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Japs Trying To Retake Solomons

Air, Sea Action Increases, But Knox Denies Big Battle in Progress

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3—United States warships and planes are lashing at a major Japanese attempt to regain control of the entire Solomons area, and both sides have suffered losses, the Navy Department disclosed today. The action has not yet reached the point of a large-scale battle, however, Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox declared.

The Japanese claimed that two American battleships and three cruisers had been sunk and one battleship and one cruiser damaged, with 6,000 lives lost. A U.S. Navy spokesman said that those claims were grossly exaggerated.

"Both the United States and Japanese forces have suffered some losses," the communique said, adding: "To reveal at this stage details of these engagements would endanger the success of our future operations in this area."

'Just Feeling Out'

Secretary Knox said the action in progress was "just a lot of preliminary moves. There is a process of feeling out on both sides. It is an unwarranted assumption that there is a major battle going on, but no one knows what the future will hold."

Meanwhile Allied air fleets again struck at Japanese supply and naval bases in the area. Fortresses raided the important naval base at Rabaul for the fourth successive day. It was from Rabaul that an enemy convoy tried to relieve the doomed Japanese soldiers in the Buna-Gona area, only to be dispersed by Allied air and surface attacks.

Liberators made widespread attacks on shipping and supply dumps near Kaukenau, on the southeast coast of Dutch New Guinea, where the Japs have moved in. Allied aircraft attacked other Jap bases, and a U.S. destroyer shelled Japanese barges at Cape Esperance, on Guadalcanal.

Several Days of Action

Describing the engagement now in progress, the Navy Department said: "During several days there has been a number of surface and air actions between United States and Japanese forces in the Solomon Islands. An increase in activities on the part of the Japanese indicates a major effort to regain control of the entire Solomons area."

The Japanese thrust appeared to be designed to land heavy reinforcements and supplies on Guadalcanal, where their shattered forces number only about 3,000, and to break American sea power in the entire southwest Pacific.

Whether they had succeeded in landing any troops or munitions was questionable. The American sea forces in the area are believed to be considerable, and Secretary Knox, at his first press conference since his return from a tour of the Pacific battle zone, said today: "We are in complete possession of the Guadalcanal area. The situation there is in splendid condition."

Japanese troops there, he said, were in a hopeless situation. As regards the Pacific situation generally, however, "there is a long tough fight ahead of us," Col. Knox said.

Gen. MacArthur announced today that 158 Japanese stragglers have been killed or have surrendered in Papua, New Guinea, where the Allies defeated a Japanese army of 15,000.

Just June in January, An Old English Custom

Don't look now, but that was January.

To American servicemen spending their first full January in the British Isles it was a month of surprises.

You couldn't mention it while it was still January, but there were roses in bloom and snowdrops and violets and primroses, all weeks too soon because of the sporadically and unusually warm weather.

Meteorologically, it was a month of contradictions—warm sunshine, rain, lightning and hail. A 75-mile-an-hour gale uprooted loosely staked tents, snatched away truck tarpaulins and flooded roads.

It was, too, a month of frequent wet feet and colds.

And singing skylarks, which amazed soldiers used to northern U.S. winters.

And cabbage.

Not Dead, Just Exhausted



Keystone Photo

U.S. jungle fighters in New Guinea crowd around a Jap prisoner, who fell exhausted after his capture near Sanananda, on the Northern Papua coast. All organized ground fighting on Papua ended Jan. 25 after a six-month campaign, but Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox, commenting on the Pacific, said yesterday: "There is a long tough fight ahead."

Tips to Beat the Germans Brought Back by Wounded

By Charles W. White

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

A U.S. BASE HOSPITAL, England, Feb. 3—Tips for American soldiers who will fight Hitler's armies have been brought back from the fighting in Tunisia by the first large contingent of American wounded to arrive at this hospital.

Their reactions vary, but the chief points of fighting the Nazis, on which they all agree, boil down to:

Cologne U-Boat Works Battered

100 Two-Ton Bombs Blast Factories Making Parts For Submarines

Cologne, key point in the construction of Hitler's U-boat fleets, today is back where it was eight months ago—picking itself and its war factories out of the ruins of an RAF saturation raid.

Dropping tons of high explosives—among them 100 4,000-pound bombs—and thousands of incendiary bombs within a period of 20 minutes, RAF heavy bombers Tuesday night gave Cologne a beating which may have approached that of the 1,000-plane assault of last summer. Two hundred and fifty factories were blasted last May 30.

The raid came as the centerpiece of two days of good news about the United Nations' battle against the submarine.

The British Air Ministry released details of aerial reconnaissance photographs showing the extent of damage to Lorient, U-boat base on the western coast of France, which indicated that the night raids by the RAF and day blows by Eighth Air Force have seriously damaged the sub pens there.

Yesterday, coincident with announcement of the RAF raid on Cologne, A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, told Parliament that "we have had a period of most heartening success" against the U-boats. He would not elaborate on his statement.

The smash at Cologne was important in the overall battle against Hitler's sub pens, because it is a center of manufacture for submarine parts and accessories. (Continued on page 4)

Hitler Killed His Lover, His Close Friend Asserts

NEW YORK, Feb. 3 (AP)—"Putzi" Hanfstaengl, once a close friend of Hitler, said in an article in the Cosmopolitan Magazine that Hitler murdered his own sweetheart.

His sweetheart, Hanfstaengl wrote, was Geli Raubal, daughter of Hitler's half-sister, and she was slain because she fell in love with her singing teacher, a Viennese Jew, hired by Hitler in 1928. She died by a bullet from Hitler's revolver.

Stay on your toes; Jerry is cagey, and loves to spring an ambush.

Watch out for dive-bombers; the enemy uses them in a dozen ways, and after the dive-bombers usually comes the attack.

If Nazi planes are driven off by your own fighters, you almost always can count on their returning as soon as the coast is clear.

Don't worry about being afraid. Everyone is for the first 48 hours or so; after that you're used to it, and when it comes to hand-to-hand fighting, remember, it's you or the other guy.

Learn tank silhouettes; they're easy to mix up, and men have been killed because they thought a Mk. III panzerwaggon was a friendly tank.

Jerry's 88mm. is "a hell of a gun," but "the American 105 can stop anything Jerry's got."

The Nazis use a five-inch mortar with accuracy and effect.

You frequently can get away with

(Continued on page 4)

'Don't Underestimate Enemy,' Gen. Hartle Warns OCS Class

By Charles F. Kiley

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

OFFICERS' CANDIDATE SCHOOL, England, Feb. 3—Fifty-five soldiers, up from the ranks of enlisted men, were commissioned second lieutenants in the United States Army and Air Force here today at graduation ceremonies of the second class of officers' candidates trained in the European Theater of Operations.

Among the graduates were 14 Negroes, first of their race to be trained at this OCS.

Maj. Gen. Russell P. Hartle, Commanding General of American Forces in the ETO in the absence of Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, presented the diplomas and delivered the principal address. Gen. Hartle counseled the graduates to give a maximum of effort to the training of men for combat.

"The stakes are too high for us to overlook a single phase of combat training," he said. "Our enemy must not be underestimated. They are powerful and good fighters. Bear that in mind as you train your men and as you issue orders they must obey. Never forget, for a moment, that your men are looking to you for good example. As you govern

45,000 More Seized In Stalingrad Area, Reds Drive Forward

Leningrad Guerrillas Killed Five Generals

MOSCOW, Feb. 3 (UP)—Russian guerrillas in the Leningrad area have killed five German generals, 700 officers and 306 spies and Gestapo agents, the newspaper Izvestia said today.

They have also derailed 300 trains, blown up 416 railway bridges and destroyed 151 tanks and 150 supply dumps since the beginning of the German occupation.

Germans Block American Push At Tunisia Pass

Armored Column Halted In Drive for Coast; Seneid Occupied

A fierce drive by American armored forces against Faid Pass, just west of Kairouan, in central Tunisia, has been repulsed and they have broken off the action temporarily, a spokesman at Allied Force Headquarters in North Africa said yesterday.

Further south American troops and artillery units have dug in about a mile east of Seneid, tiny junction on the Gafsa-Sfax railway, a few miles from Maknassy, which is the immediate goal of a drive ultimately aimed at hitting Rommel's army in the rear at the Mareth Line.

Beyond the Mareth Line, meanwhile, forward units of the Eighth Army pushed into Tunisia and were reported by Algiers radio to be in contact with the enemy between Ben Gardana and the mountains of Matmata, on the plain extending from the Libyan border to the fortified heights which form the Mareth Line. The British main column captured a coastal town, Zelten, roughly 20 miles from the Tunisian border, and pressed on.

Rommel at Gabes ?

Field-Marshal Rommel was reported to have established his headquarters at Gabes, just behind the Mareth Line, and to be directing his army's withdrawal to the positions where they will make their stand.

Allied Force Headquarters gave no details of the fighting at the Faid Pass, where Axis troops were strongly entrenched at the western entrance. The communique said merely: "Our attack on Faid on Feb. 1 was unsuccessful. Otherwise there was no change on the Tunisian front."

The situation at Seneid, further south, was better than had been indicated Tuesday, when headquarters said that an American combat team, having cleared

(Continued on page 4)

New Russian Drive At Voroshilovgrad Is Hinted

Flushed with their triumph at Stalingrad, this war's greatest victory over the German army, the Russians plunged ahead on all fronts yesterday, with Stalin's warm congratulations ringing in their ears.

The complete capitulation of all the Fascists with their generals and field-marshal brought from the Soviet leader to Marshal Voronov, representing the supreme command, and Col. Gen. Rokossovsky, the following message:

"I congratulate you and your troops on the Don front on your successful achievement of the liquidation of the enemy troops surrounded at Stalingrad. I hereby express my gratitude to all the soldiers, commanders and political workers on the front for their excellent battle operations." Again the man who planned the victory had mentioned the rank-and-file soldiers first.

45,000 More Prisoners

The last remaining Germans in the Stalingrad area laid down their arms Tuesday. North of the city six more generals and 45,000 more prisoners were captured in two days, making a total of 91,000 Germans taken prisoner since Jan. 10. That total includes 24 generals and more than 2,500 officers. Lt. Gen. Streicher, commanding the Germans encircled north of Stalingrad, and his chief of staff were among the latest prisoners. Maj. Gen. Radke, who commanded the western group, also has been captured.

Three German army corps and two tank corps, consisting of 22 divisions, have been wiped out at Stalingrad, including two Rumanian divisions, one of cavalry and one of infantry. Booty taken in the course of the 23-day general offensive includes 750 aircraft, 1,550 tanks and 6,700 guns. Other booty is still being counted.

New Drive Foreseen

A great new Russian offensive, consisting of a giant encirclement move on the Donetz front towards the southwest, was indicated yesterday in dispatches from both Moscow and Berlin.

If any new break through should come here—and Berlin admits "bitter defensive fighting," usually a prelude to retirement—the Russian force, reinforced by those released by the capture of Stalingrad, should be able to sweep southwards towards the city of Stalin and retake the great coal-iron area in this region, which is what Berlin insists is the Russian objective in this winter campaign.

Both Berlin and Moscow talk of fierce fighting in the Voroshilovgrad area. A heavy Russian air attack was made on the Voroshilovgrad airdrome.

More Towns Retaken

West of Voronezh two more large towns and three other inhabited places have fallen to the Russians in the last 12 hours. On the southern front, where the Russians are driving directly towards Rostov, three inhabited places were taken.

In the Caucasus the Russians are moving on Krasnodar, last important railway junction in German hands in the Kuban, from three directions, south, east and northeast. After taking Tikhoretsk one Russian column swung southwest towards Krasnodar, along the railway and is less than 36 miles from Krasnodar.

Germany, depressed by the Stalingrad defeat, went into mourning. All theaters, cinemas and places of entertainment throughout Germany were ordered closed by Goebbels for three days last night. After Hitler, in a special communique from his headquarters, announced the end of the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad.

Torpedo, Dive-Bombers From U.S. for British

New, secret airplane types from America for the British Navy were mentioned in the House of Commons yesterday by Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty. One is a torpedo bomber, proved successful in the Pacific area.

"We also expect to get a number of American dive-bombers," Mr. Alexander said.

Sea Hurricanes, Seafires and the American "Martlet" are among modern types with which the Air Arm is well equipped, he said, expressing satisfaction with progress to date.

Hillbilly Hi-de-ho Comes to Britain

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Hash Marks

Here's the ultimate in something or other. A newspaper published an appeal for the public to contribute furniture for day rooms at a nearby army camp. The following day someone offered a well-worn, but still serviceable, wrestling mat. Just the thing for a house party, mused Sylvester Spam, our office boy.

The army thinks of everything. A quartermaster depot has announced that it is supplying soldiers stationed in frigid



climates with beard clippers—to be used when extremely low temperatures make shaving inconvenient and possibly dangerous. The QM boys explained 'tis necessary to clip the beard to prevent the formation of ice on the whiskers.

The sight of a pair of woman's panties hanging from a window is excuse enough for a crowd to gather any day, but when the panties are fluttering over a sign reading "Dormitory For Servicemen" things begin to happen. This took place in Jacksonville, Fla., and a traffic jam resulted. The belated explanation was that WACKS took possession of the building and somebody neglected to take down the "Servicemen" sign.

Two majors assigned to make an extensive tour of army posts throughout the States found that most of the men assigned to chauffeur them around drove their jeeps with reckless disregard for life and limb. When a Southern corporal drove them at a conservative rate of 30 m.p.h., they felt impelled to compliment him. The modest chap drawled, "Well, suh, Ah look at it this way. Ah'm in this heah jeep, too."

A Miami dentist, delegate to a dental society convention, has announced HIS important finding for 1942.... "the



average man bites twice as hard as the average woman." Does this go for back-biting too, Doc?

O.K., you self-styled woman-haters, here's your cue. A 39-year-old Pennsylvania man was told that he would have to shave off his 12-inch red beard and flowing moustache. He commented, "I don't mind. I only raised 'em because they kept the women away from me."
 J. C. W.

The Rotten Apple

In the book "Last Train from Berlin" the author refers to Nazi Germany as a rotten apple, with a fine-looking rosy skin; but inside rotten to the core.

Reports from Europe indicate this description is growing rapidly more factual than when written a year and a half ago. Conditions in Germany and in every occupied country are deteriorating. Take, for example, the situation in "independent" Croatia. The General Director of Communications has decreed that the transport of refugees and those who must leave their homes "owing to the war situation in threatened districts" will only be permitted to move in organized groups. Individual refugees will be turned back. This reveals that a serious stage of guerrilla warfare has reached Yugoslavia. Whole districts are being evacuated. The conditions are not merely those of a country in which "terrorist" bands commit raids. They indicate large-scale warfare.

In Serbia a grim hint of conditions is given by a warning printed in the German-controlled Novo Vreme of Belgrade. In this paper police authorities warn that parents must exercise much stricter control over their children. The reason for this threat is given as "an intolerable increase" of marauding by bands of child thieves. This is a sure sign of three things—one, that very large numbers of children have been orphaned by warfare; two, that conditions of starvation and general want are sufficiently bad to drive children to stealing; and three, that those conditions are so serious as to drive to stealing numbers of children who have parents. The police warning goes further, and says "that children caught stealing will be dealt with mercilessly."

Under such administration life becomes cheap, and when life becomes cheap, desperate people take desperate means to correct existing conditions. Axis leaders in Europe, it can therefore be assumed, are all setting atop a keg of powder. The fuse is alight. The explosion will follow.

Manpower Allocation

One of the most serious problems facing official Washington today is allocation of the manpower required in total war. The daily press is filled with conflicting reports and statements. The Congress is crying for a solution, and nearly every representative has an answer all his own, generally based on the desires of his constituency.

At the moment a fight is raging over the control of production, the desires of the armed forces, and the requirements of agriculture. Each group has a mighty problem, for each has expanded to meet the demands of global war.

To the outsider, looking in, the problem seems to be completely out of control, and critics are making the most of what appears to be an insoluble problem.

A more reasonable estimate of the situation shows its brighter side. Back only a few months ago President Roosevelt announced the American goal of 16,000,000 tons of shipping for the year 1942. Enemy agents, and all the critics, newspaper and radio, chalked the figure up as merely another paper pledge. The year's end found we had reached and passed the goal set for shipping. Other goals set by our wartime government have been met on schedule, and those which have not come very close to meeting the mark which had been announced by "the experts" as impossible.

Military and civilian leaders are now tackling the allocation of manpower. To achieve a proper solution will require the wisdom of Solomon and the patience of Job. On the basis of the record to date success should follow, for while it will be no easy task to provide manpower needs in the exact ratio at the exact spot and time, nothing is impossible to America once the problem is clearly understood.



Yanks and their English guests recapture the thrill of old-time mountain music at the American Red Cross Mostyn Club's barn dance. Things got a little mixed up, but they had fun, and are going to make the dances a regular fixture.

Yanks Off Duty Teach English Girls Ozarks Jitterbugging

By Richard McLaughlin
 Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

It's just about as strange as if a pink-coated English huntsman arrived in a coach-and-four at an Ozark coon hunt, but strange or not there's going to be a regular old-fashioned hill-billy hoe down at the Mostyn Red Cross club tonight.

As a matter of fact, American square dances apparently are going to become a fixture in Red Cross entertainment schedules.

English show girls, hillbillies straight from New Jersey and Brooklyn and a smattering of American soldiers and sailors who really knew what to do when the caller shouted, "Ladies do si do and chicken in the bread pan kicking up dough," staged the first organized barn dance in London last week.

They liked it so well that the Mostyn club, which sponsored the affair, plans regular weekly barn dances to teach the GIs and their English partners the intricacies of Turkey in the Straw and Ol' Zip Coon.

Even the jitterbugs, who came to scorn, liked the first affair.

Whooping and hollering in authentic Ozark fashion, wrestling their way out of situations that no Grange dance hall ever saw, the Yanks brought back to England some of the dances that the first English settlers in America took with

them from this country when the U.S. was a scattering of settlements on the Atlantic shore.

Dancing to the authentic calls of Program Director Ben Russack's "Swing your corner, Gentlemen whirl! Everybody whirl. Whirl again and Whirlawhirl," the couples found the first going pretty hard.

After getting into some tight places, losing their partners, forming what looked more like a football scrimmage in the center of the floor than an old-fashioned barn dance, GIs, a little worse for wear, moved to the center and the wolves from the outside made a wild grab for the fair damsel. Again the music started up, this time a little faster, wilder. Recorded Kentucky mountain tunes set the tempo.

Puffing, mascara running in rivulets down her cheeks, dark-eyed Kay Nicholson, getting acquainted with square dancing for the first time, suddenly found herself lost, bewildered, without a partner in the center of the floor.

"Give her air. Let's take time out for a breather," shouted a soldier, himself a little weak around the gills.

Adjourning to the Sun Deck for a snack and cokes, the British gals and the American boys decided they ought to stage a barn dance every Thursday night at the Mostyn from now on.

Tough Luck Guy
 Tough luck guy of the evening was Pvt. Victor Cullens, Savery, Wyo., who has done plenty of calling for square dances in his home town, but couldn't dance because of a boil on his neck.

Chaplain Chester R. MacClelland, London Base Command, standing in the doorway, got a kick out of it. "I enjoyed it tremendously," he said. "It was a great treat to see English girls and American men having such good, wholesome fun. If they decide to run these dances weekly I am all for it."

"I've been going to these dances ever since I was knee-high," was Julie Ellison's

comment. Julie is a program director and comes from Greenville, W. Va.

Julie's partner was Sgt. Harold Dyar, Portland, Ore. "Seems like old times," he said. "I hope these dances will be a regular occasion."

One hillbilly from Elizabeth, N.J., Pfc Stanley Janusz, was heard to say: "Imagine, I had to come to England for my first square dance."

He had lots of company. Cpl. George B. Murphy, Dorchester, Mass., said: "It was hard work, but I wouldn't have missed it for the world."

Jitterbug Licked It

Sgt. Bob Reynolds, Annapolis, Md., a jitterbug by choice, said he could keep it up all night. "It was strictly on the ball."

Some of the other mountain music lovers were: Pvt. Arthur Arkley, Stuebenville, Ohio; Petty Officer 2 Cl. Joe Lynott, Scranton, Pa.; Pvt. Edward Powick, Jamaica, L.I.; Pvt. Thaddeus Karamum, Elizabeth, N.J.; Pvt. Michael Beirbaum, Minneapolis, Minn.; Cpl. J. H. Allensworth, Amsterdam, Ohio; Storekeeper 1 Cl. Harry Zalin, Walterboro, S.C.; Cpl. Charles F. Sheets, Fort Wayne, Ind.; Pfc Joseph T. Box, Dublin, Tex.; Sgt. Joe Miller, Newport, Ky.; Cpl. Alfred Cooper, Indianapolis, Ind.; Yeoman 1 Cl. James McConnell, Boston, Mass.; 1/5 Wayne Ogle, Idaville, Ind.; Pvt. Thomas Chalfale, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Cpl. Paul Lewis, Troy, Ill.

The pay-off on Yanks dancing in their spare time, after duty, comes from Belfast.

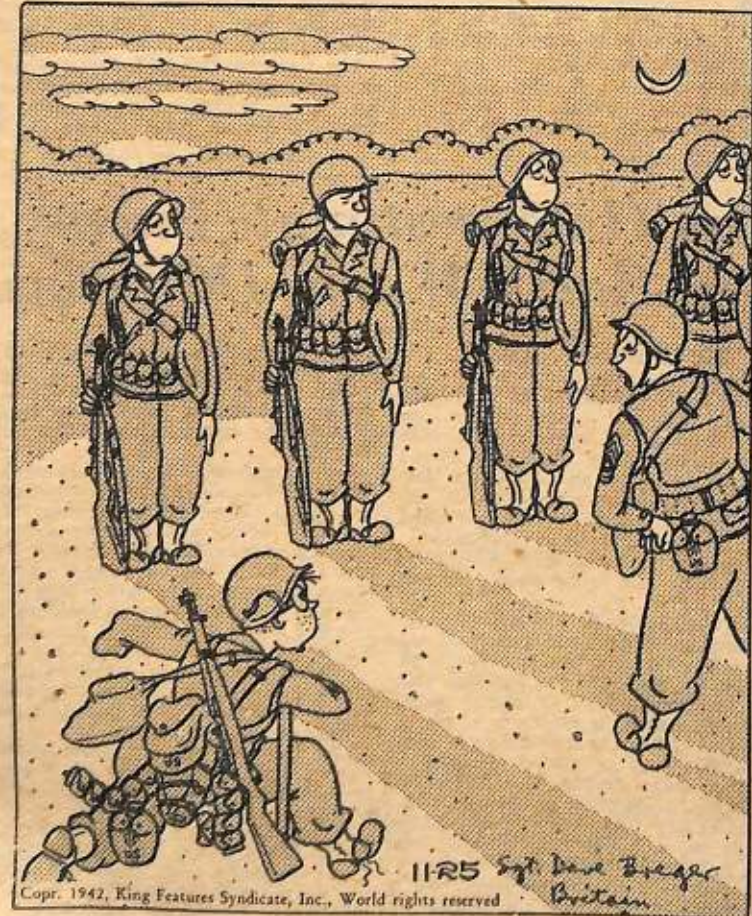
Soldiers in Northern Ireland are learning old-time Irish dancing at the Red Cross club there.

The instruction was started Sunday by Miss Mary Rice Anderson, assistant program director. A local orchestra played.

The old time dancing included "Pride of Erin," "Victory Waltz" and "Hesitation Waltz."

Reverse lease-lend again.

PRIVATE BREGER



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Allied Aid to Turkey Defenses Strengthens Ring Around Axis

By E. C. Daniel
 Associated Press Staff Writer

Winston Churchill's conference with Turkish leaders, in which arrangements were made to "provide Turkey with more defensive armaments against the uncertainties of the future," has closed one more gap in the armored ring being tightened around German-controlled Europe in preparation for the final assault on the Axis.

That is an unofficial, brief summary of the results of the first visit by the chief of a belligerent state to a neutral country in this war. Considering the United Nations' strategy as a whole, these additional conclusions may be drawn:

Key to Collaboration

1—Turkey, because of its diplomatic and geographical position, symbolizes the key to the whole question of Anglo-Russian collaboration and the Adana conference as the U.S. and Britain.

2—Turkey has been disabused of any belief in a German victory to the extent that she feels safe in welcoming one of the Big Four of United Nations leadership to her soil, and thus becomes the first of the remaining neutrals in this part of the world to take sides in any degree with the Allies.

3—Turkey has taken sides to the extent of concluding at least a defensive arrangement with the United Nations. The com-

monique on the conference stated that "agreement was reached on the manner in which Great Britain and the U.S.A. would be able to help Turkey materially to consolidate her own defensive security."

Allied Strategy

The Adana conference clearly was a continuation of the strategic plan laid down in Mr. Churchill's 1942 conferences with President Roosevelt and Josef Stalin and brought up to date at Casablanca after its initial objectives had been attained in Libya, French North Africa and on the Russian front.

The clear purpose of that strategy, as expounded by numerous Allied spokesmen, is to encircle Nazidom with a series of potential assault bases and defense bastions from which to undertake the reduction of Axis military power.

A quick look around the perimeter of German Europe shows:

Finland—Apparently an uneasy partner of Germany, but unable to extricate herself from an alliance that is ruining her.

Sweden—Still firmly neutral.

Portugal—Still Britain's oldest ally, but still passive.

Spain—Dominated by an anti-Communist clique whose press emphasized above all else in reporting Goering's speech his statement that "it is impossible to reach agreement with the Bolsheviks."

France—A pawn to the Germans. Turkey—Again engaged in open military consultations with Britain, to say the least.

Defeat Germany Then Japan, Is Conference Aim

Churchill-Roosevelt Plan Revealed by Australian Prime Minister

CANBERRA, Feb. 3 (UP)—"Defeat Germany first, and then deal with Japan," is the primary aim of the global strategy as agreed upon by Prime Minister Churchill and President Roosevelt, John Curtin, Prime Minister of Australia, revealed here today.

After the defeat of Germany, he said, the full resources of the United Nations would be concentrated against Japan. This now imposed limitations on the additional forces that could be made available in the Pacific, and also on the extent of offensive operations and the regions in which Allied forces could operate.

Use of Aussies in Pacific

The statement was made during a debate on the measure to allow the use of the Australian militia in a defined zone which includes the Solomon Islands to the east and Java in the northwest.

Curtin revealed that the boundaries had been fixed in Washington and concurred in by the Australian government. The defense of Australia was not confined to its territorial limits.

"With the passage of this Bill," Curtin said, "Australian forces will be available for Gen. MacArthur for employment in the Southwest Pacific zone as defined in the Bill, when Gen. MacArthur is in a position to assume the offensive."

"Up to the limits of the area defined in the Bill this could include the whole of the Australian Naval, air and land forces. I assumed, however, that he will reassign to the Australian government and its service commanders the responsibility for the defense of his main base, which is Australia," Curtin continued in his debate speech.

Where to Strike Germany

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 (AP)—New Zealand's Minister, Walter Nash, said today that Mr. Churchill and President Roosevelt had discussed at Casablanca whether to strike at Germany from the Mediterranean or the whole Atlantic coast, or from both these regions.

Nash talked to reporters after leaving the meeting of the Pacific War Council, which was the first since President Roosevelt returned. He said that the Casablanca meeting discussed all the possibilities, and "which was the best place to strike first."

Plaque Marks Naval Base Site

LONDONDERRY, Feb. 3—A small brass plaque will be unveiled at the United States Naval Operating Base here Friday to commemorate the first anniversary of the commissioning of the base on Feb. 5, 1942, a few days after the arrival in Londonderry harbor of the four American warships, Wilkes, Madison, Sturtevant and Roper.

These were the first American units of any kind to take battle stations in the European Theater of Operations.

The base was built by 1,000 American technicians, assisted by 3,000 Londonderry men during the six months preceding the arrival of the American ships and forces.

The plaque will be fixed to a flag pole at the base camp and will be unveiled by Capt. V. L. Kirkman, commandant of the base, in the presence of detachments of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.

Africa - - -

(Continued from page 1)

the enemy from the township, had withdrawn. The headquarters spokesman said yesterday the troops originally had planned to withdraw, but had now dug in a mile east of the town, which is on the railway leading to the port of Sfax.

Planes again took over the bulk of the activity on the Tunisia front yesterday. In fierce air battles, spreading as far as Sicily, Allied pilots destroyed 12 enemy aircraft and damaged five others, but lost 13 of their own.

Mitchell and Marauder bombers, escorted by Lightning fighters, attacked the Axis aerodrome at El Mauo near Sfax, destroying a number of enemy planes and starting fires that could be seen 30 miles away.

Lightnings escorting a formation of Mitchells on a sea sweep between Tunisia and Tripoli reported they had shot down six enemy fighters and bombers and a transport plane.

Enemy movements which may presage a new Axis attack in the Ousseltia Valley area have been observed, the spokesman said. Such an attack would be aimed at keeping the Allies off balance in the hope of blocking any full-scale offensive launched to drive through to the sea and cut off Rommel from von Arnim's main forces.

Free Concert Sunday

Free concerts for men and women of the Allied forces start Sunday at 3 PM at the Piccadilly Theater. Guest soloist will be Harriet Cohen, pianist.

Second Overseas OCS Class Graduates



The second class of U.S. Army and Air Force officers' candidates trained in the European Theater of Operations takes the oath of service during graduation ceremonies.

Rangers Prefer Life at Front To Drilling Behind the Lines

By Bill King

Associated Press War Correspondent

TUNISIAN FRONT, Feb. 3—United States soldiers who have fought through the Tunisian campaign with British commands have reached the point where they prefer front-line positions to rest centers.

I visited a section of American commands, or Rangers, under the command of Lt. Leo Taylor, of Council Bluffs, Iowa, where they were dug in on the side of a hill on the approaches to Mateur.

The Rangers, who volunteered for their dangerous jobs while in training with United States forces in Northern Ireland, have been in the thick of the North African fighting since the beginning. They landed in the initial attack and had the tough assignment of reducing a strong fort at Cap Matifou. Sent into Tunisia almost immediately, they have been on fighting duty almost continually ever since.

They were sitting around the mouth of their bough-covered dugout, inside of which their communal meal was simmering over a tiny blaze.

The Mateur front was momentarily quiet. There was no warlike sound to disturb the chatter, except an occasional salvo of shells fired from a distance and sailing overhead—and they all were going in the right direction.

"I'll write a story about how comfortable you are here," I said jokingly as

I settled myself on a clod of dirt in the midst of the group.

"We like it here," said Sgt. Gene Fall, of Olin, Iowa. "We'd rather be here than behind the lines."

"Yeah, they got 'em doing close-order drill back there," put in Sgt. Chester Huckabee, of Shreveport, La.

Planes flew over as we talked and at the sound of a warning whistle we crowded into the dugout in order not to be seen from the air. After they had gone I asked what kind they were, but no one had even bothered to look.

Other members of the section were Sgt. Oscar Graham, Red Oak, Iowa; Sgt. Philip J. Phelps, Harlan, Iowa; Cpl. Bob Herens, Neola, Iowa; Sgt. Patrick J. Feehan, Bloomingdale, Ohio; Cpl. Bill Turner, Leeds, N.D.; Pvt. Andrew Matalak, Whiting, Ind.; Pvt. George Well, Minneapolis; Pvt. William Starr, Moulton, Iowa; Pvt. John Showers, Mystic, Iowa; Pvt. Charles Eberle, Pittsburgh; Pvt. Dwight Harbour, Belknap, Iowa; Pvt. Jimmy Downs, Coila, Miss.; Pvt. Herman Cunningham, Louisville, Ky.; Pvt. Lester Smith, Whiting, Ind.; Pvt. Ray Porter, Charlestown, W. Va.; Sgt. Bob Rider, Davenport, Iowa; Cpl. Joseph Murzyn, Whiting, Ind.; Pvt. Charles Sims, Muncie, Ind.; Pvt. Edward Kosinski, Chicago; Pvt. Bill Langguth, Glenwood, Iowa; Pvt. Frank Kennedy, Pittsburgh; Pvt. Jimmy Linville, Marshalltown, Iowa; Pvt. Ed Owens, Ottumwa, Iowa; Pvt. Kenneth O'Connor, and Pvt. Bernard Pallak, Watertown, S.D., and Pvt. Reynolds J. O'Connor, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Yanks Attend British Legion Women's Dance

BELFAST, Feb. 3—American officers and enlisted men were among the guests at a benefit dance sponsored by the women's section of the British Legion, proceeds of which went to aid the British Merchant Navy Fund.

Guests included Lt. Col. George W. Custer, Detroit; Lt. Col. Lelant Gilliat, Marble Hut, Mass.; Lt. Col. Charles B. Tyler, Fort Sill, Okla.; Maj. J. H. Hyland, Rochester, N.Y.; Maj. John H. Gorse, Hoboken, N.J.; Capt. H. W. Leake, Cairo, Ill.; 1st Lt. Jack Reed, Middleport, Pa.; 2nd Lt. Henry D. Martin, Union Grove, Wis.; 2nd Lt. Jack Donahue, Dallas, Tex.; 2nd Lt. Charles B. Davis, White Stone, L.I.; Pfc Charles G. Griffith, Manchester, Vt.; Pfc John A. Reimer, Maple Plain, Minn.; and Pvt. S. E. Sanders, Tablequah, Okla.

Lion and Eagle Dance

LONDONDERRY, Feb. 3—The Lion and Eagle Club held its fourth regular dance last night in Guildhall, with a capacity crowd. By 9 o'clock the doors had to be closed and hundreds turned away. The attraction was the RAF band from London.

Blondie

(By courtesy of King Features Syndicate and the London Daily Sketch)



by Chic Young

Enemy Tough, OCS Warned

Gen. Hartle Commissions Second Graduating Class Overseas

(Continued from page 1)

Jr. and Chester N. Bruckner, both of New York. Clarke, another veteran of World War I, was president of a motion picture company before enlisting in the Canadian Army and coming overseas two years ago. He transferred to the U.S. Army Coast Artillery last July.

Before entering the OCS, members of the class held ranks from corporal to warrant officer. The lone W/O was Leonard D. Womack, of Norfolk, Va., who will lose \$85 a month by getting a second lieutenant's commission.

The invocation for the ceremonies was given by Chaplain James L. Blakeney, chief of chaplains in the ETO. The benediction was given by Chaplain L. C. Tierman, chief of chaplains, Services of Supply.

Col. E. C. Betts, judge advocate, ETO, administered the oath of office.

The first class of officers' candidates trained here graduated last Dec. 9. A third class is finishing its second week of a three-months' course.

The graduates:

Clayton R. Adams, Duluth, Minn., FA; Elmore C. Ayer, Clyde, N.Y., CA; Paul J. Baile, Missoula, Mont., Air Force; John D. Becher, Darby, Pa., Inf.; Carl H. Becker, Brooklyn, N.Y., Eng.; Hugh L. Bell, Victoria, Tex., Ord.; Chester B. Bise, Herold, Va., Inf.; Irvin G. Boger, Winston-Salem, N.C., Eng.; Samuel F. Coleman, New York City, QM; Francis J. Corbett, West Roxbury, Mass., Inf.; William H. Cox, Brooklyn, N.Y., Eng.; Kenneth E. Dahlstrom, Minneapolis, Minn., FA; Richard W. Davis, San Antonio, Tex., Inf.; Nicholas J. DeLuca, Baltimore, Md., QM; William E. Duckery, Philadelphia, Pa., Ord.; Lawrence E. Duney, Jackson, Minn., Inf.; William A. Gates, Chicago, Ill., Eng.; Lucius Gibson, Americus, Ga., QM; Ralph E. Harris, Newport, N.C., Signal Corps; Lester W. Gordon, Brooklyn, N.Y., QM; John E. Hacker, Duluth, Minn., QM; John H. Hagstrom, Erie, Pa., Signal Corps; Robert L. Hall, Colorado Springs, Colo., Air Force; Ernest J. Harris, Neptune, N.J., QM; James T. Heard, McRae, Ga., Inf.; Joseph M. Howard, Paris, Tenn., Eng.; William S. Johnston, Staten Island, N.Y., Cav.; Arthur F. Kavanaugh, Salt Lake City, Utah, Air Force; Robert J. Lynch, Atlanta, Ga., Ord.; George E. Maray, Toledo, O., Inf.; Charles H. Maus, Westminster, Md., Inf.; Daniel W. Miller, Bound Brook, N.J., Inf.; Kermit C. Miller, Celoron, N.Y., Inf.; William P. Murphy, Detroit, Mich., Inf.; Carl W. Pope, Columbus, O., QM; John T. Quinn, Chicago, Ill., Medical Corps; Warren W. Reed, Minden, Nev., Signal Corps; Edward H. Ring, Memphis, Tenn., Inf.; Robert T. Repass, Des Moines, Ia., Air Force; Eusebe J. Robichaux Jr., Franklin, La., Ord.; James P. Rup, Bloomsburg, Pa., QM; Thornton V. Sigler, Prospect Park, Pa., Inf.; Herbert W. Smith, Denver, Colo., Inf.; Henry Strickland, Washington, D.C., Signal Corps; Robert L. Terrell, Houston, Tex., Eng.; George W. Therrien, Annapolis, R.I., Cav.; Gerald G. Trenton, Cumberland, Md., Inf.; Robert F. Walker, Buffalo, N.Y., CA; Richard C. Wells, Washington, D.C., Ord.; Kenneth E. Wilson, Brooklyn, N.Y., Ord.; William L. Wise, Greenwood, S.C., Ord.; Leonard D. Womack, Norfolk, Va., QM; Ralph F. Yereb, Universal, Pa., Eng.; Burdett N. Zavitz, St. Charles, Ill., Inf.

Two High ETO Officers Listed Missing in Action

WASHINGTON, Feb. 3 (AP)—Col. Douglas MacKeachie, 42, general purchasing agent for the European Theater of Operations, and Lt. Col. Russell Brunner, 32, Air Corps pilot, are missing in action, the War Department reported today. No further information was available.

Headquarters, ETO, said yesterday no details were available on the disappearance of Col. MacKeachie and Lt. Col. Brunner, missing in action.

Col. MacKeachie arrived in Britain in October to serve as general purchasing agent in the Service of Supply, dealing particularly with exchange of materials and services under lend-lease. Previously he served for two years with the War Production Board.

Rainbow Club Program

The Rainbow Corner has scheduled a juke-box jamboree dance this afternoon and bingo tonight in the club's Rainbow Room. A dance tomorrow night, continuous movies from 2.30 PM to 10 on Saturday and a Sunday dance complete the schedule.

Tips to Beat Germans Told By Wounded

Americans Who Met Nazi Tanks Describe Ways Of Licking Them

(Continued from page 1) "playing 'possum" when you're wounded within range of the enemy. Finally, what Jerry has is good, but we have weapons which can more than meet his best.

Youngest Veteran

Youngest soldier in this group of veterans from the war in Africa was Pvt. William C. Ralph, 17, of Louisville, Ky., artilleryman, whose right thigh was pierced by three machine-gun bullets during a battle with German tanks in Tunisia. He was in the crew of a 105mm. gun, a weapon highly praised by the wounded men. Ralph's two buddies were killed the day before by a direct hit from a dive-bomber. He was wounded by fire from German machine-gun nests after he had been in action 12 days.

He said he didn't give his correct age when he enlisted two years ago.

Many of these men have experienced what sensations accompany the killing of another human being. Asked "how it feels to kill a man," they had one answer.

"It's him or you. You don't think much about it. Sometimes you think of it afterwards. But it's him or you."

Don't Like Pictures

Their stories are various and dramatic. They prefer to talk among themselves, in groups, one putting in a word here and another helping there. Although nearly all have received Purple Heart awards, some refused to have their pictures taken. This wasn't false modesty. They didn't want "the folks to see them in bandages."

Talking to them, one unconsciously gathered data, tips, intelligence—how to fight Germans, how not; what Jerry has, what his favorite tricks are. They have a healthy respect for Rommel's .88 caliber anti-tank guns, but bet on U.S. 105s to stop anything down there.

There are constant tales of sudden ambush, surprise—you've got to be on the lookout all the time. Dive-bombers—"JUs"—come fast, hit hard. They are usually followed up by tank, infantry and artillery action.

'They Know How to Wait'

The German knows how to wait, the men say. "Our 38s and Spitfires would be in the air, and Jerry would go away. Just as soon as you think everything is quiet he comes back. He always comes back and lets you have it. He tries to suck you in, get you in a hole. You gotta watch him all the time."

They cautioned that the Nazi five-inch mortar is accurate and potent.

Pvt. Milton Peterson, 26, of Mayville, N.D., said he "played 'possum" as he lay wounded in a ditch to avoid capture by German paratroopers who had ambushed his Signal Corps outfit.

"Seven of us . . . riding through a little gully 20 miles from Bone. They opened up with machine-guns."

As he lay sprawled in a ditch he saw, through half-open eyes, Nazi paratroopers garbed in grotesque green, yellow and brown camouflaged suits, wearing goggles. Peterson's face was bloody from a grazing head wound. The Germans took a look, left him; they captured several of his comrades. A German officer heaved a grenade into a truck 10 feet away. It was a dud. Rescue came in three hours.

They talk of places like Oran, Algiers, Tebourba, with the casualness with which Yank veterans used to speak of Soissons, Arrmentieres, or Cologne. Youthful "old timers," they're ready to have another go as soon as the Army says so.

Purple Heart awards for all . . . and well earned. For instance, 2nd Lt. Robert Phillips, 25, of Merrick, L.I., was near Sidi Bou Zed when two Ju88s attacked. He was hit. With one arm smashed, Phillips drove a truck for help, thus saving the others.

Cpl. Floyd Nye, 23, of Detroit, was hit in the skull in the Tebourba area. As he fell, he says, the thought flashed through his mind—"Hell, they can't kill me."

In his hospital ward he grinned. "Somebody was praying for me that day!"

Raids - - -

(Continued from page 1)

Reconnaissance has indicated that through the fall and winter the Germans have made extensive repairs to the damaged industry of the city. Those repairs were interrupted, however, by a heavy raid on Oct. 14.

Following up the night's foray against German industry, Allied fighters, and presumably light bombers, swept across the Channel all day yesterday. There was an almost constant shuttle of planes roaring back and forth over the southern English coastline, apparently in even greater force than on Tuesday afternoon, when RAF fighters and American-built Ventura bombers battered German communications in France almost without opposition. The only fighter to challenge them, an Me., was shot down.

Five planes are reported missing from the Cologne raid.