

## Truk 'Lost' To Jap Fleet, Nimitz Says

### He Believes Enemy Navy Probably Has Abandoned Site as a Base

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7—U.S. submarines have taken such a huge toll of Jap shipping that Japan probably has been forced to abandon Truk as a naval base, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, U.S. Navy commander in the Pacific, declared here today in an optimistic report on the nation's steady march toward a victory over Japan, which he said was restricted only by geography and the refusal of the Jap fleet to fight.

(The Navy's intention eventually to seize and occupy Truk was disclosed today in minutes of a recent hearing before the House Naval Committee, where Rear Adm. E. L. Cochrane, chief of the Bureau of Ships, pleading for additional funds for shipping repairs, asserted, "When we get into Truk, where we are going in, we will have work to do.")

In Washington for a series of conferences Nimitz, appearing at a press conference held by Navy Secretary Frank Knox, called Jap pessimism justified. Expressing doubt that Japan was trying to lure the U.S. Fleet closer to Japanese home waters by painting a glum picture of its shattered chances of victory, Nimitz promised that "we shall miss no opportunity to fight the Japs wherever and whenever we can."

#### No Transfer Necessary

Asked whether it would be necessary to transfer naval units from the Atlantic to beat Japan, Nimitz declared flatly that "we have sufficient strength in the Pacific now and we are ready to take on the Japanese fleet in a showdown fight."

However, he reiterated his belief that bases in China would be necessary before the last crushing blows against Japan were delivered.

Discussing the disadvantage of attacks from carriers, he pointed out that assaults on German targets in Europe had proved that "it takes a great weight of explosives to produce any considerable effect. Our carrier-based planes are not equipped to handle this great weight of explosives."

Nimitz declared that Japanese offensive power was being crippled by submarines, and he foresaw the day when lack of shipping would be a controlling factor in Japanese operations.

"Our subs are increasing in number and not decreasing in efficiency, although the number of targets is slowly decreasing," he said, paying tribute to the intensified Allied submarine campaign in the Pacific.

#### No Major Units at Truk

Nimitz pointed to the fact that American raiders in their recent attacks on Truk failed to find major units of the Jap fleet there was an indication of the success of the submarine, which he said had sunk so many supply vessels that the Japs could not maintain warships there.

Revealing that at the beginning of the Marshalls campaign U.S. forces had taken Majaro atoll, which was not occupied by the Japs, Nimitz said that the enemy still held four positions in the Marshalls with a force of about 10,000 men, including some labor troops, Majaro, the Admiral said, is being used as an anchorage.

Although granting that the Allies needed transports and time to utilize its ships and men in attacks, Nimitz called the size of the Pacific Ocean the prime obstacle in the war.

Nimitz later conferred with President Roosevelt at the White House for more than an hour.

## Declare Yourself In or Out, N.Y. Times Tells Dewey

NEW YORK, Mar. 7 (Reuter)—The New York Times today called on Gov. Thomas E. Dewey to state whether or not he intended to continue as governor of New York or run for president on the Republican ticket.

Saying the present situation was unusual and unfortunate as Dewey could not debate "burning" national and international issues, the Times said, "We believe the situation should be ended promptly by Dewey's own choice."

#### Youth Admits Killing Mother

PUEBLO, Colo., Mar. 7—Richard Susel, 21, has admitted shooting and killing his mother. He told police he pointed a shotgun at his mother but didn't expect it to discharge. He said he was angry at her for scolding him for refusing to mix with other young people. He has been placed in Woodcroft Sanitarium for observation.

## Fleet Grown From 344 To 900 Warships—Knox

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7 (UP)—The combat strength of the U.S. Fleet has grown since the start of the war from 344 to 900 combat vessels, Navy Secretary Frank Knox said today.

The 900 do not include small ships, he pointed out. They consist of battleships, aircraft carriers, escort carriers, cruisers, destroyers and destroyer escorts and submarines.

## Soviets Punch Near Tarnopol In Latest Drive

### 40,000 Nazis Killed, 45,000 Wounded as Reds Push On Toward Rumania

Rolling forward toward Rumania, Russian forces estimated by Berlin at almost half a million men punched their way forward within seven miles of the rail junction at Tarnopol on the already-cut Odessa-Lwow railroad yesterday, taking a heavy toll of the enemy.

Moscow reports estimated that in four days since Marshal Gregory Zhukov launched the blow to cut the Nazis' principal supply artery into the Ukraine the Germans lost 40,000 killed and 45,000 wounded. Columns of prisoners were said to be streaming to the rear.

Berlin made no effort to belittle the new Red Army offensive, and an official spokesman quoted by Swedish Telegraph Bureau described the battle as the final Russian attempt to annihilate the Wehrmacht. The agency estimated Soviet strength at 35 divisions, including eight armored divisions and "great numbers of motorized artillery."

#### Three-Pronged Drive

Zhukov struck in three directions, his right flank aimed at Tarnopol, 75 miles east of the great German base at Lwow; his center driving the Germans back against the Carpathians beyond Volochisk, where the railway was cut first; and his left moving along the railway within ten miles of Proskurov, 25 miles east of Volochisk.

Soviet reports said the Russians, having cut off some 200,000 German troops in the Dnieper Bend from communication with the north, were widening and deepening the 20-mile stretch of railway in their hands and pressing hardest toward Tarnopol, biggest town before Lwow and a junction of four subsidiary railways.

Marshal Fritz Von Manstein, now dependent for supply of his Dnieper forces upon three single-track railways from Rumania and Bessarabia, was said to be drawing tank and armored reinforcements from other sectors to hold back the Soviet onrush.

#### Thaw Hampers Russians

A balmy spring in the Ukraine left Zhukov's tanks and guns to churn through ankle-deep mud—conditions that Soviet reporters at the front described as appalling—but in spite of them some units covered more than 60 miles since the attack began.

The country across which the Nazis were forced back was high hilly ground rising gently towards the peaks of the Carpathians.

Newsmen in Moscow heard almost no reports of fighting on the other fronts, but German radio told last night of "disengaging" nearly a mile at Narva and of meeting "particularly violent" tank and air attacks at Pskov, where Nazi lines were breached at one point.

## Maj. Weitner Gets First Photos Of Berlin Raid Hour After Attack

A PHOTO RECONNAISSANCE UNIT, Mar. 7—Maj. Walter L. Weitner, a photo reconnaissance pilot, became the first American PR airman to operate over Berlin when he followed the huge force of Fortresses and Liberators in their attack on the German capital yesterday.



Maj. Walter L. Weitner

Skilfully maneuvering his unarmed aircraft through heavy flak, Weitner successfully evaded three attacking German fighters to reach Berlin less than an hour after the bombers and to record the devastation left by the attacking Americans.

## Day Blow Matches RAF Havoc In Berlin; 68 U.S. Bombers Lost Against Toll of 176 Nazi Fighters

### Surveying Damage After Historic Raid



Examining damaged horizontal stabilizer of their Fortress after bombing Berlin are, left to right: 2/Lt. Allan M. Morey, Syracuse, N.Y., co-pilot; 1/Sgt. Duard Nowlin, Albuquerque, N.M., radio operator-gunner; 1/Lt. John D. Davis, Bradford, Ohio, pilot; 5/Sgt. George A. Parrish, Henderson, N.C., waist gunner; 5/Sgt. Joseph B. Brennan, New Orleans, ball-turret gunner; 5/Sgt. Paul Betzer, Chardon, Ohio, gunner

## Reich Capital Aflame, Facilities Down, Sweden Hears

A large portion of Berlin still was without light, power, gas or telephone service yesterday and huge fires still were burning as a result of the first major daylight blow at the Reich capital by American heavy bombers, according to dispatches from Stockholm last night.

The Stockholm newspaper Aftontidningen carried dispatches from Berlin which said the Fortress-Liberator attack was just as devastating as any night raid the capital had experienced, and correspondents estimated that 4,000 persons had been killed. The dispatches were subject to German censorship.

An indication of the severity of the damage was seen in a broadcast by Oslo Radio—which is German-controlled—saying that "competent German circles consider the latest raid on Berlin a catastrophe, and Berliners refer to it as 'the bloody Monday.'"

#### London Is Cautious

Conservative observers in London pointed out, however, that frequently Berlin has given out exaggerated stories of damage and suffering to mislead her enemies.

The operation, officially described by the U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe as the "greatest air battle against Germany," cost the U.S. 68 heavy bombers and 11 fighters.

Again this was a toll of 176 German fighters blasted out of the skies in a battle which, in some cases, raged from the Zuyder Zee all the way in to Berlin and out again. USSTAF headquarters said that the Forts and Libs had knocked down 93 fighters and their escorts an additional 83.

While Monday's American bombardment of Berlin still echoed around the world, Allied air forces maintained their relentless pre-invasion schedule with a heavy night raid on railroad yards near Paris and new daylight punches at the French "rocket-gun" coast.

American Marauders of the Ninth Air Force and other Allied bombers under escort bombed an airfield near Conches, 50 miles northwest of Paris, and targets in the Pas de Calais area yesterday. There were no losses, but two enemy aircraft were shot down.

#### Estimated 850 Bombers

The force which hit Berlin was estimated at somewhere around 850 heavy bombers, plus the huge escort of Eighth and Ninth Air Force fighters, and by last night Berlin news agencies were admitting that "several hundred" had reached the city despite intense flak and unceasing fighter attacks.

The Stockholm dispatches—first reports of the raid to come from neutral sources—said that Berlin telephone communications with the Swedish capital, Budapest, Berne and other European cities had been severed since the epochal attack, indicating that a direct hit might have been made on the Berlin central telephone exchange.

The Stockholm Aftontidningen story said that Berlin people were fleeing the city, apparently believing that Allied round-the-clock bombing, previously demonstrated with telling effect on other German cities, now was to be turned upon the capital.

Three Fortresses crashed with bombs aboard, causing indescribable damage, the Aftontidningen said.

The Stockholm Aftontidningen's dispatch said:

"The first wave of bombers concentrated their attack on the central part of Berlin, including the Friedrichstrasse, where the Friedrichstrasse underground station was destroyed. Hits were also scored in the government office area, the Potsdamerplatz, Tiergarten and Gleisdreieck.

"The second wave attacked the Daimler-Benz factory in the suburbs, but (Continued on page 4)

## All Plants in Paris Area Wrecked, Repatriates Say

LISBON, Mar. 7 (UP)—Allied raids in the Paris area have wrecked all aircraft and motor factories, repatriated U.S. nationals from the occupied territories said in Lisbon.

One American, John Brown, said, "The French welcome the Raids. They are anxiously awaiting the Allied invasion and they expect it shortly."

The Germans already are flooding areas in northern Holland in preparation for an invasion, said another internee.

## Congress Gets Bills Proposing A Veterans' Bonus Up to \$4,500

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7—Five veterans' organizations have joined in proposing that the government pay members of the armed forces post-war bonuses of up to \$3,500 for home service and up to \$4,500 for overseas service.

Seven members of the House promptly introduced legislation to achieve this, submitting identical copies of a bill entitled "Veterans' Adjusted Pay Act of 1944." A similar measure was introduced in the Senate with a demand for immediate action.

The Senate bill was referred to the Finance Committee, despite a request of its authors that it be given the Military Affairs Committee.

The legislation would credit servicemen and women with \$3 daily for service in the United States and \$4 daily for overseas service up to maximums of \$4,500 and \$3,500. An extra \$500 would be given those wounded.

All compensation over \$300 would be in the form of non-negotiable tax-free government bonds. Bondholders could withdraw not over one-fifth of the face value of their bonds in the first five years after their issue. Bonds would bear simple interest at three per cent for the first five years and compound interest at three per cent for the second five years.

Sponsoring the bill are the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Army and Navy Union, the Disabled American Veterans, the Military Order of the Purple Heart and the Regular Veterans Association.

Rep. John Lesinski (D-Mich.), one of the bill's backers, estimated that the overall cost of the bonus would be less than the cost of four months of actual war in 1944. Sen. Robert R. Reynolds (D-N.C.), one of the sponsors of the Senate measure, estimated its cost at \$30,000,000,000.

## Finnish Reply Given Moscow

Tacit corroboration of Stockholm reports that Finland has sent Moscow a reply to the Soviet armistice offer came yesterday when Finnish censorship permitted the Helsinki correspondent of the Stockholm Aftonbladet to say that the government was awaiting an answer from the Russians.

No particulars were given. The Finnish Parliament was scheduled to meet, but it was thought that the government would make no declaration, probably pending word from Moscow on the Finnish outline of desired terms.

Meanwhile, dispatches from Washington quoted diplomatic circles there as having declared that Finland had told Germany that seven Nazi divisions stationed in north Finland must get out of the country.

STOCKHOLM, Mar. 7 (AP)—Twenty Soviet dive-bombers attacked Kotka, a port in southern Finland, Monday afternoon, causing some casualties and damage, according to dispatches from Helsinki.

## 20-Million-Ton Shortage In Soft Coal Is Predicted

CHICAGO, Mar. 7 (Reuter)—Bituminous coal production will fall 20,000,000 tons short of 1944 requirements, Dr. Charles J. Potter, deputy solid fuels administrator, predicted.

Declaring that the deficit would have to be met by sound distribution and real conservation, Potter estimated that anthracite production would fail to meet requirements in the Middle Atlantic States and New England by 5,000,000 tons.

#### Oil Talks With British

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7—Acting Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr. said today that Secretary Cordell Hull and Petroleum Administrator Harold L. Ickes, joined by under-secretaries of the War and Navy Departments, soon would begin "preliminary and exploratory discussions" here with Britain on world petroleum problems.



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### The Anzio Balloon

While fresh, spectacular events in global warfare catch today's headlines, we cannot underestimate the action at Anzio beachhead, where hard fighting still continues and where the prize of victory is great. Victory for the Allies means acceleration of the Italian campaign and new ground from which to take the offensive. For Kesselring, the prize of wiping out the beachhead is a glittering one at this crucial stage of the war when Nazi victories are nil. In their attempts to push the Allied armies into the sea the Nazi forces have suffered heavily. It is conservatively estimated that their total casualties exceed 24,000, including a high proportion of dead, and about 3,500 prisoners. These losses are the more serious in that they are being suffered by battle-tried divisions which the enemy had hoped to save for second front activities and include troops promised a rest after going through the Russian winter. And although Allied success may seem slow in coming it is none the less certain. The tactics of the campaign have been described by one of Britain's highest ranking and best known soldiers, who said, "An operation like ours on the beachhead at Anzio is like blowing up a toy balloon." That was a simple and apt description. You take a deep breath, concentrate your strength, then blow out and your balloon begins to take shape. You keep blowing and holding against outside pressure until your balloon bursts out of its narrow bounds. The day will come when the Allied Anzio balloon will burst and the explosion will blow the Germans backwards with surprising rapidity.

### The Gold Standard

Last month the Treasury Department announced it had invited 44 nations to an international monetary conference to consider tentative Treasury proposals for an eight-billion-dollar currency stabilization fund and a ten-billion-dollar world bank for reconstruction and development. At the same time it was announced that the Treasury was reviewing the so-called White plan for monetary stabilization and "if experts agree on the technical aspects of a practicable plan, then a formal conference may be called late this winter." These conferences, and others now in progress, point to re-establishment of world monetary standards, which brings in the question of gold and our continued faith in the yellow metal. Speaking on monetary problems the New York Herald Tribune recently said: "Washington financial experts are reported to be counting upon Russia's support in setting up a post-war international exchange system which accords an important role to gold. This is based on more or less official Soviet utterances recently indicating that country favors something like the gold standard." During the late thirties gold as an international medium of exchange was under something of a cloud. This was partly because it appeared that the United States was going to drain off all gold stocks of the world, partly because many people were under the spell of the ascendant Hitler and his managed economic philosophy. Both of these, it has now become more widely understood, were transient phenomena. The immense movement of gold to the United States in the years before the war and in the early war years reflected in part the under-valuation of the dollar and in part it was refugee capital fleeing from the impending European war and shipments in payment of war materials. That the influences which produced the gold flood to the United States were not permanent is suggested by what happened to gold during 1943. In the 12 months just ended the United States lost gold to the rest of the world either through physical shipment or through earmarking nearly three-quarters of a billion dollars, far and away the largest decline in monetary stocks in the nation's history. As for the "miracle" of the Hitlerian technique of managed exchanges, it has long since become obvious that it was an illusion differing but slightly from the illusion that the Fuehrer had "discovered the secret of full employment." Add to these considerations the fact that the three nations which will have the greatest stake in solving the peace also possess the largest holdings in gold, and it seems reasonable to assume that gold will be a basis of any future world monetary system.

### Spuds Is Spuds

There's good news coming up for K.P.s. This time the lowly trimmer of spuds is getting a break in the form of a new hand-type peeler. Tests made by the 13th Quartermaster Training Regiment at Camp Lee, Va., prove that the new peeler is less wasteful than the ordinary paring knife and easier to handle. But maximum enthusiasm is dispelled with the further announcement that the new peeler will supplement but will not replace the paring knife, known internationally as the K.P.'s best friend, for despite the assurances that the new gadget will lighten the burden of K.P. duty spuds are still spuds in any army kitchen.

## Hash Marks

Life on the Home Front must be rough at times. Kansas City mothers have flooded city authorities with tearful complaints about street singers who gather under their windows and sing such tearful dirges as, "Where is My Wandering Boy Tonight?"

GI Philosophy. A rude and vulgar man is one who stares at a girl's figure when she's doing her best to display it.

Overheard in the blackout: "Does this lipstick come off easy?" one girl asked



another. "Not if you put up a fight!" was the quick reply.

Our spy on the sea front tells us that the rapid expansion of our Merchant Marine saw the influx of many men whose normal occupations were a far cry from ships and such. For instance, there was a former Brooklyn taxi driver. He was at sea, but getting along pretty well because his job wasn't too technical. But one night two of the able bodied seamen were sick and the Brooklynite was called to take the wheel. Undaunted, the ex-cab driver dashed up on the bridge, seized the wheel, glanced over his shoulder and asked, "Where to, captain?"

Frustration on the London Front. A major ambled into a billeting office and, without asking any questions, took his place in the long queue there. After half-an-hour wait—during which time he fussed and fumed about Army procedure and queues—he finally reached the head of the line. The clerk smiled and said he would fix him up with a billet right away. "Damnitall," screamed the major. "Why doesn't somebody tell me these things—I don't want a billet. I want a rail transportation warrant!"

And in that same billeting office some guy with a swell sense of humor has posted this sign, "Be damn glad you're getting a bed—think of the boys in the fox-holes."

It's Fate, cruel Fate! Pvt. Pete Scherer, of Milwaukee, kissed his wife



good-bye and shipped out for England. He wound up at a camp a block away from his mother-in-law's house.

Say, maybe us guys in the ETO are missing something. Home on leave, Captain Richard Elliot ordered a hamburger at an Idaho stand. He took one bite, opened the roll, looked for the meat and discovered he had already eaten it. He then remarked dreamily, "I wish I had one of those real hamburgers like we used to get in the South Pacific!"

J. C. W.

# Over Berlin, This Is How It Was—

## Little Willie the Fort, For Instance, Made Quite a Story

"American heavy bombers attacked Berlin in force yesterday. . . ." That was the first line of *The Stars and Stripes* story yesterday on the historic mission carried out Monday by Eighth Air Force Fortresses and Liberators. It was only the vaguest summary of a story that is made up of a hundred—or a thousand—individual stories, each of them worth page one in any newspaper, except in a war full of such adventures. Here are a few of the incidents behind the big story:

By Henry B. Jameson  
 Associated Press Staff Writer

A FORTRESS BASE, Mar. 7—After reported as missing in action, the irrepressible crew of the Fortress Little Willie finally showed up at their home station, laughing and joking about their madcap trip home from Berlin—skimming chimneys down main streets of German towns, and never more than 100 feet off the ground.

They roared between two church steeples, and went down the main drag of one place so low that the bombardier yelled to the pilot, "Look out for the curb."

They whistled and waved at a German girl cycling down the street of one town, and finally shot up all their ammunition at the German defenses on the Dutch coast.

The adventures of Little Willie, piloted by Lt. Bernard M. Dopko, of Old Forge, Pa., started over the heart of Berlin when the propeller ran away on one engine, and the supercharger on another went out by flak hits. The stricken ship fell out of formation and was immediately attacked by two German fighters.

The tail-gunner, Sgt. Robert Haydon Jr., of Madison, Wis., set up such a hot stream of bullets that they broke off the attack almost as soon as it started. Then the fun began.

To keep from being attacked again Dopko pointed the ship's nose to the ground and screamed down to 50 feet where he leveled off and started dodging rooftops.

"At one place," said the bombardier, Lt. William G. Kelly, of Burlington, Ind., "I had to yell, 'watch out dope, you're going to run into a curbstone!'"

"Coming over another city we were flying along a road and came upon a man riding in a cart," said Lt. Glenn R. Cederstrom, of South Minneapolis, Minn., the navigator. "When he saw us he jumped and dived into a ditch. If he hadn't we would have knocked him off, we were that low."

Approaching a German machine-gun emplacement, the crew spied a soldier running to his gun position. Then, apparently thinking better of it, he ducked quickly to the cover of a nearby ditch.

Every member of the crew joined in shooting up German defenses. Thoughtfully, Dopko rocked his big plane from side to side to give his gunners better view for strafing.

Little Willie hobbled across the last stretch of the North Sea at the height of ten feet, Dopko said as he reached for another beer.

For the crew of the Liberator Late Date it was an early date with Berlin, for they saw the Nazi capital before they saw London.

"It was a surprise target for us," said the pilot, Lt. Gilbert W. Abell, of Princeton, Ind. "We never expected to

## 2 Aces Tied for 2nd Boost Kills to 17, Each Getting One

TWO Thunderbolt pilots, who were tied at 16 as second high-score American aces in the ETO, came back from the Berlin mission with one FW190 apiece, still tied. They were Capt. Walker Mahurin, of Fort Wayne, Ind., and Lt. Robert S. Johnson, of Lawton, Okla.

Capt. Mahurin's victim was the first he had seen explode on the ground. "I dove on him and got him at about 700 feet, not far from a German airdrome," he said. "I saw strikes on both wings and fuselage. The pilot jumped out, and I saw the plane explode on the ground."

Lt. Johnson was flying in a flight of Thunderbolts which encountered "between 60 and 100 German fighters attacking a bomber formation." The P47 pilots tore into the Huns, scattering them and picking victims. Lt. Johnson got one, Maj. James C. Stewart, of Corona, Cal., destroyed two FW190s and Capt. Michael P. Bladych, an attached Polish pilot, destroyed one FW190.

## A Berlin Defender Did This



Crew Chief T/Sgt. A. T. Dykes, of Waynesboro, Miss., bends back jagged edges of fuselage to poke his head and shoulders through hole blown in Fortress by enemy fighter plane during Americans' daylight smash at Berlin Monday.

get the big one right off. Now we'll visit London and compare notes on the two cities."

## Dived 19,000 Feet Chasing Me109s

A U.S. FIGHTER BASE, Mar. 7 (AP)—The bowl of sky over Berlin was just a big shooting gallery for the devil-may-care pilots of this Mustang base.

Two of the boys—Lts. Robert Meserve, of Sand Point, Idaho, and Glenn Pipes, of Roanoke, Va.—chased two Me109s almost into the streets of the capital after diving 19,000 feet at a speed above 600 mph. They met them head on at 20,000 feet and dove to within 1,000 feet of the streets of Berlin before losing them.

Pipes blacked out, but came to in time to keep control of his plane, and also to get a good look at the bombing results which he called "miraculous."

Lt. Lowell K. Brueland, of Callender, Iowa, a peacetime house-painter, had better luck than Pipes and Meserve. He bagged an Me109, a Ju88 and shared another Ju88 with Lt. Billy D. Harris, of Altusok, La.

Three group commanders added to their personal scores, besides leading their men to victory in the course of the day's activities. Lt. Col. Glenn E. Duncan, Thunderbolt pilot, of Houston, Tex., brought down his 14th and 15th to remain high scoring group leader.

Col. Hubert Zemke, Thunderbolt commander from Missoula, Mont., who was the fourth pilot in the theater to become an ace, shot down two and shared credit for a third to bring his total to 11, and Lt. Col. Don Blakeslee, of Fairport Harbor, Ohio, brought down his eighth as he led a Mustang group over Berlin which destroyed 15 enemy planes.

## Liberator Gunner Did the Bombing

A LIBERATOR BASE, Mar. 7 (AP)—Sgt. Alfred B. Maino, of Worcester, Mass., is a gunner on the Liberator *Battlin' Lady*, but yesterday over Berlin he did the bombardier's job without a bombsight and with his feet and hit the target—rail yards.

"I never intended to become an enlisted bombardier," Maino said, "but it was part of my duty today. Some of our bombs didn't release, so I went back into the bomb bay to kick them out without a bombsight and had the pleasure of seeing them hit the rail yards below us and bust up some nice equipment."

The Berlin targets were "really laid wide

open," said Sgt. James R. Young, of Newark, N.J., gunner on *Little Shepherd*, who said the Nazi capital "looked like Dante's inferno."

The first enemy fighter shot down over Berlin was officially credited to T/Sgt. Harold Sterns, of Passaic, N.J., top-turret gunner on the *Fortress Rubber Check*. So read the caption under the page one picture in *The Stars and Stripes* Monday following the first U.S. bomber visit to the Reich capital over the weekend. But, alas, it was not Sgt. Sterns who was pictured above the caption. Our T/Sgt. Harold Sterns



apologies to Sgt. Sterns—whose picture appears herewith—and an assurance that it was not S & S's fault; erroneous photo-and-caption material supplied to the paper was to blame.

## 'Unmanageable' P51 Is Coached to Base By a Fellow Pilot

A MUSTANG BASE, Mar. 7—Team-work between two Mustang pilots managed to bring a P51, vibrating so violently that the pilot could hardly keep control of the stick, all the way back from Berlin to home base here.

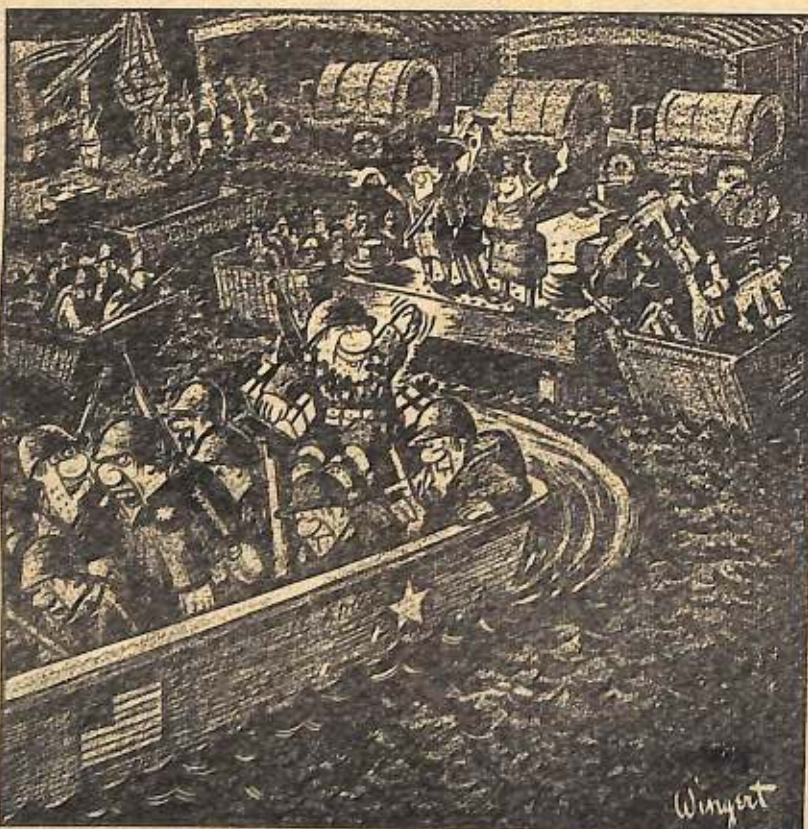
2/Lt. Edward R. Regis, 21, of Rimersburg, Pa., was flying with a Mustang group in a patrol over eastern Berlin when the left magneto on his ship, the *Rigor Mortis*, went bad. He found it nearly impossible to hold on to the stick, and telephoned by radio to his flying partner, 1/Lt. Glen Eagleston, of Alhambra, Cal., flying the *Feeble Eagle*, that he was going to bail out.

"Junior," answered Eagleston, "I'll get you home if I have to get a rope and tow you."

Through dense overcast, the *Feeble Eagle* shepherded the *Rigor Mortis* on a nearly blind journey as Eagleston kept it up a steady radio refrain: "We'll make it O.K." Sixty miles from the coast the pilots lost each other in the clouds, but Regis strained the *Rigor Mortis* across the channel and landed at a field on the south coast.

"If it hadn't been for Eagle's coaxing, I'd never have made it," Regis said.

## HUBERT by SGT. DICK WINGERT



"Dammit, somebody spilled the beans!"



Diamond Dust

Gordon Is 1-A; Johnson Joins Merchant Navy

Reds Sign Two; Keltner To Play for Tribe; Masi in Fold

NEW YORK, Mar. 7—The New York Yankees' infield was further riddled today when word arrived from Joe Gordon, veteran second baseman, that he had been reclassified 1-A by his Eugene, Ore., draft board.

Meanwhile, Manager Joe McCarthy was informed that Billy Johnson, third baseman and last year's outstanding major league rookie, has joined the Merchant Marine and will start his duties as physical instructor immediately.

ATLANTA, Ga., Mar. 7—Jim Bagby, Cleveland's disgruntled pitcher who makes no secret of his animosity toward Indian manager Lou Boudreau, revealed he is trying to enter the Maritime Service.

FORT JACKSON, S.C., Mar. 7—Thomas "Mickey" Livingston, the only experienced catcher on the Chicago Cubs' roster, was accepted for service in the Army here today.

CINCINNATI, Mar. 7—Two youngsters have been signed in an effort to bolster the draft-struck Cincinnati Reds. Club officials announced today that Bob Ferguson, 25-year-old pitcher, and Herb Moore, 19-year-old shortstop, have been purchased from Birmingham of the Southern Association.

CLEVELAND, Mar. 7—Ken Keltner, Indians' star third baseman, assured the club today that he will play this season despite his 2-B classification.

CHICAGO, Mar. 7—Phil Cavarretta, Cub first baseman and outfielder, today denied he is a holdout, but admitted two offered contracts already have been sent back unsigned.

BOSTON, Mar. 7—The Boston Braves' front office disclosed today that signed contracts had been received from Catcher Phil Masi and Ben Geraghty, infielder.

CHICAGO, Mar. 7—Bill Dietrich, veteran right-hander who suffered a fractured skull in a game several years ago, has been accepted by the Army for limited service, the White Sox announced today.

NEW YORK, Mar. 7—Arthur "Bud" Methany, youngster who replaced Tommy Henrich in right field for the Yankees last year, mailed in his signed contract today.

ST. LOUIS, Mar. 7—The St. Louis Browns today lost their best slugger when outfielder Chet Laabs passed his pre-induction physical in Detroit.

PITTSBURGH, Mar. 7—Two more signed contracts were delivered to the Pittsburgh Pirates office today, bearing the signatures of Catcher Hank Camelli and Outfielder Harry Amato.

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.

Wanted SLIDE Rule, Keuffel and Esser, "log log duplex decimal" model, with instruction book and leather carrying case, preferred.

Lost TRAVELING Kit, red leather, with my name on it, left on jeep driven by officer who took us to Norwich Feb. 22—Sgt. George H. Winger, ASN 11102216.

Don't Send Cash by Mail. Some persons who never send cash by mail have inclosed cash. This involves risk of loss and you have no proof that you sent the money.

Infantry Ringmen Beat Paratroopers, 6-2

Braves' Boss

By Pap



Angott Will Risk NBA Title Against Juan Zurita Tonight

HOLLYWOOD, Cal., Mar. 7—Juan Zurita, Mexican lightweight who fights Sammy Angott for the NBA lightweight championship in what is predicted to be a sellout bout tomorrow night, tapered off from his vigorous training schedule yesterday and said he was ready to give Angott all the trouble he could accommodate.

Zurita, in fine form, has been belting sparring partners all over the ring for the past several days. Angott, who hasn't lost to a lightweight since 1940, is confident of victory.

Originally scheduled for Monday night, the bout was postponed due to a recent heavy dew which inundated the ballpark where the bout is to be held.

Luckman Predicts Pro Football Boom, Threat to Diamond

NEW YORK, Mar. 7—Airplane travel and expansion of minor leagues will prove a shot in the arm for professional football after the war, Sid Luckman, former Columbia and Chicago Bear quarterbacking star, predicted today.

Luckman, who directed and passed the Bears to the world title before entering the Maritime Service, said pro football might eventually rival major league baseball.

"Next year will be a tough one for football," he declared, "and the caliber of play undoubtedly will be lowered."

Table with 3 columns: Team, W, L, Pct. It lists standings for the Big Ten (Final), Pacific Coast (Final), and Southern (Final) conferences.

Youngstown Diamond Host NEW YORK, Mar. 7—The 32nd annual National Amateur Baseball Federation tournament will be staged at Youngstown, Ohio, delegates voted at their meeting here.



91 Night Tilts On NL Docket

NEW YORK, Mar. 7—War workers who can't attend daylight games will be treated to 91 nocturnal contests, release of the 1944 National League schedule today revealed.

Removal of the Eastern dimout restrictions by the Army will allow the New York Giants and Brooklyn Dodgers to play 14 night games each.

Jug Attributes Hot Streak In Golf Whirl to New Clubs

MERION, Pa., Mar. 7—Harold "Jug" McSpaden, who has been scorching fairways with his brilliant shooting during the winter golf tournament tour, attributes his phenomenal success against the best clubbers in the business to a pet theory he adopted early in the campaign.

The 35-year-old leading money winner of the season explained that his game began to show noticeable improvement almost immediately after he shortened his clubs and increased the weight of his clubheads.

"I've been driving as well as Byron Nelson and hitting as many fairways as he has, and he's the world's best," Jug declared shortly after he captured first prize money in the \$4,500 Gulfport Open.

McSpaden opened his triumphant tour by winning the Los Angeles Open. Then he finished second in the San Francisco Open, and later swept the Bob Hope-Bing Crosby 36-hole amateur-pro tourney and the Phoenix Open, finished second in the Texas Open and third in the New Orleans Open.

Ambitious Two-Ton No Friend of Marines

NEWARK, N.J., Mar. 7—"Two-Ton" Tony Galento was disappointed today as the Army accepted him for limited service after he'd been turned down by the Marines.

"I'm a tough guy and I wanted to get in the Marines 'cause that's a tough outfit," the roly-poly fighter said. "The only thing wrong with me is that I'm a little overweight."

Marine doctors, being busy, refused to comment on Tony's latter statement.

Pairings Drawn For Cage Play

Three Vacancies Still to Be Filled in NCAA Tourney

NEW YORK, Mar. 7—Pairings for the seventh annual National Intercollegiate Invitation basketball tourney starting Mar. 16 at Madison Square Garden were announced today by Asa Bushnell, secretary of the NIAA.

Bowling Green (Ohio) will face St. John's of Brooklyn and Utah will meet Kentucky in the upper bracket, with the Oklahoma Aggies against Canisius and DePaul against Muhlenberg rounding out the opening round.

Three vacancies still must be filled in the National Collegiate Athletic Association tourney, Bushnell said. One eastern club must be chosen to compete against Dartmouth, Temple and Ohio State in New York, while Arkansas and Pepperdine await opponents in the western flight.

Two Redmen Chosen For All-Star Five

NEW YORK, Mar. 7—Two players were unanimous choices as basketball writers selected their annual Metropolitan all-star quintet today, the two being Dick McGuire of St. John's and Sid Trubowitz of City College.

Sid Tanenbaum of NYU was one point shy of being a unanimous selection for the forward post opposite Trubowitz.

Fletcher Signs With Bucs

PITTSBURGH, Mar. 7—Pittsburgh Pirate fortunes took a turn for the better when it was learned that Bob Elliott, hard-hitting third baseman, had returned his signed contract.

Ex-Spar Hicks Seeking To Form Women's PGA

CHICAGO, Mar. 7—Miss Betty Hicks, recent recipient of an honorable discharge from the SPARS because of recurring injuries, is trying to organize a women's professional golf association, patterned after the PGA for men, she announced today.

Miss Hicks said the main purposes of a feminine PGA would be to promote golf among the ladies through exhibitions; by having physical education teachers in schools to instruct in golf fundamentals, and by fostering an extensive tournament program open to both amateurs and pros.

Division Adds To Clean Slate In Corner Tiff

Schnappauf, Webber Pace Victors; Gibson Wins For Troopers

The unbeaten — Division ring squad took the measure of another group of battlers last night at the Rainbow Corner as they smashed their way to a 6-2 triumph over a group of paratroopers.

Although the Division boys were aided by a 1-0 margin from the start due to a default in the heavyweight class, they were never in trouble after the first bout, which went to the losers.

Taking the offensive from the opening bell and adding to his points in the first two stanzas, T J John Gibson, 136-pound paratrooper from Tucson, Ariz., gave his team its first victory when he outpointed Division's Pfc Linwood Craighead, 133-pounder from Roanoke, Va.

Southpaw Charlie Schnappauf brought the Division boys back on top again as he eked out a close decision over Sgt. Stan Stockins, of Chicago, 143.

Schnappauf, 142-pound private from Wilkes-Barre, Pa., opened fast, tagging the paratrooper with a smashing left to the stomach soon after the opening bell. Shortly thereafter, he feinted the left to the stomach, but instead let it ride to the head, where he raised a welt just below Stockins' right eye.

Stockins recovered momentarily and stunned the Keystone Kid with a right to the head. Stockins partially solved Schnappauf's defense in the second, but the Chicagoan's straight rights failed to offset Charlie's left hooks.

Webber, ETO King, Wins

ETO featherweight champion Pvt. Don Webber didn't have too much trouble in taking his tiff with Pvt. Paul Pinkston, of Portland, Ore., 127. Spotting Pinkston two pounds, Webber used a looping left to the stomach and a straight left to the head that built up a comfortable point margin which late rushes by Pinkston could not whittle down.

The Division men were assured of at least a tie in a sad light-heavyweight affair that saw Pvt. Chester Marcinkiewicz, of Kulpmont, Pa., outslug Pvt. Robert Cone, of Boston. Except for a few moments near the close of the third round, the fight resembled more of a tug-of-war than a boxing match.

In the second light-heavy go, Pvt. Andy Sfrisi, paratrooper from Philadelphia, hopelessly outclassed Cpl. Dominic Codispoti, of Jenners, Pa. It was the second triumph for the airborne men.

A slugging lightweight battle in the sixth of the team matches rang the bell for the Infantrymen as Pvt. Mike Finnerty, of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., wrapped up a hard-fought decision over Pvt. George Montilo, of Quincy, Mass. Finnerty's success iced the Division victory.

Pvt. James Grantham, of Pulaski, Va., 150, outpointed Pvt. Ralph Olsen, of Peoria, Ill., 128, in the final team match.

Two Features Cancelled

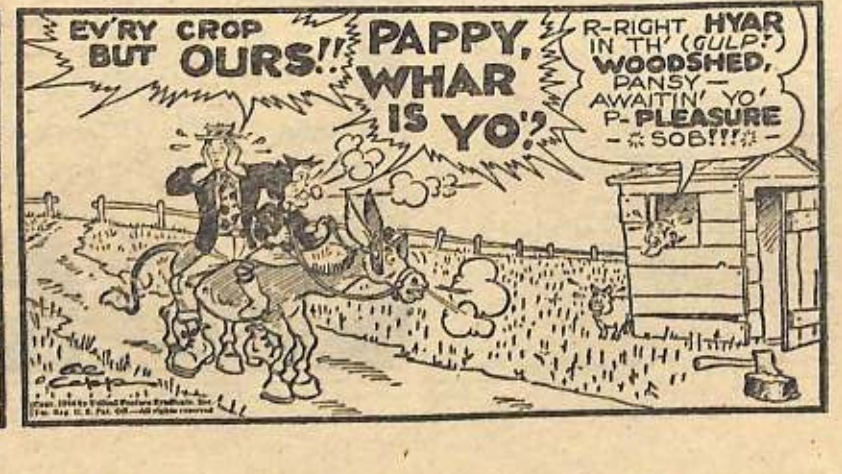
Two of last night's headline bouts had to be cancelled. Bill Kingsland, ETO light-heavy champ, suffered an injured hand and was unable to meet Pvt. Lafayette Drummond, 153-pounder from St. Louis, who instead dropped a close one to Pvt. Benny Droll, 161-pound Peoria, Ill., old-timer from last year. And Pfc Dick Menchaca, 134-pound Golden Glover from Port Arthur, Tex., drew an easy decision over Pfc Horace Vick, Fort Sumner, N. Mex., 135, who substituted for Art Persley.

Droll clowned for three rounds to baffle Drummond, and handed him his third defeat in nine starts. First one, then the other carried the fight, but both were missing throughout.

After shooting hard lefts to the face that had Vick's nose bleeding early in the opening stanza, Menchaca went to work on his foe's head with lefts and rights late in the second and throughout the third. Dick was way ahead at the final bell.

In other bouts: Pvt. Joseph Mancuso, New York, 141, outpointed Pvt. Sammy Johnson, Jacksonville, Fla., 148. Pvt. Lawrence Dobbins, Cleveland, 153, TKOed Pvt. Ralph Simmons, Cumberland, Md., 147, in 1:35 of the third.

By Al Capp





# Convoy Losses Now Less Than 1 in 1,000 Ships

## Average Sinkings Below '18 Level, Alexander Says In Commons Report

Shipping losses to Allied convoys ran less than one in 1,000 in the second half of 1943. First Lord of the Admiralty A. V. Alexander told Commons yesterday in a report giving striking evidence of progress in winning the war against German undersea and air raiders.

"The total sinkings of merchant ships for 1943 were below our most optimistic hopes at the beginning of the year," he said. "Little more than half the working estimate we then thought it prudent to adopt was lost."

"In 1941 one ship was lost out of every 181 that sailed; in 1942 one out of every 233; in 1943 one out of every 344," he disclosed.

Alexander said the "average (loss) for the last eight months is below the level of 1918"—final year of World War I when the U-boat at last had been beaten after it had shoved the Allies close to disaster.

Global expansion of Coastal Command, increase in proportion of very-long-range aircraft and escort carriers and skill and leadership of senior officers of escort groups were factors cited in the turn of fortune.

That the victory may not yet be regarded as final was made clear by Alexander's warning that Germany still had at least as many submarines as she had at the start of 1943.

# Icy-Nerved Pilot Of Lib Bags Zero Without One Shot

NEW DELHI, India, Mar. 7 (Reuter)—A Liberator piloted by 1/Lt. Raymond Cawood, of Portland, Ore., maneuvered a Japanese fighter to its destruction without firing a single shot in a recent attack on a Japanese airfield in Burma.

The Liberator had just dropped its bombs when a Jap Zero was reported 300 feet below.

Cawood dived, but was warned by his navigator not to go below 7,300 feet owing to the mountains.

His altimeter read 8,300 feet, but certain that the fighter would remain below, Cawood held his dive until the last moment.

The needle touched 7,500 feet when the interplane reported, "He's hit the mountain—look at him burning."

Cawood quickly leveled his ship, barely clearing the peaks, and continued home safely.

Thanks to the navigator's knowledge of the terrain and the pilot's cold nerve, the enemy was destroyed without a shot being fired.

# Stratosphere Plane Drops 'Gas' on London—Nazis

ZURICH, Switzerland, Mar. 7 (Reuter)—This entirely unconfirmed report from the German frontier of a "new" Nazi weapon used over London was published today by La Suisse:

"It consists of a stratoplane flying at a height of about nine miles with ability to dive to about four miles and drop several types of bombs, of which one develops inflammable gases whose effect is greater than the RAF's incendiaries."

# Mystery Ship in Baltic Rams Finnish Freighter

STOCKHOLM, Mar. 7 (AP)—The Finnish 2,000-ton freighter Regulus was rammed in the Baltic by an unidentified ship which then disappeared, according to reports reaching here from Germany.

The Regulus, loaded with grain for Finland, was a few hours out of Danzig when rammed. It put back to Danzig and will be laid up for two months.

# 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
- Wednesday, Mar. 8
- 1100—Sign on—News Headlines—Personal Album with Martha Mears.
  - 1115—War Commentary.
  - 1130—Rhapsody in Khaki (repeat).
  - 1200—World News (BBC).
  - 1210—Barracks Bag.
  - 1300—World News (BBC).
  - 1310—The Swingaroos.
  - 1330—Music from America.
  - 1400—Visiting Hour.
  - 1430—Sign off until 1700 hours.
  - 1700—Sign on—BBC Orchestra.
  - 1730—Program Resume and Lone Ranger—Hi-O-Silver Away!
  - 1800—World News (BBC).
  - 1810—GI Supper Club.
  - 1850—Army Talks.
  - 1900—Seven O'Clock Sports.
  - 1905—Music We Love.
  - 1930—McGee and Molly.
  - 2000—News From Home—Nightly roundup of news from the U.S.A.
  - 2010—Fred Waring Program.
  - 2025—Human Interest in Books.
  - 2030—Kay Kyser's Kollage of Musical Knowledge.
  - 2100—World News (BBC).
  - 2120—Bob Hope Show—with Frances Langford, Vera-Valuse and Jerry Colonna.
  - 2140—Novatime.
  - 2150—Army Hour.
  - 2200—RAF Symphony.
  - 2255—Final Edition.
  - 2300—Sign off until 1100 hours Thursday, March 9.

# Well, Just Why in Hell Is Bulgaria in the War?

Bulgaria ain't mad at nobody. That, in effect, was the contention yesterday of Finance Minister Vassov in a speech quoted in a broadcast by Berlin Radio.

Although Bulgaria has declared war on Britain and the U.S., he said, not a single Bulgarian soldier has taken part thus far in any fighting against those countries and "no Bulgarian soldier will fight against them so long as they do not violate the holy soil of Bulgaria."

# Yanks Hold Japs In Burma Trap

## Inflit Big Losses on Foe; New Landing Imperils Enemy in N. Guinea

Heavy losses have been inflicted on a Japanese force in northern Burma fighting desperately to free itself from a trap sprung by the first American troops to carry the war against Japan to the mainland of Asia.

At the same time, a small American force brought nearer the capture of Madang, Jap base in northeast New Guinea, with a daring landing on the coast 20 miles ahead of the main Allied army at Herwarth Point.

In danger of being crushed in Burma's Hukawng Valley between a Chinese army advancing from Maingwan and U.S. jungle fighters pushing down from captured Walaubum, the Japs—remnants of the 18th infantry division which played a decisive role in the conquest of Singapore—attempted to escape across the Nambyu River. They were pushed back with heavy losses.

In Walaubum itself, the U.S. veterans of Guadalcanal and New Guinea were tracking down remnants of the defeated Jap force and destroying Jap vehicles trying to flee via the roads to Tomaingwan and Taipha, Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's headquarters announced yesterday. Announcing the fall of Walaubum, a village ten miles behind the main Jap line which controls the escape route from the Hukawng Valley, the Chinese high command said that many Japs were killed by the U.S. troops and large quantities of booty taken.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill, leader of the Americans, revealed that in the 200-mile march from their base in India to outflank the Japs, casualties of 25—I were inflicted on the enemy.

In the Admiralty Islands, Gen. MacArthur announced yesterday, American cavalrymen have advanced northward from Momote airfield on Los Negros island.

# 'Don't Sell Finland Down The River,' Says Bridges

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7—Urging that Finland should not be "sold down the river," Sen. H. Styles Bridges (R-N.H.) told the Senate today that if she were not allowed to make an "honorable peace it will mean turning our backs upon the principles of the Atlantic charter."

He said published Soviet armistice terms to Finland—"among them the probably impossible ones of internment a German army of more than 100,000 and giving up places vital to Finland's own defense"—invited the Finns "to risk a new war without being informed about the final peace."

# Arabian Oil Pipeline Is Defended by Ickes

HOUSTON, Tex., Mar. 7 (AP)—Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes, U.S. petroleum administrator, in an article in the Oil Weekly asserted the Arabian oil pipeline "cannot be challenged from a point of view of financial soundness" and stated the project would assure the U.S. of oil reserves against future emergency.

"I have no wish to put the government into the oil business," Ickes declared. "Wherever private industry can retain and expand its holdings and business, I have no thought of suggesting that the government offer its aid."

Ickes is president of the Petroleum Reserve Corp. which undertook the Middle East project.

# Terry and the Pirates



# 38-Mission Man to Wed Stage Star



1/Lt. Thomas (Lucky) Steenson, who holds the DFC and has completed 38 bombing operations over enemy territory, poses in London with pretty Patricia Stainer, British musical comedy star whom he plans to marry shortly.

# FDR Lays Law Down to AFL

## Green Is Reported Told CIO Must Not Be Barred From Labor Parley

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7 (Reuter)—President Roosevelt is reported to have informed William Green, AFL president, that the CIO must be represented at the International Labor Office meeting in Philadelphia April 20, a Washington dispatch to the New York Times stated today.

The President is understood to have told Green in the presence of Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins that a way had to be worked out to give adequate representation to the CIO.

Green is said to have informed the President that since the ILO constitution provides that delegates be chosen from a nation's "most representative" labor group the AFL objected to sharing the delegation with the CIO.

# Soviets Bitter at AFL

Some members of the AFL's Executive Council were described as "enemies of the Soviet Union" in an article in the Soviet journal War and the Working Class, according to a CBS broadcast over Moscow radio. The article bitterly attacked the AFL for refusing to participate in the International Trades Union conference to be held in London because Russian delegates were to attend.

# Argentine-Axis Split Continues

Argentina, officially "greatly surprised" at the U.S. State Department's decision not to establish diplomatic relations at present with the new government of Vice President Edelmiro Farrell, professed sincere friendship for the U.S. yesterday and announced that relations with the Axis would remain broken.

"As I have declared on previous occasions," Gen. Diego Mason, acting foreign minister, told a press conference, "we will maintain the rupture of relations with the Axis nations as well as our policy of solidarity toward the peoples of America, adopting all necessary measures for continental security and defense."

Shortly afterward, the Argentine government banned reception in Buenos Aires of an Associated Press radio broadcast from New York and canceled permission for both Associated and United Press to use the teletype line between Buenos Aires and Montevideo, alleging that use of both facilities was against the law. Two Argentine nationalist newspapers had demanded the suspensions on the grounds that the agencies filed "sensationalist" stories on the recent crisis.

Meanwhile, Colombia's cabinet resigned to give Acting President Dario Echandia a free hand to reorganize the government. Echandia named Gen. Espinel, army chief of staff, his new war minister.

# Allies Attacking Cassino Nazis

## Two Small Enemy Thrusts Beaten Off at Anzio; Weather Cuts Activity

Two small German assaults on American positions in the Cisterna sector of the Italian bridgehead have been thrown back, dispatches from the front said yesterday amid reports that sharp clashes were raging in the streets of Cassino.

Artillery played a major role in smashing the Nazi attacks as rain and snow halted all large-scale operations on all fronts.

Declaring that the lull on the main Fifth Army front had been broken, Algiers radio said Allied troops were attacking the Nazis from the one-third of Cassino already occupied.

Fifth Army troops stormed German dugouts in the town, the radio said, in the face of mortar and machine-gun fire.

Meanwhile, it was revealed that in their last heavy assault on the Anzio bridgehead the Germans used Panther tanks for the first time outside of Russia. The Panthers, which weigh from 34 to 38 tons, apparently were used because the 52-ton Tigers were too heavy for the soft bridgehead ground.

# King Victor's Overthrow Urged by Italo-Americans

NEW YORK, Mar. 7—A letter signed by six prominent Italo-Americans, including Arturo Toscanini, noted conductor, criticizing Allied policy of supporting the House of Savoy, was published in today's Herald Tribune. The writers advocated overthrow of the Italian monarchy for a provisional government, recruitment of a volunteer Italian army and organization of a constituent assembly to decide on the new political regime after the war.

Winston Churchill's attitude was especially criticized. "In view of statements made by Mr. Churchill in the House of Commons Feb. 22, we consider it futile to appeal to him," the letter said. "We are therefore appealing to public opinion in America and to all free men of the world."

# House Votes 130 Millions For Ship-Repair Program

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7—Legislation authorizing the Navy to undertake a \$130,000,000 program for expansion of ship-repair facilities was passed by the House without a dissenting vote today and sent to the White House.

# Vallee's Wife Calls It Quits

HOLLYWOOD, Mar. 7—Declaring they still loved each other and would continue to be friends and have dates, Betty Jane Greer, 19-year-old actress, announced yesterday that she had separated from Rudy Vallee, 41-year-old crooner now a Coast Guard band leader.

# NEWS FROM HOME Allied Parleys On Post-War Aviation Bared

## Talks in Washington May Be Prelude to a General United Nations Confab

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7 (AP)—A general United Nations conference on post-war aviation may be the outcome of a series of conversations disclosed to have been going on quietly since December.

A high government official revealed that the State Department had been holding conversations with representatives of Russia, Britain and Canada. China also has been notified of the parley, the official said.

The talks were said to be in a preliminary stage, with further conferences expected. Representatives of France, The Netherlands and Latin-American nations may attend, it was said.

The government official, who spoke of "further explanatory conferences," said that they would look toward formulation of a worksheet for a general United Nations conference on the entire involved problem of post-war aviation, possibly before the end of 1944.

Meanwhile, the magazine American Aviation said the United States had invited Britain, Russia and Canada to "a preliminary conference on post-war international air transportation for the third week of March in Washington, but the slowness with which Britain has acted may mean a postponement."

# Thanks for the Memory

ABERDEEN, S.D., Mar. 7—A Red Cross-USO canteen here specializes in pheasant sandwiches for servicemen. Nearly 30,000 have been served in the last five months. In the last open season on pheasants, civilians in this area went hunting almost en masse and turned in 2,500 birds.

# Wants U.S. Stand Bared

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7—Rep. Ranulf Compton (R-Conn.), co-author of a resolution which would record Congress in favor of continued Jewish immigration to Palestine, said today he would ask the House to inquire why the War and State Departments apparently were opposing the measure.

# 'Empty' Gun—Tragedy

TEANECK, N.J., Mar. 7—A boy 16 accidentally killed his 15-year-old sister while playing with a gun they believed was empty. The boy, Herbert Brody, pulled the trigger twice while holding it at the back of his sister Ruth. Nothing happened. The third time a .32 caliber bullet exploded.

# Edsel Ford Estate for Sale

DETROIT, Mar. 7—The estate of the late Edsel B. Ford on Lake St. Clair, near Detroit, is bearing a for-sale sign. The estate covers more than 65 acres, has 3,000 feet of shoreline, a swimming pool and many buildings. Ford's widow still resides on the property.

# Paulette's House Has Close Call

HOLLYWOOD, Mar. 7—The home of screen actress Paulette Goddard was nearly destroyed by a landslide resulting from a rainstorm. The dirt blocked a near-by highway at Las Tunas Beach.

# 16,000,000 Claim Tax Refunds

WASHINGTON, Mar. 7—About 16,000,000 persons claim Uncle Sam owes them refunds for overpayment of 1943 federal taxes, the Internal Revenue Bureau reports.

# Raids - - - -

(Continued from page 1) caused comparatively little damage, because of strong German fighter opposition.

"The third wave bombed the northern and northeastern parts of the city. "Much of the city is still burning, and is without light, power or gas."

Other Stockholm reports, however, quoted reliable private advices that the centre of Berlin escaped comparatively lightly, as the extent of the damage in the suburbs is unknown but probably considerable.

The American raid dominated all other news in the German capital, even obscuring reports of eastern front fighting.

By Courtesy of News Syndicate

By Milton Caniff

