



# THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations



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Tuesday, April 11, 1944

## Bombers Hit Defense Belt For Invasion

### RAF, U.S. Blast Targets From Paris to Coast in Relentless Hammering

The Allied air forces swept over Belgium and France in almost incessant relays yesterday, from the dark hours of early morning until afternoon, pounding at the airdromes, aircraft repair plants and railway installations on which the Germans depend heavily for defense against invasion.

Following close upon the heels of the great five-pronged assault on Focke-Wulf production by American heavies Sunday, the combined forces of the RAF and USAAF launched these attacks against the enemy:

1—The RAF struck its first major night blow in the Paris area since the Gnome-Rhone raid in May, 1942, pounding the great railway yards at Villeneuve St. Georges, ten miles south of the city's center. Other RAF bombers struck rail targets at Lille, in northern France. Eleven aircraft failed to return.

2—More than 200 Ninth Air Force Marauders, sweeping across the Channel in 11 waves at 20-minute intervals, attacked military objectives on France's northern coast, escorted by P47s. All returned.

3—Flying Fortresses and Liberators of the Eighth Air Force attacked German aircraft repair works and airdromes in Belgium and France yesterday, escorted by P38s, P47s and P51s, while Liberators, with similar escort, struck the Pas de Calais area of France. Three bombers and four fighters failed to return.

4—Mustang fighter-bombers of the Ninth, driving deep into Belgium, swooped low over a rail center to bomb locomotives, freight trains, sheds and tracks. All returned.

The Sunday attacks, extending as far as Marienburg and Gdynia in East Prussia and Posen in Poland, cost the American forces 31 bombers and eight fighters. American escort planes claimed 20 enemy fighters shot down, the bombers accounted for 43, and bombs destroyed or damaged 29 more on the ground, headquarters said.

Between 500 and 750 Forts and Libs were engaged in the thrusts at the targets (Continued on page 4)

## Mahurin Down Raiding France

FORT WAYNE, Ind., Apr. 10 (AP)—Mrs. Walker Mahurin, mother of Maj. Walker C. Mahurin, Eighth Air Force fighter ace, was informed today by the War Department that her son had been missing in action since Mar. 27.

Maj. Mahurin, a squadron operations officer in Col. Hubert Zemke's P47 group, was officially credited by Eighth Fighter Command with 21 German aircraft destroyed in aerial combat. He was promoted from captain to major a week before the War Department listed him as missing.

No details were forthcoming from Eighth Air Force officials last night on the loss of Maj. Mahurin. On Mar. 27 the P47s gave support to heavy bombers in raids on airfields in southwest and central France.

Maj. Mahurin was the ETO's second ranking ace when he went down. A group mate, Capt. Bob Johnson, is credited with 23.

## Mom, Pop, Piqua All Celebrating Gentile's Record

PIQUA, Ohio, Apr. 10—Patsy's Cafe is serving free drinks and food these days as the cafe's proprietors, Mr. and Mrs. Dominic Gentile, join with their customers in celebrating the soaring toll taken of Nazi planes by their son Capt. Don.

When the 23-year-old ETO Mustang pilot boosted his score to 30, most of the town filled the restaurant, recalling laughingly that the USAAF had turned Don down in June, 1941, after his graduation from Central High School, because he didn't have the two years of college training then required.

But over their plates of steaming spaghetti they proudly tell how Piqua's most famous son joined the RCAF, then transferred to the USAAF to blast 23 Germans from the sky and destroy seven on the ground.

## Yap No Important Base, Palau Raiders Discover

ABOARD A U.S. CARRIER, Caroline Islands, Mar. 31 (delayed)—The U.S. naval task force which raided the western Caroline Island of Yap, setting villages on fire and destroying radio installations, found that the Japanese had never used the island as an important base, as had been previously believed.

Airmen who bombed Yap said construction had just begun on the island's only airfield.

## Libs Continue 'Softening Up' Of Truk Isles

### Multiple Targets Blasted In Group; Hollandia, Wewak, Rabaul Hit

American bombers resumed their two-way assault on Japanese atolls in the Truk group over the weekend in blows officially described in Adm. Chester W. Nimitz's communique as "softening up" operations of the central Caroline Islands.

Thirteenth Air Force Liberators, striking Friday night from airfields in the Solomons, dumped high explosives and incendiary bombs on docks, fuel dumps and warehouses at Dublin, starting great fires.

Saturday morning, Liberators of the Seventh Air Force from Marshall Island bases struck at the same targets on Dublin, plus an airfield on Moen. Other Seventh Air Force Libs bombed targets on three atolls directly west of Truk.

Meanwhile, B25 Mitchells, escorted by Marine fighters, blasted Ponape, Jap Caroline base 400 miles southwest of Eniwetok, the newly won American base in the Marshall Islands and the nearest U.S. base to the Carolines.

In the Southwest Pacific, Fifth Air Force heavy bombers battered Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea, with 152 tons of bombs. Numerous buildings were set on fire and two small freighters were sunk in the harbor. Other heavies struck Wewak, New Guinea, while mediums carried out low-level strafing missions on Jap airfields at Rabaul, New Britain.

## Japs Increase Pressure In Burma's Imphal Plain

Japanese forces advancing north toward Imphal, capital of the Indian state of Manipur, along the road from Tiddim, have increased their pressure on Allied positions south of the Imphal Plain, Lord Louis Mountbatten's headquarters announced yesterday.

The communique added that Jap troops to the north which had penetrated Allied defenses around Kohima, village 40 miles from the Burma frontier, had been eliminated.

Meanwhile, British airborne troops, landed behind the Jap lines in north Burma by Col. Philip Cochran's Air Commando unit, were reported cutting the old Burma Road, blowing up bridges and attacking the Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad.

## USAAF, RAF Dropping Dutch Papers in Holland

USAAF and RAF planes have been dropping Dutch-language magazines over Holland for some time, a Netherlands press agency report said yesterday. "It said one was a 48-page monthly called Whirlwind, edited by Dutch, U.S. and British newsmen, and the other a four-page weekly called Flying Dutchman, with a circulation of more than a million."

## Navigator, Jaw Smashed, Gets B17 Back With Scribbled Notes

A FORTRESS BASE, Apr. 10—"Mitch, for God's sake find some field and land on it—and shoot all the red flares you've got."

Those were the final written instructions to a B17 pilot by a seriously wounded navigator who, with blood streaming down his face and unable to talk because of a broken jaw, had stuck to his post and charted a crippled bomber home from Germany by means of feebly scribbled notes.

The navigator, whose name has not been released, was struck full in the face by a fragment when the ship was hit by flak over a Nazi fighter nest Saturday. The crew agreed that the navigator's courage and ability were solely responsible for bringing them back.

# Odessa Captured After 2½ Years In Nazi Hands; Berlin Declares Garrison Had Been Evacuated

### Chow Scenes—11,000 Miles Apart



Tank crewmen (top) of a Fifth Army armored outfit take a few minutes off for lunch beside their vehicle somewhere in western Italy. In bottom photo, Marines, grimy and weary after killing Japs on Eniwetok Atoll, Marshall Islands, have coffee and sandwiches aboard a transport ship anchored off shore.

## Germans Yield Half Of Tarnopol; Narva Cut Off in North

Odessa, greatest port on the Black Sea, fell to the Red Army yesterday after two and a half years in Nazi hands.

Capture of the city, virtually doomed since the Russians seized Nikolaev two weeks ago, was announced last night by Marshal Stalin a few hours after the Germans, in an obvious effort to pretend they had some choice in the matter, announced that the Nazi garrison had been evacuated Sunday night after destruction of all its military installations.

Odessa's fall, foreshadowing complete German withdrawal from southern Russia, probably to a new defense line in Rumania in the gap between the Carpathian mountains and the mouth of the Danube, won the greatest salute the Russians have yet given any victory—24 salvoes from 324 guns in Moscow, plus 12 salvoes from 120 guns of the Black Sea fleet.

Quit Half of Tarnopol  
Almost at the same time, the Germans conceded they had been forced to evacuate the eastern half of Tarnopol, the stubbornly-held bastion 65 miles southeast of their Polish base at Lwow, and Moscow radio announced that the Red Army had succeeded in isolating the Nazis' Baltic front garrison at Narva, at the northern end of Lake Peipus.

As the Red Army ground onward, Moscow dispatches reported Marshal Gregory Zhukov's First Ukrainian Army group had completed annihilation of the remnants of 15 Nazi divisions encircled in the Skala area southwest of Tarnopol. There was no official tabulation on German losses or number of prisoners.

A Moscow radio broadcast, quoting Pravda, meanwhile reported the Russians had crossed the border into Czechoslovakia. Pravda, attributing its information to the head of the Czechoslovak mission in Moscow, gave no details, but the entry appeared likely to have been made in the vicinity of the Tartar Pass, 25 miles southwest of captured Kolomea.

Stalin's order of the day announcing the fall of Odessa, fifth largest city of the USSR and a Ukraine grain center with a pre-war population of close to half a million, said it fell to Gen. Rodion Malinovsky's Third Ukrainian Army group as the result "of a skillful outflanking maneuver by mobile infantry and cavalry, in co-operation with a frontal attack."

Easy Capture a Surprise  
He described the city not only as an "important economic and political center of the country and a first-class port" but also "a powerful German defense base which covered the ways to the central region of Rumania."

Its surrender after only one Jav's fighting in the city proper surprised military observers, who took it as an unlooked-for sign of weakness that the Nazi commander ordered a hurried withdrawal.

## British Commando Raid on Beach in France Is Revealed

British commando troops landed on a German-guarded beach across the Channel near Honfleur, France, at the mouth of the Seine River, wiped out a gun crew, captured a six-barrel mortar and returned without loss, according to a Casablanca periodical called Paris.

Other German forces, not far away behind heavy barricades around the village, never realized what was going on.

Landing on a dark, misty night, the commandos cut their way through barbed wire on the beach, the periodical said, and killed a German sentry before he could give the alarm. Then they overwhelmed the mortar position, wiped out the crew and moved the mortar into a waiting boat.

## Italian Socialists Asking Lend-Lease for Nation

Because some Italians now have been fighting alongside the United Nations for five months, the Italian Socialist Party boldly proposed yesterday that the Allies cease considering Italy a beaten nation and even go so far as to extend Lend-Lease to her—"as a first step toward an alliance."

## M'Arthur Vote Eyed in Illinois

### He's Cinch to Win, but Size Of Primary Support May Indicate His Strength

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., Apr. 10—Gen. Douglas MacArthur, endorsed by Col. Robert R. McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune, will have his strength with Republican voters tested tomorrow in Illinois' Presidential primary.

Political leaders conceded in advance that MacArthur, as the only effective candidate entered, would win the party's endorsement, but what they watched was the size of his vote, as a measure of his appeal at the national convention in June. Meanwhile in Nebraska supporters of Lt. Cmdr. Harold E. Stassen, former Minnesota governor, look for tomorrow's primary to tell whether Willkie's followers will swing over into their camp.

## Army to Set Up NCO Schools

### More Noncom Quality, Prestige Sought; More Privileges Promised

WASHINGTON, Apr. 10—The War Department, in a move to "improve the quality and prestige of non-commissioned officers who exercise command responsibility," has ordered NCO schools established and "additional privileges and liberties" extended to men in those grades, it was disclosed today.

The department released excerpts from War Department Circular 70, 1944, ordering commanders of all echelons to "give their personal attention" to raising the standards for NCOs "to assure that our non-commissioned officers are equal to the tasks that lie ahead of them."

"Success in combat depends upon the character and qualifications of the non-commissioned officers commanding small units," said the circular, signed by Gen. George C. Marshall, chief of staff. "They must be outstanding leaders with a high sense of duty and a strong will. They must be resourceful and willing to assume responsibility."

The circular directed:  
1—That machinery be established to provide for careful selection of NCO material and "a system of promotions that will be recognized as sound and just by all concerned."  
2—That NCO schools be established.  
3—That NCOs who fail to attain or maintain acceptable standards be removed.  
4—That "the prestige of the noncommissioned officer grades be enhanced by the extension of additional privileges and liberties to the holders of those ranks."

## Four Cars Are Reported Caught by an Avalanche

GEORGETOWN, Colo., Apr. 10 (AP)—Three cars are reported to have been buried in an avalanche of snow on the west side of 11,000-foot Berthoud Pass. A fourth car, said to have been carrying a woman and several children, was swept off the main road and down the mountainside.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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Elastic Defense

"Successful elastic defense." That phrase has been employed daily in German newspapers and in German broadcasts since the fall of Stalingrad.

As the Smoke Clears

As the smoke of battle and propaganda clears away it becomes possible to analyze the importance of the recent British attack on the Tirpitz.

A New Viewpoint

Princeton University undergraduates in 1936 organized the "Veterans of Future Wars" in protest against what they called the "bonus raid."

Hash Marks

Quipped one dripping, bedraggled corporal after a prolonged period of immersion in the local "California dew," "Amphibious weather we're having, isn't it?"



Fun on the Home Front. You can cry in your beer for a certain male citizen of Milwaukee. Seeking an extension of time to fill out his income tax blank, he explained, "I sent my wife with 150 dollars to pay our taxes—but I haven't seen her since."

Famous Last Words in the ETO. "Let's keep walking around the block until the pubs open."

Neatest remark of the week. A sleepy-eyed GI was hastening on his way to his job in a London office.

Department of Utter Confusion. (As reported by the Binghamton, NY press). The war department casualty list said, "wounded in action in Italy."

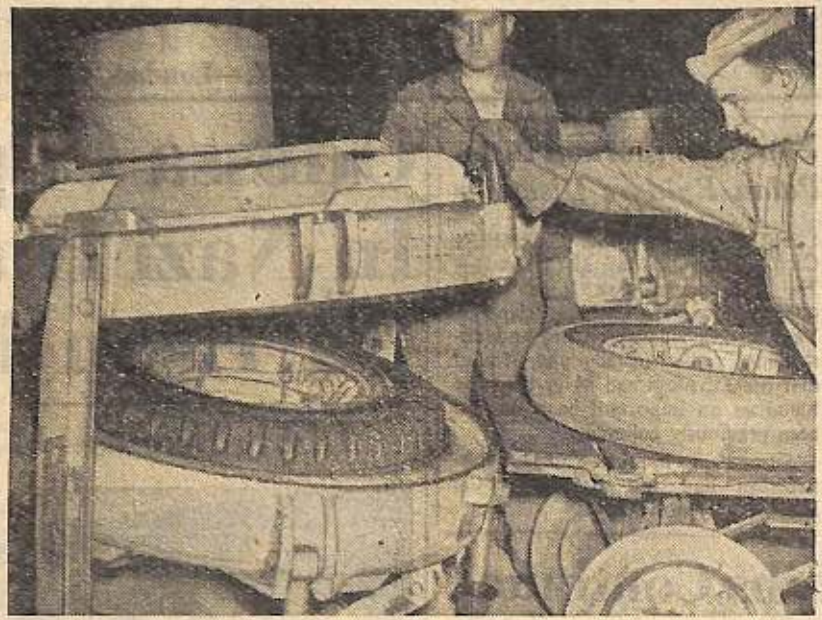
Candid comment. The following item was taken from a paper sent by a large firm to its former employees now in the services.

According to the boys at an Eighth AF bomber station the fastest man in the ETO is a certain technical sergeant, better known to his Nissen-hut mates as "Twinkle Toes, the Bare-footed Air Raid Warden."

ETO Conversation-piece. "What happened between you and the first sergeant?" a Cpl. asked his Pfc pal.



Big Depot Virtual Replica Of a Giant Plant in U.S.



T/5 Morty J. Regensburg, of New York, prepares to remove a newly treaded tire from a tire mold before inserting another for retreading.

By Bud Kane

A GENERAL SUPPLY DEPOT, Apr. 10—Picture Henry Ford's River Rouge assembly plant in Dearborn, Mich., a vast welter of buildings housing conveyor systems and assembly lines, men pouring in and out, activity always at a peak.

Here trucks, tanks, jeeps, motorcycles, almost every type of combat vehicle imaginable flow in, some under their own power and others by freight car.

Spread over many acres, the warehouses and other buildings that comprise this depot house thousands of different automotive parts.

A Big Job Well Done

Every effort is made at this depot to condense and make easier the job of repair and supply. Under the command of Col. Clarence W. Richmond, of Silver Springs, Md., whose motto is "Keep 'em rolling, keep 'em supplied," key men have been selected for all departments.

Some idea of the vastness of the depot can be gained from the knowledge that more than 140,000 pounds of ordnance publications were required for the initial stock of the publications section.

Work on motors, bodies and fenders, batteries and chassis and electrical repairs constitute a good part of the work done here, but only a part.

One team operates several such molds. No complete information may be divulged on the production figures, but some idea of the extent of the work may be gained from the fact that one team, composed of T/3 Joseph L. Dollar, of La Grange, Ga., T/5 Morty Regensburg, of Brooklyn, and T/5 James U. Hale, of Little Rock, Ark., turned out 65 tires in an eight-hour shift.

Modern methods of storage have been instituted at this depot to facilitate the smooth flow of supplies. Units within a reasonable radius of the depot come direct for their supplies. All other shipments are made by rail, air and water.

This Is The Army

PFC Lois McGowan, if you've a heart, get your friends to address your mail correctly.

A Pfc who was a librarian in civilian life, Charles E. Barrett Jr., of Muskegon, Mich., has converted an old stable in a station hospital's grounds into what is claimed as the largest service library in the ETO.

The popularity of the library, according to Barrett, comes from the strictly enforced rule of silence to which attention is drawn by a number of notices.

MAIL Mystery corner: S/Sgt. Wayne Lee White, a liaison pilot from Johnson City, Tenn., wants to know how the APO found him with a V-Mail which carried the sender's name (different from his own) in the address box, and no other clue except the inscription, "Dear Wayne Lee."

AS an improvement to the models-on-a-clothes-line method of teaching aircraft identification, T/Sgt. James E. Beene, of Chattanooga, Tenn., has devised a magic-lantern affair, now used in his signal construction battalion.

Notes from the Air Force: HERE'S one for APO sleuths to figure out. 1/Sgt. John F. Pesut, topkick at an Eighth AF Service Command general depot, received at 1730 hours on Apr. 1 a letter and an Easter Card from his wife in Denver, bearing a postmark dated "Apr. 1, 10:30 AM, 1944"—only seven hours earlier.

Notes from the Air Force

At least three West Point classmates, now commanding heavy bomb groups in the ETO, can get together and talk about the "good ol' days at the Point."

ADD-good-luck-charms: Lucky pieces carried by pilots at an Eighth AF Fighter training station include his wife's lace wedding handkerchief and a lock of her hair, among other items.

Mechanics who repair damaged bombers at an Eighth Strategic Air Depot combined GI ingenuity with the wheels and chassis of a truck to solve an acute problem of transportation during lunch hour.

ARMY POETS: Army Clerks: Off we go into the file case yonder, keep your forms level and true.

T/SGT. Leslie Stellmon, of Camas, Mont., is usually braced off with early-morning reviews, but he was right on time for one recently staged at his Ninth AF Troop Carrier Command station.



News From Home

Australia to Cut Army 90,000; U.S. Senators Are 'Shocked'

Decision to Ease Critical Manpower Shortage on Farms Is Assailed

WASHINGTON, Apr. 10—Australia's decision to cut her army by 90,000 men in the next year in an effort to remedy an "alarming" manpower shortage on the Commonwealth's farms was variously described by members of the Senate Military Affairs Committee today as "startling," "shocking" and "almost unbelievable."

Army Minister Francis M. Forde announced the reduction plan in Canberra Sunday. Australian dispatches said it was inevitable in view of the Commonwealth's commitments under Lend-Lease to supply a large part of the food requirements for U.S., Dutch and Australian forces in the Pacific.

Sen. Edwin C. Johnson (D-Colo.) was quick to describe Forde's announcement as "a startling statement in view of the all-out effort we are making to send our Army all over the world to save Australia and other countries from the common enemy."

Sen. H. Styles Bridges (R-N.H.) described it as "pretty surprising and shocking."

"It seems almost unbelievable," said Sen. George A. Wilson (R-Ia.), "that something like this can happen. I am sufficiently interested that I am going to make inquiries."

Melbourne dispatches said lack of labor had produced an "alarming" situation on thousands of Australian farms and that the position of primary industries in the last two years had been "far from satisfactory." In the last year, these dispatches said, it became apparent that Australia overmobilized in early 1942, when the Commonwealth faced invasion.

Unsung Hero

LEWISTON, Me., Apr. 10—Sen. Ralph Brewster said he had received a letter from a taxpayer here which declared that the nation's merchant fleet bore "the names of every type of hero and prominent citizen imaginable, except the 'little guy who pays the bills.'"

A Plot to Rope Him In

TRENTON, N.J., Apr. 9—A local woman's will included a \$2 bequest to her husband, whose whereabouts are unknown. The will stipulated that "he use one dollar to purchase a rope and hang himself." No provision was made as to the other buck.

Engineer Dies in Train Wreck

LONDON, Ohio, Apr. 10 (AP)—The New York Central's New York Special bound for New York from Cincinnati was derailed here Friday, killing the train's engineer and seriously injuring a fireman and a passenger.

Farm-Market Road Bill

WASHINGTON, Apr. 10—Sen. Tom Stewart (D., Tenn.) announced he would ask Congress to pass his bill to construct a vast farm-to-market highway system costing \$1,000,250,000.

Girl Slugged, Robbed

PITTSFIELD, Mass., Apr. 10—Betty Westover, an 18-year-old gas-station attendant, was robbed of 1,500 gasoline

Babe in Arms May Bar Mamas From a Drink

BOSTON, Apr. 10—Proprietors of bars have been asked by the city's licensing board to cease serving liquor to women with babies in their arms and to discourage the practice of parking carriages outside saloons.

"Some of the Boston drinking places look like baby clinics in the afternoon," commented Mary E. Driscoll, chairman of the board.

AFN Radio Program

- On Your Dial
1375 kc. 1402 kc. 1417 kc. 1420 kc. 1447 kc.
218.1m. 213.9m. 212.6m. 211.3m. 207.3m.
Tuesday, Apr. 11
1100—Spotlight on Les Brown.
1115—Personal Album with Nora Martin.
1130—Great Music.
1150—French Lesson.
1200—Noon Edition.
1205—Barracks Bug.
1300—World News (BBC).
1310—Melody Roundup.
1330—Chamber Music Society of Lower Basin Street.
1400—News Headlines—Lettie Bridgewater Quintet.
1430—Visiting Hour—Aldrich Family.
1500—Music While You Work.
1530—Off the Record.
1630—London Column.
1645—Miss Parade.
1700—Gay Nineties Revue and Program Resume.
1730—Southern Serenade.
1755—Quiet Moment.
1800—World News (BBC).
1810—GI Snapper Club.
1900—Seven O'Clock Sports.
1905—Carnival of Music with Alec Templeton and Morton Gould's Orchestra.
1930—Great Giddensleeve.
2000—News from Home—Nightly roundup of news from the U.S.A.
2010—Fred Waring Program.
2025—Calling APOs.
2030—Comedy Caravan with Jimmy Durante and Gary Moore.
2100—World News (BBC).
2115—Hit Parade.
2145—USO in the ETO—"Flying High" with Al Bernie, Russell Sisters, Brown and Lavell.
2200—Duffy's Tavern.
2225—One Night Stand with Paul Martin.
2255—Final Edition.
2300—Sign off until 1100 hours Wednesday, Apr. 12.

Name Movie Stars In Butane Gas Plot To Beat Rationing

HOLLYWOOD, Apr. 10—The Justice Department has named a dozen top-flight movie stars as purchasers of butane gas equipment at \$1,000 each in order to sidestep gasoline rationing.

A bench warrant has been issued for the arrest of Lawrence W. Zonker, who allegedly sold the equipment—consisting of carburetors and high-pressure tanks to hold the butane gas, used by the Army and Navy—without WPB priorities.

Butane gas is sold at ten cents a gallon and requires no ration coupons. Some of the alleged purchasers denied they ever installed the equipment in their cars, while others said they had never heard of Zonker.

coupons. An unidentified motorist slugged her on the head with a wrench, she told police.

Freeze the Ice Man Out

LEXINGTON, Ky., Apr. 10—An irate husband who accused his wife of spending too much time with the ice man was told by Judge Chester D. Adams to forget about a divorce and buy an electric refrigerator.

\$200,000 Co-Op Fire

COBLESKILL, N.Y., Apr. 10—Fire destroyed the Orange League Federation Co-Operative Mill and Feed Store which serviced 1,200 farmers. Manager Ferris Middlemast said that the loss was about \$200,000.

Copper Draft

NEW YORK, Apr. 10—Police Commissioner Lewis H. Valentine has sworn in 125 "temporary" patrolmen, all over 38, to serve for the duration plus six months. The new policemen will not have civil-service status.

To the Victim, No Difference

WASHINGTON, Apr. 10—WPB has amended a conservation order and specifies that ropes made of agave fiber rather than the conventional manila hemp will be "used to carry out the death sentence of a court."

A 'Veteran' at 13

CAMP GRANT, Ill., Apr. 10—Pvt. William H. Green has been discharged from the Army at the age of 13. He was inducted Mar. 14 by claiming he was 18, but his true age was disclosed by his mother.

Family Trait

HOLLYWOOD, Apr. 10—Actress Veronica Lake was tagged for driving 53 mph in a 25-mile zone. A few minutes later Miss Lake's new husband director John W. Farrow also was ticketed for speeding.

Bruin Player Rejected

BOSTON, Apr. 10—Jack Crawford, 27-year-old Boston Bruin hockey player, has been rejected for military service here, probably because of a head injury suffered in a recent hockey game, although no reason was given.

Disputed Window Design At Base Will Be Altered

WAKEFIELD, Mass., Apr. 10—A stained-glass window to be installed at the Norfolk (Va.) Naval Operations Base which portrays the Virgin Mary with a destroyer escort in her arms will be altered at the request of the base's chaplain, the designer of the window, Wilbur H. Burnham, said here.

Burnham said that the figure of the Christ Child would replace the destroyer escort. He declared that the window had caused considerable controversy.

Stettinius and Churchill Confer; Winant Is Present

Undersecretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr. conferred with Prime Minister Churchill and U.S. Ambassador John G. Winant in London yesterday. He was expected to see Foreign Minister Anthony Eden shortly.

Terry and the Pirates



Smoke Screen for Invasion Spearheads



Smoke pots placed in the water by the Cuerni at warfare service throw up a protecting screen for amphibious trucks transporting war supplies from coasters to the beachhead during invasion exercises in England.

4 More EM Pilots Are Found, But Rank Has Grounded Them

By James Chaney

Stars and Stripes Unit Correspondent
NINTH TROOP CARRIER COMMAND HQ, Apr. 10—Revelation of the existence of four veteran sergeant pilots with aggregate flying time of more than 8,200 hours in this command came in the wake of the disclosure in Saturday's edition of The Stars and Stripes that five enlisted men were flying Mustangs in the ETO.

On flight-control work now, the Troop Carrier Command men have been grounded because they can't be listed on TOs as pilots. In the past, units to which they had been assigned sent them back to headquarters because of the confusion their rank caused.

The men are M/Sgt. Arthur M. Gray, of Reading, Mass.; T/Sgt. Bob Lay, of Oklahoma City; S/Sgt. Frank Rodriguez, of Los Angeles, and S/Sgt. Harold E. Radley, of Cape Vincent, N.Y.

Lay, who holds clusters to both the DFC and Air Medal, flew an Air Transport Command route in Egypt, India and China. On his India run alone he chalked up 1,000 hours in C46s and 47s.

Gray's Army classification of 770—an EM pilot—is almost archaic. It entitles him to fly almost any type of plane. In pursuit ships alone he has flown at least 1,000 hours for Air Transport Command in America and Africa. Both he and Lay wear combat pilot's wings and would like to fly pursuit ships in combat.

Rodriguez's classification is 773—a shade lower than Gray's. He, too, ferried ships for ATC in America. As a civilian he owned a flying school with 11 planes. He has a total of 3,200 hours' flying time as a civilian and in the Army.

Radley has ferried aircraft in the South Pacific and in the U.S. He has been a pilot since 1929. As a commercial pilot he flew his own passenger plane from Cape Vincent to New York.

Nazis Dam Up The Garigliano

Shut Flood Gates on Liri In Mystery Move; Enemy Massing in the Area

Considerable German movement yesterday of infantry, tanks and artillery had roads teeming with motor convoys in the long-quiet Garigliano Valley area and surrounding mountains above Minturno in Italy, while the Garigliano River level suddenly dropped five feet as the enemy shut flood gates on its Liri tributary farther inland—whether to dry up the valley in preparation for an attack or to store water in readiness to flood a possible Allied drive was uncertain.

Five tanks in the concentration were believed knocked out by Allied guns before the remainder escaped behind a smoke screen.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed officially that American troops were in the Garigliano line, earlier held by British units of the Fifth Army.

Cassino was pounded heavily by German artillery and mortars Easter Eve, and mortar and shell fire increased sharply in the last 24 hours all along the Upper Rapido valley.

Five enemy thrusts at the Anzio beachhead flanks were repulsed yesterday.

The MAAF had one of its quietest days in weeks yesterday, flying 400 sorties without loss against battle-front installations and communications north of Rome.

Raids - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

in Belgium and France yesterday. Few enemy fighters came up to give battle, but those which did, attacking a few formations, were described as aggressive. The escorts destroyed seven fighters in the air and others on the ground; the bombers' toll was not tabulated late last night.

Among the heavies' targets were the repair works at Evere and Vilvorde and the airfield at Melbroek, near Brussels; the aircraft factory at Bourges, in France, and the airfield at Orleans, France.

The destruction of seven enemy fighters by the U.S. escort, plus the fighter opposition which the RAF night bombers encountered, indicated that the Luftwaffe had sent defensive forces back to France, where Allied bombers have met little opposition for weeks.

Col. Donald J. Blakeslee's Mustang group became the high-scoring fighter outfit in the ETO yesterday when its pilots destroyed 28 aircraft on a French air-drome, bringing its total to 405, compared with the previous high score of 384 by Col. Hubert Zemke's group. The group's score was run up largely since Jan. 22, when it stood at less than 100.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Strategic Air Forces announced yesterday that reconnaissance photos taken in Sunday's heavy raids on Focke-Wulf plants showed great destruction.

At Marienburg, in East Prussia, all principal buildings of the assembly plant were heavily hit and set ablaze. The plant was virtually devastated by U.S. bombers six months ago yesterday to the day, but had been reconstructed and was resuming production.

2 Enemy Ships Scuttled in Raid

COLOMBO, Ceylon, Apr. 10—Two large enemy blockade runners, presumably carrying "very valuable cargoes consisting of oil or raw materials," were scuttled recently when attacked in the Indian Ocean by British warships and naval planes and RAF shore-based aircraft, an Eastern Fleet communique revealed today.

Survivors were rescued from one ship, but "the suspected presence of U-boats in the area" prevented rescues from the other. The British attacking force suffered no damage or casualties, the report said.

Disastrous Nashville Fire

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Apr. 10—Only two buildings in the downtown business area bounded by Broadway, Third Ave., Second Ave., and Demobrun St., escaped damage in a fire which started in the Beesley Furniture Co. store.

President Off On a Vacation

WASHINGTON, Apr. 10—President Roosevelt has left Washington for a vacation at an unannounced destination in the South, the White House announced today. It said he would be away two weeks unless an unexpected emergency arose. He planned to spend most of the holiday relaxing outdoors in the sun.

Mr. Roosevelt was accompanied by Adm. William D. Leahy, his personal chief of staff; Vice Adm. Ross T. McIntire, his personal physician, and Maj. Gen. Edwin M. Watson, his military aide.

2 Sentenced to Die for Rape

BESSEMER, Ala., Apr. 10—A circuit court jury condemned two Washington (D.C.) youths to the electric chair for raping a Birmingham woman. Daniel Reedy, 19, and Joe Hockenberry, 21, admitted committing a series of crimes after escaping from a mental hospital.

Navigator, Jaw Smashed, Gets B17 Back With Scribbled Notes

injured and merely said: "Turn left ten degrees." Others followed.

"Turn left and follow planes . . . Stay away from towns (to avoid two heavy flak belts) . . . Watch for airfields and towns. Don't go over any . . . Better turn six degrees right . . . Throw every—everything overboard. Guns, ammunition, flak suits, everything . . . Must conserve gasoline."

The next two notes were scrawled in large, loose letters as if the navigator were on the verge of losing consciousness. "See that other crippled Fortress? Go ahead and follow him . . . See if he gets shot at."

His next note was to Sgt. Shaffer. "Does Mitch think we'll make it?" Then to Mitchell he wrote: "Follow radio compass. Now over coast."

The navigator was asked if the ball turret should be dropped, but he answered that it wasn't necessary because it didn't weigh enough to worry about.

To the pilot again he scribbled, "How about gasoline?" and before he received an answer he looked down and wrote, "Never mind. England."

"Jaw must be pretty well smashed," was his next note. And a few minutes later he scratched out, "Please tell doctor to give me hypo immediately. Pain terrible. Blood running down throat."

By that time the plane was over its home base, but other planes were landing and Mitchell had to circle the field three times.

It was then that the navigator hurriedly wrote, "Mitch, for God's sake find some field and land on it now." The last word was in big letters.

By Courtesy of News Syndicate

By Milton Caniff

