a 2-2 deadlock.

A crowd of 15,944 fans enjoyed the nine penalties. Bob Dill and Bryan Hexall, of the Rangers, and Joe Cooper, of the Hawks, were sent to the penalty box and promptly began a free-for-all with major penalties being slapped on Dill and Cooper.

Dahlstrom netted his first goal in the opening period after the Rangers took the lead on Johnny Mahaffey's marker. The Hawks later took a 2-1 margin, but the Rangers drew even before the end of the stanza.

After an uneventful second session, Cully produced a whirlwind in the final frame, scoring the first of his two markers at three minutes, 51 seconds to decide the contest.

Ex-Outfielder Sammy Byrd Takes Lead in Open Play

NEW ORLEANS, Feb. 28—Sammy Byrd, who chose the greens in preference to the New York Yankee and Cincinnati Red outfields, scored a 69 yesterday for a three-day total of 212 to take the lead in the \$5,000 New Orleans Open.

Hockey League Standings

	W	L	T	Pts.		W	L	T	Pts.
Montreal	30	4	7	67	Chicago	19	18	4	42
Detroit	29	14	6	46	Boston	16	21	4	36
Toronto	19	20	4	42	New York	6	33	3	15

Tami Gets Rapped, Faces Another

Baksi Softens Up Mauriello For Next Contest—in Court

NEW YORK, Feb. 28—Tami Mauriello has plenty of bruises and a barrel of woes today and only a few of 'em are the result of his lethargic ring appearance Friday when he was mauled by an unheralded newcomer to the heavyweight ranks, 20-year-old Joe Baksi.

Reading from left to right, Tami, popular Bronx puncher often suggested as Joe Louis' successor, had a hectic week with all the ingredients for a chiller-diller mystery thriller.

Baksi tried to refute the claim that marriage and boxing don't mix by marrying lovely Ann Tomchik, of East Nassau, N.Y., six days before the fight.

Mystery joined romance in the picture when New York detectives shadowed

Tami, even trailing the beaten, bleeding fighter to his dressing room after the fight. They wanted Mauriello, it seems, to query him about a sordid story told by a 14-year-old girl.

His backers, of course, knew nothing of the police charges, but Tami was aware of his predicament all week, which could have accounted for his listless showing. Last night police unraveled the "mystery" when they filed a charge of statutory rape against the boxer.

No melodrama is complete without a mysterious death. And Tami's week had that, too. While the Bronx battler was absorbing punishment in the ring, a friend of his, Frank Carrado, of the Bronx, dropped dead of a heart attack and they carried him out on a stretcher.

Ralph Ponbano Matched With ETO Champion

Texas Glover Takes On Tippins; Glen Reed Meets Hanna

By Mark E. Senigo

Stars and Stripes Sports Editor

After suffering their first defeat in 13 matches last month, the Screaming Eagles, representing an Airborne unit, make their second stand at the Rainbow Corner tonight on an 11-bout non-team card.

The Eagles' downfall in January came at the hands of the crack — Infantry Division battlers, who came through with a 5-3 victory in the team competition. Tonight the airmen are faced with a group of scrappers who, individually, are expected to put up as stiff competition as that provided by the Infantrymen.

Topping the Eagle opposition is Pvt. Bill Garrett, 155-pounder from Pitts-



Bill Garrett

burgh who last year walked off with the ETO welterweight crown. Garrett has made only two appearances in the Rainbow ring this season, but has wrapped up second-round kayoes in both starts.

Garrett will meet his toughest opposition to date against Eagle Pvt. Ralph Ponbano, of Brooklyn, 160. Ponbano dropped a bitterly contested decision to Pvt. Jim Grantham, Division middle-weight tilist, last month.

Best on Squad

Along with Garrett, the Eagles will have to contend with Pvt. Dick Menchaca, nimble-footed Texan who held both the Texas and Chicago Golden Glove bantam titles and has become one of Rainbow's highlight performers. Dick, a native of Port Arthur, should be able to keep up with the best man on the Eagle squad, Pfc Hewitt Tippins, of Brunswick, Ga.

Tippins, 139-pounder, won Glove honors in the States when he was voted the outstanding scrapper in the Piedmont tourney. Sporting a 13-1-1 record, he decisively whipped Pfc Johnny Shikoluk to give the Eagles one of their three triumphs against the divisionmen. Although Tippins will have a five-pound margin on Menchaca, he will find the Texan's clever style more of a puzzle than Shikoluk's wade-in slugging.

Laughing Boy Hanna

In the heavyweight bracket, the Eagles will have to cope with Cpl. Roy E. Hanna, the Laughing Boy punch clown from Tulsa, Okla. Hanna has dropped both his last contests. However, his ego suffered little as he went the full distance against Pvt. Vince Kozak, ETO champ, and Cpl. Andy Sfrisi, star performer of an Ulster aggregation. Hanna will try his clowning tonight on Pvt. Glen Reed, of Akron, Ohio, 184. It will be Reed's first showing before the Corner patrons.

Here is the lineup for the remaining bouts:

- Pvt. John Barzee, New York, 127, vs. Pvt. Ben McIntosh, Pawnee, Okla., 129.
- Pvt. Pete Negrete, Los Angeles, 120, vs. Pvt. James Plemons, Birmingham, Ala., 121.
- Pvt. Murray Sellers, New York, 127, vs. Pvt. Sam Gladstone, New York, 129.
- Cpl. Tony Carbonaro, Brooklyn, 162, vs. Pvt. Frank McLaughlin, Pittsburgh, 160.
- Pvt. George Witt, Brooklyn, 133, vs. Pvt. Louis Martinez, Los Angeles, 135.
- Pvt. R. C. Jackaway, Chicago, 140, vs. Pvt. Russ Ramirez, Houston, Texas, 140.
- Pvt. Morris Shapiro, Philadelphia, 160, vs. Pvt. Joseph Marsh, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, 165.
- Pvt. Jimmy Johnson, Fort Worth, Texas, 176, vs. Pvt. Ben Pickett, San Francisco, 172.

Stirnweiss, Levy Sign Contracts With Yanks

NEW YORK, Feb. 28—The Yankees have added four satisfied players to the list as signed contracts arrived from George Stirnweiss, slated to succeed Joe Gordon, Ed Levy, scheduled to replace Ensign Charles Keller, Walt Dubiel, pitcher from Newark, and Warren Roser, hurler from their Kansas City farm club. Stirnweiss and Dubiel are 4-F while Levy has a medical discharge from the Army.

By Al Capp

By Courtesy of United Features



Even Germans Doubt Defenses Impregnable

Nazi Party Organ Says Air Mastery Is Key To Victory

By Taylor Henry

Associated Press Correspondent
(Written at Biarritz on the eve of his departure from German occupied Europe after 13 months spent in a German internment camp.)

LISBON, Feb. 28—The Nazis themselves now admit that their much-touted Atlantic Wall, designed to protect Europe from an Anglo-American landing, is not impregnable, and that a landing to establish a second front is possible.

After a year-long propaganda effort to convince the German people that it would be suicide for the Anglo-Americans to attempt to land a force in Europe, the Nazis suddenly changed their tactics after the first of this year. They admitted openly and by implication that the Atlantic Wall is not so strong as had been thought and that work is having to be rushed to bring it up to date.

The first admission came from the official German party organ, Das Reich, controlled by Goebbels, which in a back-handed manner assured the German people that a landing would only "be the prelude to battle and does not in itself constitute a decisive action."

Says Air Mastery is Key

The article, published Jan. 14, declared that it was possible to establish "lasting bridgeheads" if the attacker had superiority in the air, adding, "hence comes the absolute necessity to have available powerful air-bases near the point of disembarkation."

It is noteworthy that the Das Reich article in this connection failed to make any claims on German air superiority and omitted its former claims of the destruction of airdromes in England just across the Channel.

To the Germans, the heavy pounding they have taken from British and American bombs is proof that they no longer are able even to claim air superiority.

Wall 'Out of Date'

Speer, head of the Todt organization, which was charged with the construction of the Atlantic wall admitted that it was already out of date, in a statement made on Jan. 26. He explained that the wall is being repaired on the basis of the lessons learned by the Germans from the Allied landings at Nettuno and Anzio.

Speer quoted the German press as saying drawn in Italy from the methods of enemy landings. Specialists are consequently occupied day by day modernizing the Atlantic Wall.

Speer's admission came only a few weeks after the Germans had announced that the wall had been completed from the northern tip of Norway stretching 2,750 miles to the Franco-Spanish frontier. The announcement said that 10,000,000 tons of concrete had been used in building the wall—"enough to fill a line of trucks one and a half times around the earth."

2 GIs Cited for Risking Lives in Runaway Truck

The Soldier's Medal has been awarded two U.S. soldiers in England who risked their lives to save 150 persons in the path of their runaway Army truck.

S/Sgt. Bernard Gallagher, of Leavenworth, Kan., steered the truck and its 16-ton trailer, loaded with a crane, into a brick wall to avoid striking a crowd in a street. Pvt. Joseph Steppan, of Fairbault, Minn., maneuvered the swaying crane boom, which had broken loose and was knocking down telephone poles, until he was able to lock it into position.

The truck got out of control when the airline of the brake mechanism failed.

'No Riders'

YONKERS, N.Y., Feb. 28—James A. Watson reported his car stolen and started to hitch-hike home. Among the first cars he "thumbed" was his own. The thieves didn't stop.

AFN Radio Program

- On Your Dial
1375 kc. 1402 kc. 1411 kc. 1420 kc. 1447 kc.
218.1m. 213.9m. 212.6m. 211.3m. 207.3m.
- Tuesday, Feb. 29
- 1100—Spotlight on Sheep Fields.
 - 1115—Personal Album—Phil Regan.
 - 1130—Jack Payne and his Orchestra (BBC).
 - 1206—World News (BBC).
 - 1210—Barnack's Bag.
 - 1255—Quiet Moment.
 - 1300—World News (BBC).
 - 1310—Music in Three-Quarter Time.
 - 1330—Billy Cotton's Song Shop.
 - 1400—Visiting Hour—Aldrich Family.
 - 1430—Sign off until 1700 hours.
- 1700—Sign on—Carroll Gibbons and his Orchestra.
1730—Program Resume and Gay Nineties Revue.
1800—World News (BBC).
1810—GI Supper Club.
1900—Seven O'clock Sports.
1905—Barnack and Allen.
1930—Boxing Bout—From the Rainbow Corner, with Sgt. Marty Smith and Cpl. Ford Kennedy.
2000—News from Home—Nightly roundup of news from the U.S.A.
2010—Fred Waring Program.
2025—Answer Man—Cpl. Johnny Vrotos.
2030—Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street.
2100—World News (BBC).
2115—Bob Hope.
2145—Show Time—Dinah Shore.
2200—Carnival of Music.
2225—One Night Stand—Harry Owens.
2255—Final Edition.
2300—Sign off until 1100 hours Wednesday, Mar. 1.

Fix Mumbo Jumbo; It's Mumbo Gumbo Jumbo

NEW YORK, Feb. 28—A list of registrants sent to Selective Service headquarters by Draft Board 156 was returned to the local board with the complaint that the middle name of Lieut. W. Horziszstizzi had not been given. The local board replied that the middle name was Willikiminzstizstiz.

Allies Bolster Anzio Forces

2 Nazi 'House-Fortresses' Taken as British, U.S. Reserves Pour In

Allied troops overwhelmed two German "house-fortresses" south of Carroceto yesterday as the Nazis reported American and British reinforcements were pouring into the Anzio bridgehead.

With fighting still restricted by mud on all fronts, furious frays between patrols were fought as the Germans attempted to infiltrate through Fifth Army positions around the headquarters of the Moleto between Carroceto and Buon Riposto.

Joining in the artillery onslaught against Marshal Kesselring's troops massing for a third offensive, a U.S. cruiser shelled enemy gun positions Sunday on the bridgehead, it was announced yesterday.

At the same time, in the Adriatic, British destroyers bombarded the port of Vela Luka, on the island of Korcula, off the Dalmatian coast of Yugoslavia.

Revealing the identity of units which distinguished themselves in combat on the main Fifth Army front, the Allies announced officially yesterday (confirming a previous German report) that it was the 36th Division which established the bridgehead across the Rapido River Feb. 20-21 and the 34th which fought its way into Cassino on Feb. 2.

Both are National Guard outfits. The 36th is composed largely of men from Texas and the 34th of men from Iowa and Minnesota.

Although weather curtailed air operations Sunday, fighter-bombers raided the Littorio and Guidonia airfields south of Rome, strafed 300 trains in central Italy and bombed docks and warehouses at Ladispoli, north of the mouth of the Tiber.

Axis sources late last night reported that Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth Army had resumed their attacks against the battle-scarred town of Cassino.

Badoglio Asks Status as Ally

NAPLES, Feb. 27 (delayed) (AP)—Marshal Pietro Badoglio has asked Britain and the U.S. to accept his government as a full-fledged ally against Germany, but with slight hope of acceptance. "I have asked for an alliance and I am ready to do everything necessary to gain it," he said.

His purpose, Badoglio intimated, was protection of Italy's interests at the peace table. He declared that he could put ten Italian divisions in the field if the Allies "would only arm and equip them."

"Italian warships already are conveying Allied shipping in the Mediterranean," he pointed out, "and there are perhaps no better fighter pilots than the Italians, but they lack planes."

Associates of the Marshal admitted that the American and British governments had given him no encouragement to expect an alliance.

Navy Barge-Plate Strike In Detroit Comes to End

DETROIT, Feb. 28—A three-day strike at the Great Lakes Steel Corp. plant, only producer of armor plate for Navy landing barges, ended today as 6,000 strikers obeyed an order from the United Steel Workers (CIO) to return to work.

Symphony in Red

CINCINNATI, Feb. 28—The Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra will discontinue concerts next season. Lucien Wulsin, chairman of the directors, said the orchestra lost nearly \$20,000 in revenue last season and the prospect for next season was a loss of \$30,000.

Terry and the Pirates



Paintings Show 9th AF's Work in Africa



Capt. Milton Marx, former New York artist now documenting the activities of the Ninth Air Force, shows his portrait of Maj. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton to Lord Trenchard, "father of the RAF," at the exhibit of paintings which opened at Simpsons in Piccadilly, London, yesterday for a two-week showing.

An exhibition of the art work of Three Ninth Air Force artists was opened at noon yesterday at Simpsons' department store in Piccadilly, London. Lord Trenchard, Marshal of the Royal Air Force, opened the two-week show with a brief tribute to the Ninth Air Force and their work with the RAF in the North African campaign to drive Rommel into the Mediterranean.

The paintings are the works of Capt. Milton Marx, of New York; S/Sgt. Nathan Glick, of Montgomery, Ala., and

Cpl. Charles Turner, of Memphis, Tenn. A similar exhibit of Capt. Marx' work is running concurrently in the National Galleries in Washington.

The exhibitions, chiefly water colors, deal with the operations carried out by Maj. Gen. Lewis H. Brereton's Ninth Air Force in their support of the British Eighth Army's drive westward from El Alamein. The three artists have been assigned to catch, as factual photography cannot, the activities of the unit both in the Mediterranean and in their more recent work in the British Isles.

Navy Will Have Big Flying Boat On Repatriation

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28—A new Navy cargo plane, the JRM1, designed to fly tonnage up to 145,000 pounds and capable of being converted instantly into a hospital ship, a passenger transport or a troop carrier, will go into service early next year.

Termed by the Navy a production version of the 70-ton Mars, the JRM1 will be able to carry 132 soldiers or 50 passengers in reclining chairs, and will have space for seven jeeps or a greater number of field guns or aircraft engines. As a hospital ship it will have accommodation for 84 litter cases and 25 attendants.

Twenty of the ships will be built for the Naval Air Transport Service. Each will be powered with four 2,200-hp Wright cyclone engines, but the design provides for a switch to larger and more powerful engines if they become available.

Larger and more efficient than the Mars, according to the Navy, the new plane will have only a single rudder tail instead of the Mars' twin rudder tail.

Raids - - -

(Continued from page 1)

The Eighth Air Force made five heavy-bomber attacks on Europe, hitting five targets, whereas this month as many as three to six objectives have been battered the same day.

The lull over the weekend in the bombing of both Germany and Britain was described in Berlin as the "calm before the storm," according to dispatches to neutral cities.

In London, however, the three-day respite from German raiders was regarded as possibly a result, in part, of the onslaught against German airfields in Holland last week by Marauders of the Ninth Air Force. Another cause may well have been the tremendous week-long bombardment of the Nazis' aircraft industry, forcing the enemy to husband its reserves for defense of the Reich.

In Berlin, a military spokesman belittled American claims that German fighter production had suffered severe destruction and said that "the entire German aircraft industry has been largely decentralized and transferred to areas safer from bombing."

Japs Shun Talk On Repatriation

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28—Japan has refused to resume negotiations for repatriation of about 1,500 Americans "facing death through malnutrition" in enemy internment camps. Assistant Secretary of State Breckenridge Long told a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee in testimony made public today.

Japan broke off talks for a prisoner exchange on the pretext that bad conditions existed in Japanese relocation camps in the U.S., Long said, but a subsequent investigation by the Spanish embassy at Washington, at Tokyo's request, found the enemy claims groundless. Nevertheless, Tokyo declined to continue the talks.

Long, who appeared before the subcommittee Feb. 16, said some of the several thousand U.S. citizens held by the Japanese had lost 50 to 60 pounds "not through illness but through malnutrition."

Their diet, he said, consisted "of a certain amount of rice, a little fish, frequently spoiled, and a little meat occasionally, maybe a piece of fruit once a week or once a month, and sometimes vegetables. It is adequate probably for the Japanese to live on because they have been raised that way, but our people cannot live on it."

Chinese Paper Declares Allies May Bypass Truk

CHUNGKING, Feb. 28 (Reuter)—The independent newspaper Takung Pao said today it believed Allied forces would sweep on and seize Saipan before attempting to capture the Jap naval base of Truk. Saipan is in the Mariana Islands some 650 miles north of Truk and only 1,300 miles south of Tokyo.

The paper said this would constitute a central breakthrough and present a new phase in the island-hopping strategy.

New Rationing Plan Begun

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28—A simplified rationing system drawn up by OPA went into effect today. Stamps worth ten points and tokens worth one point will replace the old stamps worth eight, five, two and one points. The tokens will be used as change for stamps.

NEWS FROM HOME Merchant Fleet Called a Peace Table Factor

Land Tells Congress 'U.S. Has 'Ace in the Hole' for Bargaining Purposes

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (UP)—Rear Adm. Emory S. Land, chairman of the Maritime Commission, suggested before the House Appropriations Committee that the U.S. use its huge merchant fleet for bargaining purposes at the peace conference.

Calling the fleet "an ace in the hole at the peace table," Land is reported to have told the committee that "with 20 to 30 million tons of shipping, I think we have got economically and financially the best trading point in the whole peace deck."

Adm. Land was quoted as saying that the U.S. "should take over the driver's seat in post-war shipping because of its huge merchant fleet."

He is said to have added that the Axis powers should be prohibited from using their ships except for coastal trade for a number of years.

Flak Again Hits New York

NEW YORK, Feb. 28—The metropolitan area was blacked out last night in a test air-raid drill ordered by the Office of Civilian Defense. Earlier the city was shelled accidentally for the fifth time since Pearl Harbor. Two anti-aircraft shells fired from a boat in the Hudson River in gunnery practice struck the chimney of a power house. No one was injured.

Mrs. Hoover's Estate Probated

SAN JOSE, Cal., Feb. 28—The late Mrs. Herbert Hoover, who died recently in New York, left all her property to the former President and their two sons, Herbert Jr. and Allen. Value of the estate, which includes the Hoover home on the Stanford University campus, was placed "in excess of \$10,000."

26 Indicted in Gaming Plot

TOLEDO, Ohio, Feb. 28—Twenty-six Toledo men have been indicted on charges of conspiracy to break Ohio's anti-gambling laws as the result of an investigation following the suicide of George D. Wilcox, Detroit advertising man, who left letters to newspapers and police officials relating how he had lost \$30,000 to Toledo gamblers.

Picket Problem Solved

NEW YORK, Feb. 28—Alfred Seitz, proprietor of a Union Square restaurant, signed contracts with both AFL and CIO unions to avoid pickets. As a result, he has three cashiers, although he needs only two. Seitz said he first signed with the CIO, but an AFL picket line appeared, so he signed with the AFL, too.

Kidnapers Caught After Gun Battle; Girl, 16, Unharmed

GREENWOOD, Mo., Feb. 28 (UP)—The last of three youths who kidnaped a farmer's 16-year-old daughter after breaking prison at Jackson, Mo., was captured here today after he fought his way out of a trap in which his companions were captured late last night.

Freed unharmed, Oline McKnight, who was clad only in pajamas when the youths seized her, wounded her father and stole \$300, told police that "they couldn't have treated me nicer if they had been my brothers. They didn't even use bad words or anything."

The gunmen, escaped convicts from San Quentin who were rearrested in Jackson after they attempted to hold up a hotel, were surrounded in a warehouse after a running gun battle through the streets of this town.

A posse of more than 100 last night nabbed two of the men—Lawrence Motari, 21, and Lawrence Drake, 20—on the warehouse roof.

The third, 20-year-old Ralph Ward, continued to hold the posse at bay in a section of the warehouse. When tear gas was brought into the siege, Ward shot a path through the cordon, seized a car and was taken only when the car overturned.

By Milton Caniff

