



THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations



Vol. 4 No. 44

New York, N.Y.—London, England

Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1943

Marauders Follow Up Big RAF Blow

Two Balkan Bases Hit As 5th Edges On U.S. Infantrymen Advance 2 1/2 Miles in Push Over Mountains

ALLIED HQ, North Africa (AP)—American troops attacking in the snow advanced two and a half miles on the Fifth Army front to capture Mount Spinuccio, while U.S. air forces shot down another 28 planes in raids on Sofia railway yards and the Eleusis airfield, near Athens.

Luftwaffe losses the last two days were 71, plus three planes shot down by U.S. flak batteries during attacks on the newly captured town of San Pietro. American torpedo-boats teamed with British craft in a victorious night action with two Nazi destroyers off the island of Elba.

Nazis Throw in Many Fighters Apparently trying hard to keep their satellites from being bombed out of the war, the Germans threw large numbers of fighters into the air in a futile attempt to halt the Balkan attack, but 15th Air Force Libs and Forts, escorted by P38s, fought their way through fighter screens to the key Bulgarian railway yards at Sofia and the Eleusis airfield outside Athens.

On the ground, U.S. infantry, which had been ceaselessly attacking for several days, swarmed up Monte Spinuccio, which is two and a half miles west of recently captured Lagone. All the mountains in this area are covered by snow, and many tower above 3,000 feet. On the remainder of the Fifth Army front there was only patrol activity.

Eighth Rips New Gaps in Line On the Eighth Army front, Canadian, New Zealand and Indian troops yesterday tore gaps into the German road defenses between Ortona and Orsogna. A small advance was made in the coastal sector.

Heavy losses were inflicted on 90th Panzer division, and in two weeks fighting two regiments of this division lost 2,400 men.

Montgomery's men pushed up about a mile north of the road and advanced towards Collo, four miles northwest. In the Sofia raid, Liberators covered the main railway yards with bomb bursts. Some sticks of bombs also fell among the locomotive repair shops and warehouses.

Nazi Planes Shot Down in U.K. Yield Parts for USAAF

Instruments, tires and oil from German planes shot down over Britain are being used to repair damaged Fortresses, Liberators, Marauders, Thunderbolts and Lightnings.

The salvage work is being done by the Maintenance and Repair Depot of the Eighth Air Force Service Command, which already has put to use parts stripped from Messerschmitts, Dorniers, Junkers and Focke-Wulfs.

Gas and oil are drained from fallen enemy aircraft and sent to refineries in Britain. The RAF long have been salvaging parts from enemy planes.

Nobody has ever said what Germany is doing with American and British planes shot down over enemy territory. Chances are she's doing the same thing.

No Heat, No Treat

ITHACA, N.Y., Dec. 21—A breakdown of the Cornell University infirmary's heating plant caused the removal of 100 student-patients to dormitories and an Ithaca hospital.

FDR Wants Every GI Given a Chance to Vote

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—President Roosevelt told his press conference today that his policy on the soldier vote was that every serviceman should be given the opportunity to cast a ballot, unless combat circumstances prevented it. The President said that he had not yet read the pending soldier-vote bill, but, asked whether he thought "Federal machinery was needed to implement" his policy, replied in the affirmative.

'Mercy Bombs' Dropped On Yanks



USAAF ground crewmen load food and medical supplies into auxiliary gas tanks to be loaded on A36 Invader dive-bombers and dropped on U.S. troops fighting at isolated spots in the snow-covered slopes of central Italy.

Japanese May Be Evacuating So. Bougainville, Knox Says

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—Secretary of Navy Frank Knox told a press conference today that the Japanese probably are evacuating the southern part of Bougainville and moving to strongly-fortified bases near Buka, just off the northern tip of the Solomon island.

He said the Japs were moving steadily northward away from the Buin-Faisi area, where hitherto they have maintained elaborate air establishments. U.S. air forces have been systematically destroying these establishments. Many men are marching northward, others are leaving in barges.

Emphasizing American air superiority in the Pacific, Knox said during the week of Dec. 13-20, Army, Navy and Marine planes carried out 71 missions and met negligible opposition. On some missions not a single enemy plane was found in the air.

In nine missions against the Marshall Islands, 19 Japanese planes were definitely shot down and seven probably destroyed, as against United States losses of three.

Allied Bombers Blast Bangkok Dock, Arsenal Targets Hit By India-Based Planes; Burma Raids Continue

NEW DELHI, Dec. 21—American and British heavy bombers of Maj. Gen. George E. Stratemyer's newly-established Eastern Air Command made their first long-range stab into Jap-held Thailand over the weekend to pound Bangkok—hub of the Japs' sea and land supply lines for their bases in the China Sea area.

"Strong formations" which flew 3,000 miles round-trip from India blasted the dock and arsenal area effectively with little opposition, today's Southeast Asia communique said. In southern Burma, widespread attacks were carried out by the USAAF by day and the RAF by night. Mediums, escorted by bomb-carrying long-range fighters, started fires in ammunition and supply dumps at five places.

In northern Burma, U.S. fighter-bombers further intensified air activity against Jap installations and supply dumps in the jungle. Only one Allied plane was lost in all operations.

Poles May Form Own Air Force

Poland's constantly growing air squadrons, now the third largest air force based in Britain, soon after the first of the year may become an independent organization separate from the RAF, with which it has been operating for four years, it was reported reliably in London yesterday.

Details of the reorganization were not disclosed, but it was suggested that the rebirth of Poland's air arm would be carried out under command of Air Vice Marshal Mateusz Izycki, at present inspector-general of the Polish squadrons. With 14 well-equipped squadrons, probably numbering more than 12,000 men, the Poles now are definitely stronger than when the Luftwaffe invaded their country in 1939. Their force is now larger than the combined fleets of the Fighting French, Belgians, Czechs, Dutch and Norwegians. One squadron flies American Mustang P51s.

Four Die as Fire Sweeps Adams Hotel in Chicago

CHICAGO, Dec. 21—Fire of undetermined origin swept the Adams Hotel on Chicago's West Side, burning to death four unidentified men and injuring Fireman Thomas McKnight and Policeman Reginald Smith. Firemen reported the blaze started on the second floor of the four-story hotel, three stories of which were destroyed. Damage was estimated at \$10,000.

B26s Over France; May Have Blasted at Secret Rocket Guns

\$1,250 Bonus, Maybe; Peace, It's Wonderful!

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—Sens. Ernest W. McFarland (D.—Ariz.) and Burnet R. Maybank (D.—S.C.), authors of a bill which would give war veterans a 12-billion-dollar bonus, said that they would start a drive for passage of the bill when the Senate reconvenes Jan. 10 after its Christmas holiday.

This bill would pay servicemen \$2 for every day spent in the service in the United States and \$2.50 for each day of foreign service, and bonuses would not exceed \$1,000 and \$1,250, respectively.

Under this bill, payment in most cases would be in the form of ten-year non-transferable and non-saleable bonds. These payments would be in addition to mustering-out pay. The measure has been endorsed by the American Legion.

Frankfort Pasted With 2,200 Tons In Night Raid

Marauder bomber fleets pounded military targets in northern France—possibly Hitler's secret rocket guns—in daylight yesterday to follow up the RAF's 2,200-ton night raid on Germany's chemical industry at Frankfort.

It was the second consecutive day of Marauder attacks on installations in northern France. Neutral sources have been speculating for more than a month whether the German secret weapon might be guns capable of lobbing a type of rocket-propelled bomb onto England, even London.

RAF Diversionary Attack

The RAF attack on Frankfort, plus a diversionary mission to Mannheim-Ludwigshafen, came only a few hours after American Liberators and Flying Fortresses had given the big port of Bremen another heavy pounding in the series which may be aimed at reducing the port to the sort of shattered uselessness in which Hamburg was left last summer.

The two RAF attacks, plus a night of minelaying, intruder patrols and Mosquito hit-run forays against western Germany, cost 42 aircraft, the Air Ministry announced.

First reports indicated effective bombing at the primary target—Frankfort, according to the Air Ministry. Large fires were started by the big load of HE and incendiaries heaped onto the highly inflammable factories and furnaces of the German military chemical industry which has its center in the city. German fighters used flares against the bombers, but were outmaneuvered by the diversion blow.

Nazis Admit Heavy Blow

Yesterday's German communique admitted heavy attacks on the Rhine and River Main sectors, with "particularly heavy damage at Frankfort, Offenbach and Mannheim." In the American blow at Bremen and the RAF night raids, the Nazis claimed to have destroyed 89 heavy bombers and nine other aircraft. The Eighth Air Force admitted the loss of 25 bombers in Monday's raid, and claimed destruction of some 40 enemy fighters.

Stockholm newspapers yesterday carried stories to the effect that areas of Bremen which had escaped heavy damage in earlier raids received a bad battering from the U.S. bomber formations, and that the city's 350,000 or so population now was living in almost communal dwellings, with as many as six families forced to use the same kitchens.

Yesterday's Marauder attacks were preceded on Monday by almost continuous bombing of military installations on the French side of the Channel by large forces of U.S. medium and RAF medium and fighter-bombers. RAF, Dominion and Allied fighters covered the operations, and no bombers were reported lost. The fighters, eight of which were reported missing, shot down three enemy planes.

Navy Lib Destroys JU88 Battling 8 Over Biscay Bay

A U.S. Navy Liberator piloted by Lt. F. A. Welsh, of Glencoe, Ill., staged a running battle with a flight of eight Ju88s over the Bay of Biscay recently and came through unscathed after sending one Nazi plane smoking into the sea, a British Air Ministry communique disclosed yesterday.

Ann Sheridan, Bob Hope Voted 'Most Cooperative'

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 21—Ann Sheridan and Bob Hope were voted the most cooperative movie stars by the Women's Press Club in its annual poll. Errol Flynn, Charles Boyer and Joan Fontaine were chosen the least cooperative.

Extortion Plot Uncovered

BOSTON, Dec. 21—Saul S. Nason, a Boston salesman and Harvard graduate, was arraigned before U.S. Commissioner Martin T. Hall on a charge of attempted extortion of \$1,000,000 from a Boston attorney, David Stoneham, by posing as a member of Navy Intelligence.

Russians Thrust Toward Vitebsk

Signs of Gigantic Winter Offensive in Evidence Along Entire Front

A powerful new Red Army smash along the southern end of the 50-mile Nevel breakthrough increased the threat to the great Nazi base at Vitebsk yesterday, as all along the front, from Leningrad to the Black Sea, signs grew that the Soviets were almost ready to launch a great winter offensive.

Berlin broadcasts, which told of increasing Russian pressure and heavy defensive fighting day and night, suggested by their tone that the Nazis were being forced back toward the old Polish border.

Meanwhile, a Berlin radio bulletin mentioned "heavy continuous fighting in the area northwest of Zhitomir," suggesting either that the word "northwest" was a mistake or the Russians had thrust forward several miles west of Malin in the Kiev sector without yet announcing their advance.

The Red Army's new thrust toward Vitebsk, the Nazis' big road and rail junction south of Nevel, appeared to be an attempt to bring up the left flank of the Russian forces in that sector.

Farther north, Gen. Bagramyan's troops have recaptured nearly 600 places since they began their offensive two days ago.

An Earful of Corn for Every Soldier

AFN Sets GI Blurbs to Music, Wafts Smelly Plugs Over Air

The fellows who broke down and tried wheaties in response to the tuneful plea of Jack Armstrong—the all-American boy—and listened to Sandy's arf arf and were of the opinion that the opening and closing seconds of the Jello program were even better than Jack Benny's jokes are eager listeners these days to the between-program blurbs of the American Forces Network.

Although he thinks the lyrics are a bit corny, Ernest C. Norman, a 26-year-old private who used to be heard regularly over radio stations in western Texas, croons into an AFN mike:

V-Mail service is the best To reach the folks left in the west. Faster, quicker, safer, too. Yes, GI, it's the mail for you. Not quite as satisfactory on the surface as a real professional American song commercial, perhaps, but it's intended to enliven the previous prose appeals which asked soldiers to refrain from slugging MPs without justifiable provocation. The men at the AFN, mindful of some criticism from the field that the com-

mercials were juvenile, believe that the musical plugs, sung in Norman's nasal voice as he strums a guitar, will go over better, even with the fellows who objected back home to most radio advertising.

Norman refuses to say just where he lives in Texas. "After this corn," he said, "I'm not giving out any home address so people can plague me after the war."

But the AFN officers hope "that the stuff is so corny it's funny." And reports from the posts reached by the network indicate that many of the boys like to listen to Norman when they're on bunk fatigue. It brings back a little of that peaceful feeling they had when they used to lie on the couch before supper at home, listening to the soap operas and such as they waited for the baseball scores.

Even if, instead of a Rinso ad, it's: Pants all pressed, uniform clean, That's the way you should be seen; Buttons bright, shoes well shined, Appearance is what counts, you'll find. You can't have everything—even in the ETO.

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Printed at The Times Publishing Company, Ltd., Printing House Square, London, E.C. 4 (Tel. Cen. 2000), for U.S. Armed Forces, under auspices of Chief of Special Services ETO, SOS Col. Oscar N. Solbert Publications Officer, Col. Theodore Arter Business and Editorial Staff Editor and Officer in Charge: Lt. Col. E. M. Llewellyn; Associate Editors: Maj. H. A. Harchar and Capt. Max K. Gilstrap; Feature Editor: Capt. J. C. Wilkinson; News Editor: 2/Lt. Robert Moore; News Desk: 1/Sgt. Ben. F. Price, T/Sgt. L. P. Giblin, Sgt. J. B. Fleming, Sgt. R. B. Wood; Sports Editor: S/Sgt. Mark Seago; Navy Editor: Yeoman Tom Bernard; USNR: Merchant Marine Editor: Ensign Donald Hewitt; Circulation: W/O W. F. McDowell. Contents passed by the U.S. Army and Navy censors; subscription 26 shillings per year plus postage. ETO edition. Entered as second class matter Mar. 15, 1943, at the post office, New York, N.Y., under the Act of Mar. 3, 1879. All material appearing in this publication has been written and edited by uniformed members of the Army and Navy except where stated that a civilian or other outside source is being used. Vol. 4, No. 44, December 22, 1943

Hash Marks

Now we have a new club—composed of guys in the ETO who can spell their names forward or backwards and still get the same answer. First applicant for membership is Lt. O. M. Remer. Any more?

Latest British description of Hitler: Adolf in Blunderland.

Understatement of the Week. The president of a Philadelphia draft board was quite upset when a certain man



marked 1-A didn't show up for induction. Later learning that "the man" was already a captain on active duty in Italy he commented, "There must be some mistake!" Could be.

Note to London taxi drivers. Pedestrians should be seen and not hurt.

Fast Work on the Home Front: A Kansas City youth of 17 was arrested on a polygamy charge of marrying three girls in four months. He wooed them all, he said, by singing, "I'm Through With Love."

Signs of the Times: This want ad ran in a North Carolina paper: "Will trade nylon hose for 12-gauge shotgun shells." (Put that pistol down, mama.)

No fooling, it must be love that makes the world go 'round. Signal corps experts report that love helps make a good homing pigeon. One trick used in the Army is this: Just as the pigeon is taken away from home to go to work; her bosses let her watch them put another bird in her mate's cage. She gets jealous, carries her message home in a hurry.

The machine age isn't responsible for all the dangers of traveling—at least a U of Texas coed is convinced that a



horse and buggy can be a lot of trouble. The gal and her lieutenant date were out riding. The horse broke loose from the buggy, dragging the looney behind, dangling from the reins. Suddenly the horse decided to stop and promptly sat on the lieutenant. When help finally arrived, the officer was found suffering minor abrasions and an acute case of surprise.

Curious Christmas Presents Dept.—Pfc (Super Grade) James B. Whitehead received a set of 1 dozen teething rings from his girl friend, according to the boys of a certain medical section. J. C. W.

Take a Bow, You EM Bombardiers

ETO Has 25 Who Paste the Nazis Regularly

By Bud Hutton

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer MEDIUM BOMBER HQ., Dec. 21—A couple of dozen sergeants—probably the most highly trained enlisted men in the world—are dropping something like one out of every 11 or 12 bombs which hurtle from Marauder bomb bays onto Nazi targets in Europe. Virtually every one of these sergeants passed up a chance to go to OCS in order to come straight into combat in this theater.

The enlisted bombardiers, just about the only noncommissioned personnel dropping bombs in this theater, are volunteer holdovers from the critical days immediately after Pearl Harbor when the U.S. needed men to work the super-secret



U.S. Army Air Force Photos

T/Sgt. Lewis Lacher, Chickasaw Indian bombardier from Madill, Okla., who doubles as a tail gunner occasionally, talks over a Marauder mission with S/Sgt. Ralph E. Miller, of Woodward, Okla., at top. Bottom, S/Sgt. Jack Myers, of Ashley, Ohio, pulls the safety pins from a Marauder bay full of high explosive destined for a Nazi target.



sergeant for rookies. He got fed up with huptwothreefour and transferred to the Air Force, where immediately they set him up as a drill sergeant for rookies. But Lacher had been a specialist in mathematics at Chilocco Indian School, in Oklahoma, and when they called for volunteer bombardier-navigators, he was first in line and was graduated from the rush-rush school with honors.

At Col. Wood's group, Maj. Clayton Smith, a squadron executive officer, says the enlisted bombardiers are a big factor in morale.

"They've been able to talk to new air crews and show them the need for the kind of discipline that keeps casualties low and combat results high," Maj. Smith says, referring to sergeant-bombardiers such as S/Sgts. Kasper Skarsten, of Pasadena, Cal., or Jack Myers, of Ashley, Ohio, or Bob Hager, of East Sparta, Ohio.

Oldest Bombardier here

Skarsten, who at 35 is one of the oldest bombardiers in the business over here, personally has dropped some 40 tons of HE on Nazi targets. He's a one-time supply sergeant and acting first sergeant. He, too, has passed up chances to be an officer in order to get into combat.

Not more than two or three of the 25 enlisted bombardiers ever have had a bomb hang up on them. Most of them have done 20 or 25 more or less uneventful hauls, have come back with flak holes in their planes about a third of the time, have had flak bust their ship's plexiglass once or twice.

Other enlisted bombardiers on operations include:

- T/Sgts. Charles Doss, Fulton, Ky.; J. L. Boling, San Antonio, Tex.; E. C. Duffy, Mauch Chunk, Pa.; A. W. Rognlien, Akron, Ohio; S/Sgts. Allan McSherry, Midland, La.; John Szymanski, Gary, Ind.; Emanuel Wenz, Billings, Mont.; Freddie Wolfe, Prairie View, Kan.; John Brandon, Columbus, Miss.; Russell Osterberg, Stoughton, Wis.; Joseph Ashburn, Los Angeles; David Johnson, Gainesville, Tex.; Everett Chrisco, Sage, Ark.; Albert Pruitt, Prescott, Ariz.; T. B. Mulkins, Homestead, Fla.; Kenneth Grothouse, Whiting, Ind.; Carl M. Nice, Spokane, Wash.; and Julio Sanchez, Winslow, Ariz., and Cpl. Phillip Dolce, Painesville, Ohio.



Desert Christmas

Snow for Christmas, Eastern friend, When Palestine had none? Judea's stars were close and soft When God sent down His Son. Bethlehem had gentle hills Like those you saw today; Through a velvet night like this The Wise Men found their way. Do you think the angels sang Through Christmas trees and snow? Hear their anthems stir the palms Tonight as long ago! S/Sgt. Marcus Z. Lytle.

The Cause of Liberty Shall Never Die

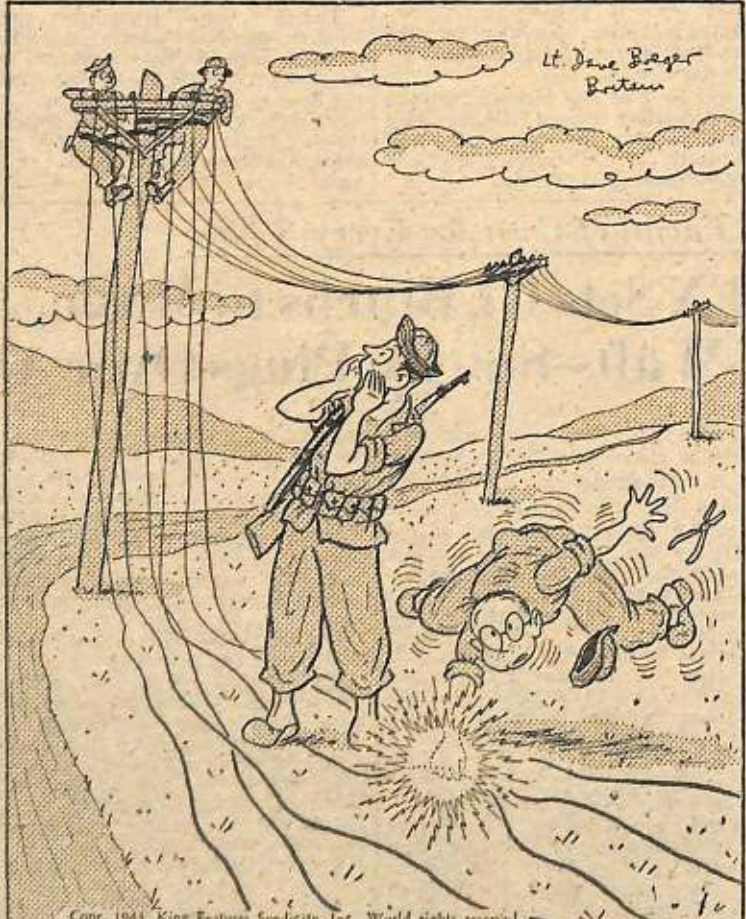
Our child with golden hair is now a man, A tall and handsome youth of 20 years; He sees a world that's drenched in blood and tears; And so he's given up his cherished plan Of earning a degree and crew race cheers, To fight for Right against a ruthless foe, And with our Forces tyranny o'erthrow, That Liberty may cruel bondage ban. He and his father 'neath Old Glory stand; Though sundered far, they are not far apart; Theirs the same purpose, the same courage high, And o'er the miles they clasp each other's hand, And the same words are echoed in each heart: The Cause of Liberty shall never die. Lurena G. Wallace.

Norden bombsight, and needed them in a hurry.

The Air Force put out a call for volunteers among the gunners and armorers who were enlisted men. The two dozen or so still dropping bombs in this theater were among those volunteers, and they figure they're the best of the lot, because—although enlisted men are dropping bombs in the Pacific, for instance—they were the only noncommissioned bombardiers to come to the big league of air warfare.

When the heroism of T/Sgt. Donald Donaldson, of Orinda, Cal., was described in a Stars and Stripes raid story a couple of weeks ago—Donaldson grabbed the spinning yoke of a defective heavy bomb just in time to keep it from going off as his Marauder landed—a lot of soldiers figured there had been a mistake in describing a technical sergeant as a bombardier. Mostly, people think about the

PRIVATE BREGER



Copyright 1943, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved. "Okay, guys! Dave found the short circuit!"

Radio Rumors

Doctor Goebbels continues to feed rumors by radio into America and Great Britain, designed to create friction and distrust. By so doing he hopes to hamstring military cooperation and prevent Allied collaboration along lines that will insure a just and permanent peace.

Here are a few recent examples:

Said German radio in a broadcast to America: "Britons are conserving oil in the Dominions and Near East for the next war, and getting oil from the U.S.A. under false pretences." To England Hermann Filice Station Calais broadcast: "The 'N.Y.T.' representative in Washington has announced that the U.S. Government has started an oil thrust in Saudi Arabia. As usual, this will be at the expense of the British Empire. Saudi Arabia is near Iraq and the U.S.A. is very interested in both regions."

A new twist is given to an old line by radio station Midge, located in Zossen, broadcasting to America in these words: "I hope American mothers have reached a realization that for the second time England is repaying our helpfulness with ridicule, scorn and ingratitude. England would have lost the last war without the help of Uncle Sam. History is repeating itself." And German Radio National spoke in these words to the British people: "The British public and our fighting forces are beginning to feel disgusted at American boasting. This self-publicity is a little nauseating to the modest Britisher, who was fighting single-handed before the Americans declared war."

And from the German station Debulk in a broadcast to America, lend-lease rumors are started in these words: "Men's and women's apparel, umbrellas, cosmetics, musical instruments, whisky, gin and wine, all manufactured in the U.S.A. and shipped to England, have been sold by the British at a profit of 30 to 50 per cent in South America."

A study of these radio rumors makes it plain that Goebbels wants us to hate the British, and while on occasion we may feel from personal experience that a few complaints are justified, these fade away when compared with the advantages to be gained from loyally working with our Allies for victory, peace and a better world, free from the inspired hatred of German propaganda.

London Pass

One of the pleasures most enjoyed by GIs visiting in London is the warm hospitality of the American Red Cross clubs.

But the fact that some soldiers who trek to London on pass or furlough find they are unable to secure lodgings for the night indicates a need for more information on housing in the British capital.

To make sure that soldiers with legitimate passes in London have a bed upon arrival, orders have been issued to SOS Base Sections and to the Air Force allocating a quota of beds for distribution to subordinate commands. This allocation is based on unit strength and the number of beds available. But, as explained in the circular on furloughs and passes, care must be exercised to see that passes do not exceed quotas and that the pink pass to London is filled out properly, with the specific club listed.

Red Cross clubs in London are most crowded during the first half of the month; so GIs should bear this in mind and after hoarding the pay-table dividend apply for a furlough during the last half of the month.

It is also important that you have the proper uniform and equipment required by order when you leave for London. Then on arrival go immediately to your club; register, deposit your gear and extra money, and you're ready to see the sights. If you get lost or need assistance, phone the American Red Cross, Rainbow Corner.

And here's one last tip: When planning your trip to "The Big Town," remember it's up to you and your commanding officer to see that your pink pass is filled out properly before you leave camp, and that a vacancy awaits you at a specific club in London. You owe this to yourself if you wish to operate from comfortable quarters.

An air raid shelter makes for mighty poor comfort this time of year.

