

First of 3 Main Isles Taken in Marshalls

Two Nazi Lines in Italy Broken

Americans In Outskirts Of Cassino

Allies Pour Through Gap In South, Battle at Town 16 Miles From Rome

A deep breach in German positions south of Rome was admitted last night by the Nazi high command, while on the main Fifth Army front farther south, American and French troops smashed through the Gustav Line on a 4½-mile front and drove toward the Liri Valley and the Casilina route to the Italian capital.

American tanks and infantry stormed the northern outskirts of outflanked Cassino yesterday as other Fifth Army units drove through the gap in the Gustav Line between Cassino and Terelle. Although their position at Cassino was speedily becoming more untenable, there were no signs that the Germans were preparing to evacuate. From heights dominating the town, the Germans can fight a long delaying action as they shell advancing troops, it was said.

Almost simultaneously with the announcement that the Americans and French in three days of bitter fighting had pierced elaborate German defenses north of Cassino, Berlin reported that the hastily-erected line between Cisterna and Campoleone had been penetrated by Americans driving inland from the Nettuno bridgehead. Thus it was indicated that the Allies had cut the Appian way, which approximates the Cisterna-Campoleone line.

Broken in 8-Mile Stretch

The Germans said that their Rome defenses had been broken in the eight-mile stretch between Carroceto and Cisterna. American troops yesterday were reported in fierce battles for possession of Cisterna, junction of the Rome-Gaeta railroad.

Only 16 miles from Rome, at Campoleone, northern anchor of Marshal Kesselring's line, British forces were engaged in heavy fighting.

Rome radio, confirming German reports of an American breakthrough between Cisterna and Carroceto, said that Marshal Kesselring had launched a counter-offensive and that a violent battle was raging.

The Rome report, describing the fighting as the bitterest of the Italian campaign, said that strong German tank and infantry forces, covered by artillery, were being used in an effort to stem the American drive.

At Cisterna, too, dispatches told of violent battles. Reynolds Packard, United Press war correspondent, said that never in the campaign had he seen so many dead in one area.

Organized enemy resistance indicated that the Germans had recovered from the surprise of the latest Allied landing and had massed for heavy counter-attacks.

There were reports yesterday that the Germans had withdrawn their planes from the bridgehead area following heavy losses received in attempts to smash Allied supply lines.

A Flatbush Charmer Snakes His Way East

A U.S. AIR BASE, N. Ireland, Feb. 2—Life holds no more surprises for 1/Lt. Alexander C. Hailey, a bombardier from Hickory, Miss., attached to an Eighth Air Force Composite Command station here.

En route to the ETO he was forced down in French Morocco near the town of Marrakesh. While the plane was being repaired he and a couple of pals strolled down to the native quarter, where they spotted the usual flute-playing Arab and a cobra with the Betty Grable hips.

After charmer and charmed completed their song and dance, the Arab passed the turban and spotted the Yanks. In perfect Brooklynesse the Arab chirped, "Say, Mac, how are things in Flatbush?"

He used to be a cab driver back in the land of the Dodgers.

Amphibious Tanks Carry Fight to Japs



An amphibious tank plows through the heavy mud of a jungle clearing to carry U.S. Marines to the fighting lines on Bougainville. Similar tanks possibly are being used in the invasion of the Marshalls.

The Dough Is Rolling Home

Survey Blasts Myth Yank Cash Is Upsetting Britain's Economy

By Richard Wilbur

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

American soldiers in the United Kingdom, sometimes considered "flashy spenders" by the British, have been putting more than two-thirds of their monthly pay into War Bonds, savings, allotments and a few Army purchases—and spending less than one-third on entertainment sprees and rationed British goods—according to Army finance officials here.

War Bond purchases by soldiers here reached a new high in December. As shown in an Army finance survey, ETO soldiers spent approximately \$3,200,000 in that one month on War Bonds—a maturity value of more than \$4,000,000. "That isn't hay," Col. N. H. Cobbs, ETO fiscal director, said yesterday. "It's a damn good figure."

In the last six months of 1943, soldiers spent approximately \$11,000,000 on War Bonds, the survey showed.

Only a small minority of ETO enlisted men and officers give the impression of being "flashy spenders," Col. Cobbs said, but as a result all American soldiers stationed here are blamed for tending to disrupt the British economic structure.

Eleven per cent of all enlisted men in the ETO have made either no allotments, or only allotments for insurance, and are drawing 23 per cent of the money paid to all ETOs, Col. Cobbs said. These few form part of the "lavish spending" group, he said.

Generally, enlisted men and officers stationed in Britain saved nearly two-thirds of their money in the six months from July to December, 1943, according to the finance survey.

Aside from War Bond purchases and allotments, GI cash was laid chiefly on four savings lines, the survey showed, and these totals for July were at least doubled in December.

Most of the cash was sent home (Continued on page 4)

Heavenly Days!

Aimless Flight of an Empty Lib Is Ended by Guns of 2 Spitfires

By Collie Small

United Press Staff Writer

A USAAF BOMBER STATION, Feb. 2—The strange odyssey of an empty bomber that wandered over England without a crew for more than an hour Monday before two RAF Spitfires shot it down into the North Sea was revealed here yesterday.

Deserted by its crew when three engines went out of control, the Liberator Heavenly Days cruised aimlessly in clouds over the English coast for nearly an hour and a half, while two puzzled Spitfire pilots, sent up to investigate, flew a lonely escort.

The big bomber, piloted by 1/Lt. Richard J. Pettie, 25, of Los Angeles, developed engine trouble while climbing to altitude after taking off for a mission to France.

"We had one engine runaway shortly after we got off the ground, so I started to circle back for a landing," Pettie said, "but at 4,000 feet, with two more engine

Big Battle Develops When Yanks Storm Key Japanese Bases

Great War Fleet Alone Pumps 5,000 Tons Of Shells Onto Two Islands; Major Naval Clash May Be Continuing

U.S. Army and Marine units which invaded the Marshall Islands in the Allies' greatest thrust thus far of the Pacific war last night had consolidated ten islet beachheads and were fighting to extend their newly won positions on two of the three main Japanese strongpoints in the group of coral atolls. The third, Roi Island, was completely in U.S. hands, Adm. Nimitz announced late last night.

There were no naval losses in the operations and only moderate casualties, the Admiral said.

First landing waves met with remarkably little resistance, but reports late last night indicated that the Japs were defending the islands of Namur and Kwajalein with every available man and gun not put out of commission by history's most concentrated naval and air bombardment.

More than 5,000 tons of shells from battleships, cruisers and destroyers, plus hundreds of tons of bombs from planes, rained down on each of the islands of Roi and Namur in a 28-hour preparatory softening-up attack, dispatches said. Great fires and vast, billowing clouds of smoke were seen rising from both islets, each of which comprises an area of less than a square mile. The two are connected by a narrow sand bar and a man-made causeway.

Site of excellent airfield, Roi, site of an excellent airfield, is at the northern end of Kwajalein, a cluster of about 90 small, flat, sandy islands in a roughly triangular lagoon. This is the largest atoll in the Marshalls group, and its largest island, Kwajalein, has a good harbor and seaplane and submarine bases.

With their landings in the Marshalls, the American forces were battling for positions outflanking Truk, about 1,100 miles to the west, the key pin of Japanese operations in the Central, South and Southwest Pacific. Seizure of the Marshalls would be the Allies' first break into the inner perimeter of defenses guarding the Jap mainland proper.

A Japanese communique broadcast from Berlin bore out reports that the invaders, after initial unresisted landings, were running into stiff fighting. "Our forces are engaged in heavy defensive fighting," the broadcast said. "Strong enemy forces have been attacking islands in the group without respite for three days. Our naval units and army formations are engaged in the battle."

Reference to "naval units" indicated that a major sea engagement, upon which speculation in Allied capitals has been rife for several days, might still be continuing. Adm. Chester Nimitz, Pacific naval commander in chief, had thrown into the Marshalls venture one of the greatest arrays of naval might of the war, obviously not only to safeguard the invasion but in the hope of meeting the coy Jap fleet in a full-fledged test.

Newest Battleships in Fray Commanded by Rear Adm. Richmond (Kelly) Turner, the task force included some of the U.S. Navy's newest battleships, mounting 16-inch guns, and giant aircraft carriers bearing hundreds of planes. More than 100 enemy planes were destroyed in the air and on the ground before American troops swept in for the landings.

The U.S. Seventh Infantry Division, composed of veterans of the Attu victory in the Aleutians, made the initial assault on Kwajalein Island, while the Fourth Marine Division went into Roi, mopping up initial scattered Jap forces with grenades.

Meanwhile, a new Allied drive for complete occupation of Bougainville Island, in the Solomons, was reported, with a combined American infantry and tank force pushing the Japs back east of the mouth of the Torokina River.

Rabaul, main Jap base in New Britain, was bombed three times in 24 hours.

Rhode Island Takes a Step Toward Vote for Soldiers

PROVIDENCE, R.I., Feb. 2—Gov. J. Howard McGrath has signed a bill which calls for a constitutional convention as the first step in enacting legislation to enable Rhode Island's 75,000 servicemen and women to vote on this year's Presidential election. A special election will be held March 15-18 to choose delegates to the convention scheduled for the last week in March.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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Staraya Russa

Two new drives by Soviet forces in the Shimsk area, west of Lake Ilmen, have now begun to menace the German stronghold of Staraya Russa. This city, the junction of three railways and seven main highways, lies on the verge of swamplands which ten miles further north become Lake Ilmen and it serves as the distribution and transportation center of the large area westwards through which run the supply lines of German divisions still operating in the Leningrad area.

Dutch Amgot Ready

Dutch "Civil Affairs" authorities in London have completed a rehearsal of the task they will assume at the time of Holland's liberation. The Dutch "Civil Affairs" organization is modeled on the military pattern, for it was decided long ago that Holland's immediate post-war problems should be dealt with by competently trained Dutch officers.

The Marshalls

The Marshalls, where American forces are now locked in a death struggle with defending Japs, consist of 32 islands and 867 reefs scattered closely over some 800 square miles of ocean. Nearly all of the islands are low-lying and are scientifically described as atoll-lagoons. They lie roughly in two parallel chains, about 100 miles apart.

Hash Marks

Signs of the Times. Sign on a Sheriff's desk: "Out for lynch. Back at 1 o'clock." * * *



When it comes to being snazzy, few people can put on airs like a newly promoted Pfc. A one-striper, with a Harvard accent, was heard to remark as he worked his way through the chow line, "Superfluity of culinary artists certainly renders the consommé worthless!"

Life sometimes moves in a vicious circle. A Marine private in a communications platoon somewhere in the S. Pacific was severely reprimanded for giving the day's password over a telephone line which might have been tapped by the enemy.

Notes from the spy on the home front. Navy officers, lolling in the lounge of the Henry Hudson Hotel, waiting for their wives, present such a nightly picture that New York wits are calling it "Hubby Lobby."

And here's another little story involving English kids—they really catch on fast. A GI we know saw a group of the youngsters playing "soldier" in the park.



Moving closer our friend heard one of the tots say, "I want to be the American officer." "No, you can't be the American officer," replied another youngster, proudly producing a pack of Juicy Fruit—"you haven't got any chewing gum!"

Poem of the Week (by E. L. Cooper): Her days are uneventful, Her evenings never booked. Other gals get looked over, But she gets overlooked. J. C. W.

Cut Invasion Teeth on Real Thing

Nazi Raiders 'Training' U.S. Gunners in Britain



Two anti-aircraft men load a 43-pound shell into their 90-mm. ack-ack gun. The men, Cpls. Joseph Dusman, of Jersey City, and James M. Kimsey, of Atlanta, Ga., are part of the first American anti-aircraft battery to take part in defense of London.

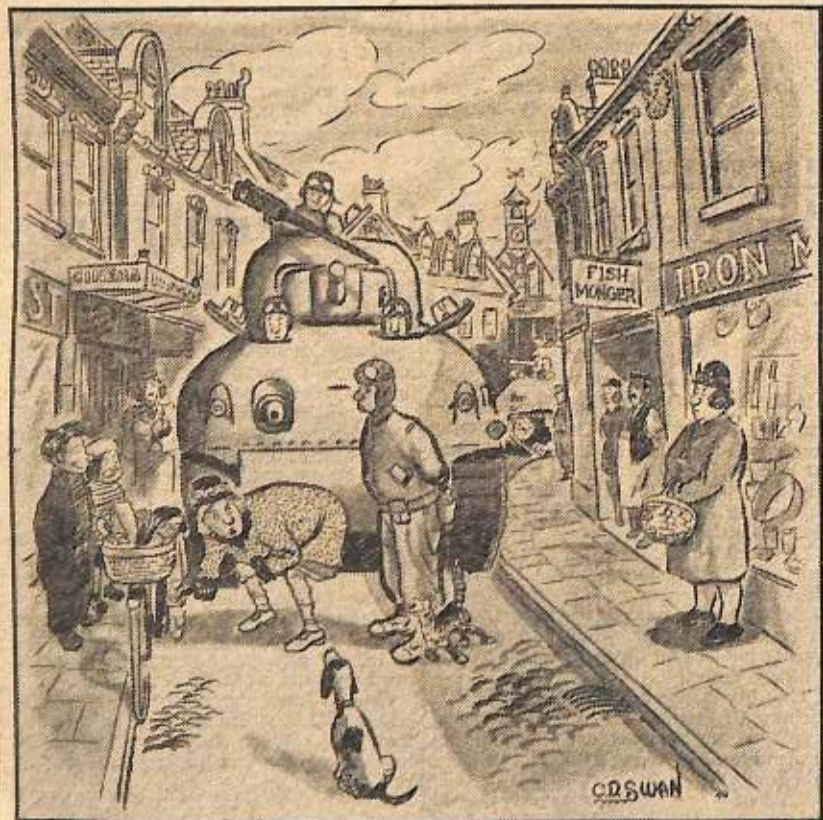
The first U.S. anti-aircraft battery to be used in the London defense system threw 219 90mm. shells at German raiders in a little more than half an hour last Saturday night. The four-gun battery is part of a mobile artillery battalion which is getting final training in England for the day when they will have to defend Allied bridge-heads and supply routes in Europe.

To Help Cook the Nazi Goose

Red General in Italy Says Ducks Would Come in Handy in Russia

WITH THE EIGHTH ARMY, Feb. 2 (Reuter)—The Red Army would like to use Ducks—the amphibious jeeps—on their front. This was the expressed desire of Gen. Sudakov, of the Soviet General Staff, after his tour of the Fifth and Eighth Army fronts.

He stated, "You have some items of equipment we would like. Your Ducks, for instance. When I think of the preparations we have to make to cross rivers—Ducks would be ideal. Before we can cross rivers we have to collect in huge numbers anything that can float and carry a burden. I expect we shall have Ducks in due course. They would help us a great deal."



"Can't yer see I 'ave a flat tire?"

Notes from the Air Force

B17s with enclosed waist gun positions are beginning to arrive at operational USAAF fields in the ETO. The new modifications embody Plexiglass windows with a .50 cal. so mounted that they remain closed throughout the mission. Waist gunners, who long have considered their job the coldest in a B17, thus are rid of the better than 100 mph blast which whips in the radio hatch (and up through the bomb bays on the bombing run), down through the fuselage and out the waist windows, freezing exposed hide on careless or busy gunners.

SIX hundred and fifty miles an hour is not considered bail out speed in the best aviation circles, but Gene Fleming, 22-year-old Kansas City, Mo., pilot, left his P38 at that speed and hit the deck safely in his chute, getting away with only a bruised hip. Fleming was at 35,000 feet on a routine flight over England when the Lightning suddenly went into a dive.

"I just pulled the escape hatch open and the wind did the rest. I shot out of the ship like a bullet. My chute opened all right, but I swung like a pendulum. I didn't ever see my ship again, although I heard it crash some distance away."

This Is The Army

Add to your non-likers of dried eggs and C-ration hash—M/Sgt. Sooner. Sooner is the mascot of an engineer general service regiment and is classified as "part terrier and part dog." All of which causes I/Sgt. Hanning Ritter, of Fort Lee, N.J., to moan: "He gets my meat loaf, while I eat the hash."

ANSWERED finally is that long standing question in the ETO: "Who raises the morale of the USO performers who come over to raise the morale of the troops?" It happened at the engineer aviation battalion station commanded by Maj. Melvin C. Grimm. The cast of the army show, "Flying High," having completed its nightly performance, was invited to stay for a mess-hall snack.

When T/Sgt. Joe Bullock, of Milano, Tex., takes in the theater at a U.S. general hospital in the ETO he selects a choice view and sits in an easy chair, majors and colonels notwithstanding. He won the right when Comedian Bob Hope, while in the U.K. several months ago, picked from hundreds of entries Bullock's prize-winning theater title—Nissodrome. The theater is an enlarged Nissen hut. Since Bullock turned in the winning monicker, changes have taken place in the Nissodrome. A stage has been built, dressing rooms for stage stars constructed, milk cans installed to provide changing light reflections, and dyed hurlap curtains set up to give the stage a panel effect.



"Unto ME" Inasmuch as unto these—the Lonesome Kids— You throw a party, as your goodness bids, Take them to your big heart, give of your best; A Father Bountiful, Daddy of fatherless— Loading the eager arms of girls and boys With thrilling gifts of long-forgotten toys; Renewing laughter in their way of life, Drowning the sordid sounds of man-made strife. "In just so much as this—in charity—" "You do for them, you do it unto ME." A. D. Allen.



Thursday, Feb. 3, 1944

—AND THIS IS The Merchant Marine, Mr. Jones



By Don Hewitt

U.S. Merchant Marine Correspondent

DAY after day the newspapers and radio carry accounts of America's rapidly expanding Merchant Marine...

Who are the men who man these ships? Where do they come from? How are they paid? How did they get into the Merchant Marine instead of into the Army?

The heroics are pretty well known. How about the facts?

At the time of Pearl Harbor the American Merchant Marine was made up of salt water sailors who had chosen seafaring as their livelihood long before...

Seamen From Every State

From farms and factories men and boys who had never before seen salt water shipped out from ports all along our coast...

These sailors are part of a new large American merchant Marine that would have come into being whether or not there had been a war.

One question that usually puzzles GI Joe is: "How did these guys get into the Merchant Marine?" The men who were already trained (the old salts who came back to sea when the need for merchant seamen was acute)...

Another question a soldier usually asks is: "Why do seamen get so damn much money?" A merchant seaman earns his living as do other war workers.

How does a seaman's pay stack up with army pay? A trained seaman with a wife, having qualified for a U.S. Coast Guard license...

allowed the sergeant and his overseas bonus.

A lot of people ask why seamen get bonuses. Long before America's armies started moving out in large numbers to the fighting fronts...

Bonuses Getting Smaller

Those were dangerous days. Convoys were not as adequately protected as they are now. Axis U-boats and planes had pretty free reign in the shipping lanes...

During peace-time America's shipping is supervised in a general way by the U.S. Maritime Commission...

of the most smoothly run war-time agencies and have maintained an almost perfect coordination between the ship construction, personnel and operations programs.

The WSA and the Maritime Commission are doing man-sized jobs in keeping the convoys moving. It takes approximately 44 men to operate an average size merchant vessel...

How about their casualties? If one soldier in a hundred is killed, four merchant seamen die for every hundred on the seas.

Their has been a tough job. Sometimes a lot tougher than that of the fighting man. For weeks while they are at sea they are constantly on the alert.

to collect their thoughts before the battle starts, because there is no telling when the battle will start. The front line is just outside of San Francisco, New York or Mobile...

Strikes Unheard Of

The Merchant Marine is an American industry which flourishes during peacetime as well as during war-time...

Therefore under that setup the right of merchant seamen (as of all civilian labor) to form their own unions and to retain their membership in those unions during the war years was recognized by the government.

Seamen, it is admitted, have a slight advantage over members of the armed forces in that they are allowed the medium of collective bargaining...

though not allowed to bargain directly, have the weight of public opinion behind them and through their representatives in Congress the American public is seeing that they get a decent break.

Merchant seamen have been the target of more misrepresentative stories than any other group engaged in the war.

Perhaps the story which gained the widest publicity was that American seamen in the Pacific area refused to unload ships on Sunday...

A denial was issued by the War Shipping Administration, as well as by the Navy, but unfortunately the denial, which comprised the real facts in the case, received less publicity than the unwarranted charge.

Truth About Guadalcanal

Adm. Halsey, denying the reports that merchant seamen had refused to unload ships at Guadalcanal, early in the Pacific campaign, said: "More than a dozen vessels manned by merchant seamen have reached Guadalcanal since the Marines landed on the island."

Another thing that puzzles most people is the fact that some seamen are in uniform and others are not. In many seaports men in uniforms resembling those of the Navy but bearing a U.S.M.S. insignia have been taken for Navy sailors.

The U.S.M.S. is a voluntary, non-military organization which operates under the WSA to train and maintain efficient personnel for American merchant ships.

Though it is not part of the armed forces, the training program is carried out with a high degree of military discipline and through this training program inexperienced young men of high caliber are fitted for service aboard American vessels.

The qualifications for enrollment are in general the same as for the Navy. After he leaves the station, though being paid by a private steamship company, the seaman is privileged to retain his rank in the Maritime Service and to wear his uniform.

The Maritime Service is also open to men who have been trained at sea. Officers are eligible for commissions with ranks parallel to those of the Navy and other licensed personnel are eligible for petty officers ratings.

To understand fully the role of the Merchant Marine it must be remembered that our merchant fleet will be just as much an implement of peace as it has been of war—that she will deliver food, clothing and medical supplies to the destitute people of the world long after the soldiers have left the battle zones.

When the armed forces are demobilized the Merchant Marine will go on stronger than ever. Unlike soldiers, seamen will not return to their civilian occupations—this is their civilian occupation.

U.S. Shipbuilding Goal Surpassed

FDR Insists Congress OK Troop Vote He Calls Immediate Action Necessary; Says States Can't Do the Job

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12 (AP)—The nation's shipbuilding goal has been surpassed and is now being exceeded at a rate of five a day, yards at peak production; Adm. Land Says 'Over the Hump'

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