



New York, N.Y.-London, England

Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1943

Marauders Follow

Two Balkan Bases Hit As 5thEdgesOn

U.S. Infantrymen Advance 2½ 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 American torpedo-boats teamed with British craft in a victorious night action with two Nazi destroyers off the island of

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 Balkans 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 airdrome 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 acti-

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

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 salvag-

ing 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 break-down 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 '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

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. Stratemeyer's newly-estab-

lished 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

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.

PolesMayForm

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 in-spector/general of the Polish squadrons. With 14 well-equipped squadrons, pro-

bably 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 Nor-

area, where hitherto they have maintained elaborate air establishments. U.S. air forces have been systematically de-stroying these establishments. Many men are marching northward, others are leav-Allied Bombers ing 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. Blast Bangkok

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

Japs Still Withdrawing

The Japanese forces on New Britain tonight were keeping up their steady withdrawal toward the series of razor-backed ridges, where the first strong counterattack is expected to be launched against the Texan shock troops of General K ruseer's Sixth Arms. "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. General Krueger's Sixth Army.

But the enemy's chances of stemming the U.S. drive are rapidly diminishing as the hold on the western half of New Britain increases. One U.S. spearhead is smashing directly inland from the Arawe peninsula towards the range of ridges, while another, further to the east, is moving towards the vital coast trails. is moving towards the vital coast trails east of Cape Merkus on the way to the troughold of Gasmata.

In New Guinea, Australian forces quickened the tempo of their grim advance along the Huon peninsula on the northeast coast of the island.

hill-studded jungles, have crossed the Masawang river.

To the east of the Huon Peninsula, other Australian troops tonight were pressing steadily on three-and-a-half miles north of the recently captured enemy stronghold of Wareo.

B26s Over France; May Have Blasted at Secret Rocket Guns

A\$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

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 tenyear 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.

RussiansThrust **TowardVitebsk**

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, sug-gested by their tone that the Nazis were being forced back toward the old Polish

Meanwhile, a Berlin radio bulletin mentioned "heavy continuous fighting in the area northwest of Zhitomir," suggesting either that the word "northwest" was mistake or the Possians had thrust for a mistake or the Russians had thrust for-ward 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

Frankfort Pasted With 2,200 Tons In Night Raid

Marauder bomber fleets pounded military targets in northern Francepossibly Hitler's secret rocket gunsin daylight yesterday to follow up the RAF's 2,200-ton night raid on Germany's chemical industry at Frank-

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

RAF Diversionary Attack
The RAF attack on Frankfort, plus a
diversionary mission to MannheimLudwigshafen, 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 alicraft, the Air Michaely 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

Nazis Admit Heavy Blow

Yesterday's German communique admitted heavy attacks on the Rhine and River Main sectors, with "particularly heavy damage at Frankfort, Offenbacks 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 kitchers.

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 L.C. 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 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 vere 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.

An Earful of Corn for Every Soldier

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

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-

The fellows who broke down and tried heaties in response to the tuneful plead of dack Armstrong—the all-American oy—and listened to Sandy's arf arf and oy—and listened to Sandy's arf arf and oy—and listened to Sandy's arguer of the opinion that the opening and opening a

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

But the AFN officers hope "that the

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 when they used to lie on the couch before the soan listening to the soan supper at home, listening to the soap operas and such as they waited for the

paseball 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

wegians. 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 Fire-man Thomas McKnight and Policeman Reginald Smith.

Reginate Smith.

Firemen reported the blaze started on the second floor of the four-story hotel, three storys of which were destroyed. Damage was estimated at \$10,000.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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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 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 selfpublicity is a little nauseating to the modest Britisher, who was fighting singlehanded before the Americans declared

And from the German station Debunk 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 informaon 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.

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

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 com-mented, "There must be some mistake!"

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."

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 get's 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 loosy 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 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



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.

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 opera-

tions 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, Gainsville, 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. tions include:



Norden bombsight, and needed them in

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 bom-bardiers to come to the big league of air

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 vane of a defective heavy bomb just in time to keep it from going off as his Marauder landed—a lot of soldiers as its Marader landed—a jot of soulers figured there had been a mistake in describing a technical sergeant as a bombardier.

Mostly, people think about the

PRIVATE BREGER

"Okay, guys! Dave found the short circuit!"

sergeants and a corporal are toggling bombs more or less regularly at the field commanded by Lt. Col. Wilson R. Wood, of Chico, Tex., and seven more at the field commanded by Lt. Col. Grover C. Brown, of Fayette, Tex. **EM Bombing Good**

custodians and users of the hush-hush bombsight as commissioned officers. Donaldson's story turned up the real forgotten men of the USAAF in the ETO.

At only two Marauder group stations are the enlisted bombardiers toggling the switches which release the high explosives, although in other groups there are a few more sergeants with bombardier's training who are making raids as gunners. Eighteen sergeants and a corporal, are toggline

Their squadron commanders say the enlisted bombardiers are laying their eggs just as close to the target as anyone toting bars instead of stripes. The Marauder groups started their medium bombing with all commissioned men at the toggle switches; the enlisted bombardiers flew as guinners. as gunners.

Early in August some of the enlisted men who had trained as bombardiers but were flying as gunners were reclassified and moved up into the plexiglass noses of the B26s. Their bombing was good, and in the two groups the others gradually got back the jobs they had had in training until more than two score of them were

The enlisted bombardiers navigate as well as bomba, and when the weather closes in and planes have to get home by themselves, the enlisted men get them home with dead reckoning, pilotage and cooperation with radio aids as well as the lieutenants and captains.

They live with the other enlisted men of the combat crews and eat with them.

They say they don't mind not being officers; they just feel a little brassed off sometimes because folks are apt to forget that there are enlisted bombardiers, too,

Their stories are pretty much the same.

T/Sgt. Art Valleau, of Tenafly, N.J., and
T/Sgt. Lewis Lacher, of Madill, Okla., a
Chickasaw Indian, are average cases.

Clerk Becomes Toggler

Valleau is a two-enlistment man; he served with the old Air Corps in Panama from 1932 to '34 as a clerk and gunner. He filed papers every day in the year

He filed papers every day in the year except four, when he was a gunner, and shot up part of the 200 rounds a year gunners were allowed then.

Late in 1940, Val got back into the Air Force as a clerk. They moved him down to Washington, handling secret papers, and when he found out a war was brewing for the U.S. too, Val applied for combat. He got six weeks of schooling in bombing theory and Norden sights. ing in bombing theory and Norden sights, six more on navigation, came overseas, served as a gunner on eight missions, and then started bombing; he's been toggling for 17 trips now.

Lacher started in the Field Artillery back in February, 1940, and got so good at close order drill they made him a drill



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 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

Theirs the same purpose, the same courage And o'er the miles they clasp each other's

And the same words are echoed in each The Cause of Liberty shall never die.

Lurena G. Wallace.

Southern Boys

Win Fast Bouts

On Corner Ring

Williams Gains TKO Over

Carlyle; Menchaka Wins

Decision Over Persley

Two welterweights from below the Mason-Dixon line—Herbie Williams and Dick Menchaka—provided most of the excitement last night at Rainbow Corner during two of the fiercest fought bouts

Williams, a Negro private from New Orleans, stepped out of the lightweight bracket to hammer a technical KO over Pyt. Don Carlyle, 135-pound Detroiter.

Twice within 55 seconds the Eighth Air Force Service Command champ floored the Detroiter, first with a right to the head at 35 seconds, then with a left and right to the jaw. Carlyle went down 35 seconds later under another left and right, but came up to last the round.

there in almost a year.

Sooner Aggies Pace Southwest In Court Race

Kurland, 7-Foot Center, Is Bulwark on Defense; Steers Look Good

NORMAN, Okla., Dec. 21—The Oklahoma Aggies from Stillwater, Okla., the basketball team with the totem pole center, Bob "Foothills" Kurland, seven-out collegiate club of the Southwest, the dry flat area that lies west of the Ozark uplift and north of the Republic of Mexico.

Mexico.

All-victorious at this writing, the cowboys beat Westminster's Titans, 41—39, in an overtime contest at Buffalo, N.Y., Dec. 11, then three nights later licked Nat Holman's City College team, 39—27, at Madison Square Garden. In each of these games the seven-foot Kurland leaped high to block what looked like from 25 to 30 certain Westminster and City College field goals.

Kurland isn't the only Aggie star. "Danny" Doyle, Boston Red Sox baseballer and father of three kids, is back to play his fourth season of varsity basketball. Doyle is the Aggie backcourt wizard.

Burdette is No Shrimp

Coach Iba also has added Capt. Floyd Burdette, six-foot, five-inch former AAU star stationed as an ASTP officer at Stillwater. A fractured hand kept Burdette from making the Eastern swing, but he will rejoin the Cowboys when they return to Oklahoma before the holidays.

Always the greatest defensive club incol-

Oklahoma before the holidays.

Always the greatest defensive club in college basketball, the Aggies are murdering all opponents this season with a 1-1-2-1 super-zone defense, featuring Kurland's maddening goal-robbing. This aerial goal filching is a defensive artifice that the college rulemakers will doubtless outlaw, but this year's opportune Aggies will wring a nice string of victories from it, and who can blame them? can blame them?

Billy Gilstrap's Texas Steers from Austin look like the Southwest Conference's top club. With no lettermen returning, the Steers nevertheless won four of their first five games. Roy Cow, freckled featherweight, and Slater Martin, two-time All-State forwards from Houston's Jeff Davis High, and Jeff Kemp, are keeping Gilstrap's Steers up in early non-conference play.

SMU Has Taken Two

Coach Jimmy Stewart's Southern
Methodist also immersed its first two
foes and, with Arkansas' all-civilian
outfit and possibly Rice, appear threats
in the coming conference race. Texas and
SMU are Navy V-12 schools.

Iowa State looks the class of the Big Six league, which also dips into South-Six league, which also dips into Southwest territory. Coach Louis Menze keeps three starters from last year in Iowa state's large Navy V-12 program. Ray and Roy Wehde and Gene Oulman also drew experienced V-12 talent from Drake, Washington and Pittsburgh. Iowa State beat the Iowa Pre-Flight Seahawks, 31—29, in its opener, but lost to Minnesota Saturday, 31—28.

"Phoe" Allen of Kansas and Bruce

"Phog" Allen of Kansas and Bruce Drake of Oklahoma drew no experienced college players from their small Navy V-12 units, but are busily forging hustling teams from promising high school material assigned by the Navy.

Help Wanted -AND GIVEN

Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, Stars and Stripes, Printing House Sq., London, EC4.

APOs Wanted

LT. Fannie Robinson, ANC., Wallace, N.C.;
Capt. Rennie Robbins, Alta Vista, Va.; T/S
Albert Reiss. Pittsburgh, Pa.; Pyt. James R.
Roberts, McAllen, Tex.; S/Sgt. Dick O. Ray.
Rogota, Tex.; S/Sgt. Allen W. Sample, Ashdown,
Rogota, Tex.; S/Sgt. Allen W. Sample, Ashdown,
Ark.; Francis Reardon, Clarence Fredlund,
Ark.; Francis Reardon, Clarence Fredlund,
Order R. Beitel, Sewickley, Pa.; Lt. Thomas
Gordon K. Beitel, Sewickley, Pa.; Lt. Thomas
Gordon K. Beitel, Sewickley, Pa.; Lt. Thomas
Central Falls, R.I.; Lt. Milton Saltzman, Jersey
Central Falls, R.I.; Lt. Samber
Kinger, Cairo, W. Va.; Cpl.
Swiger, Cairo, W. Va.; Cpl.
Brooklyn, N.Y.; Lt. Summer
Mass.; Lt. Wallace R. Shaw, Belleville, N.J.
College Reunion

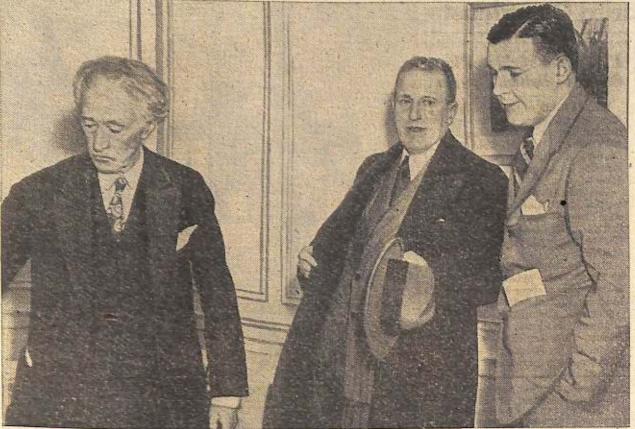
REUNION dinner for men from Universities of Minnesota and Notre Dame will be held at the No. 3 Grosvenor Square Club, London, Jan. 15 at 6.30 PM. Reservations should be sent to The Stars and Stripes College, Registration Service, Printing House Sq., London, E.C.4. College Reunion

WALLET lost at Station or General Hospital about Nov. 30. Contains pictures and papers. Will give carton of cigarettes for its return c/o Help Wanted. Pvt. Marion L. Swisher.

Swisher.

CIGARETTE LIGHTER on Dec. 4 at Aldermaston, with Signal Corps insignia on one side and Nurses' on the other. Lt. Emily Schweitzer, c/o Help Wanted.

And the Judge Said No



Judge Landis (left) decreed that the baseball ban on Bill Cox (right), which prevents him from holding any office in organized baseball, still stands. Cox, former president of the Philadelphia Phillies, and his lawyer, Lloyd Paul Stryker (center), asserted that his admissions concerning wagers on baseball games involving the Phillies were part of a trap to test "the loyalty of a partner in the club."

Seventh-Place Boston Red Sox Service Fives Took '43 AL Fielding Title Leading Nation

BOSTON, Dec. 21-The Boston Red Sox, although dropping from second to seventh place in the American League standings, came up as the best fielding team in the American League in 1943, led by Bobby Doerr, their human stop sign at second base.

Doerr had his best year afield, setting a new league record for second baseman, accepting 349 consecutive errorless chances and breaking a record

32 Quintets in Action

AN EAST ANGLIA TOWN, Dec. 21—With 16 more team basketball league getting on the courts for two games each on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 32 squads are in full swing on the floors of the Corn Exchange building and the Home Guard drill hall.

In the Corn Exchange League, which

In the Corn Exchange League, which has played eight rounds already this season, Van's Blues, with eight victories and no losses, are still keeping ahead of an old of the corn of the corn

and no losses, are still keeping ahead of the hard-fighting Castle's Blues, who have suffered one defeat in eight games. Ger-hart's Gallopers have come up from behind to draw into a second-place tie with the Castle Blues.

Chicago Bears Welcome

Title Shot at Redskins

In East Anglia Circuit

ABear Players

On All-America

CHICAGO, Dec. 21—Six Western division players and five from the East have been selected on the United Press' All-American professional football team with the Chicago Bears gaining four first-team spots.

Four positions were indisputable—Backs Sammy Baugh, of Washington, and Sid Luckman, of Chicago, End Don Hutson, of Green Bay, and Center Clyde "Bulldog" Turner, of the Bears, Harry Clark, of the Bears, and Ward Thexerostrates described Dickey led catchers with 994, but a participation in only 71 games behind the plate necessitated disregarding his manufactured and side the catchers with 296 average. Bill Dickey led catchers with 994, but a participation in only 71 games behind the plate necessitated disregarding his manufactured.

team spots.

Four positions were indisputable—Backs Sammy Baugh, of Washington, and Sid Luckman, of Chicago, End Don Hutson, of Green Bay, and Center Clyde "Bulldog" Turner, of the Bears.

Harry Clark, of the Bears, and Ward Cuff, of the Giants, round out the backfield. Eddie Rucinski, of the Cardinals, nosed out George Wilson, of the Bears, for the other end spot. Al Blozis, of the Giants, and Vic Sears, of the Philadelphia-Pittsburgh Steagles, took the tackle slots, and the guards named are Dan Fortman, of the Bears, and Dick Farnam, of the Redskins. the plate necessitated disregarding his mark. The same reason deprived Dickey

of the league batting title.

Joe Kuhel of the Chicago White Sox and Mickey Rocco of Cleveland tied for the lead among first basemen with 995. Eddie Mayo of the Athletics paced the third sackers with 976, although released late in the season. Billy Johnson, Yankee hot corner ace and best rookie in the majors, finished second with .966.

The Browns and Indians collaborated to set a record of the fewest assists in one game. The Browns had none and the Indians made all seven, breaking an old record of eight.

Basketball Results Drake 46, St. Ambrose Navy 31 Great Lakes 52, Minnesota 32 Illinois 43, Kentucky 41 Indiana 38, DePauw 34

Midwestern Stalwarts Dumped From List Of Unbeaten

NEW YORK, Dec. 21—Baskethall's pre-holiday shopping rush has cleared the shelves of many perfect-record clubs and left the persistent Christmas week fans a skimpy schedule of assured the process of the street of

left the persistent Christmas week fans a skimpy schedule of coming attractions. Among the mighty who fell off the top perch during the past few days were Michigan, Purdue, Marquette, Dartmouth, Ohio State, Western Kentucky State, Iowa State and Missouri.

Uncle Sam has three especially gaudy exhibits in Great Lakes, Norfolk Naval Training Station and Camp Grant. Great Lakes has six victories in succession including a 58—52 job on Purdue. Paul Armstrong and Herman Schaefer, former Indiana University and Ft. Wayne professional stars, appear to be the scoring combinations of the country with 72 of their teams 123 points in two games last week. Norfolk has nine straight and Camp Grant four.

Camp Grant four.

Iowa is the only unbeaten Western Conference club with three wins, including a wild 82-point Iowa record score against Illinois State Teachers when Freshman Center Dick Ives scored 37 points, breaking all former Hawkeye individual marks.

points, breaking all former Hawkeye in-dividual marks.

Pennsylvania bowed into the Eastern League with a 57—51 victory over Cornell. Dartmouth, likewise undefeated in the Ivy League, lost to Mitchell Field early in the week, 54—30.

NYU, St. John's and LIU remain un-defeated in the metropolitan area. NYU defeated St. Francis, St. John's beat Detroit and Long Island breezed through Brigham Young in the first two nights of

Brigham Young in the first two nights of the Madison Square Garden season.

Referee Stops Fight

At the opening of the second, he rushed Williams and batted him down with a two-handed shove punch. Williams bobbed up, pounded Carlyle about the head, then dropped him with another left and right to the head. At that point, though Carlyle seemed unhurt, Referee Adam Cameron, ARC, stopped the contest, to the crowd's annoyance.

Menchaka won his fourth straight decision at the expense of Pfc Arthur Persley, 135, of New York. It was the pair's second meeting and Persley showed to no better advantage than the first time.

to no better advantage than the first time. Persley opened up fast, concentrating on Menchaka's head at long range. The former Texas Golden Glover from Port Arthur was not bothered by the barrage, however, and near the close of the round, after pounding Persley's body, maneu-vered him against the ropes and battered him with hooks to the head.

The next two rounds were all fight. Menchaka put Persley on the defensive and gave two for every one. The pace forced them to slow down midway in the third, but they were still battering at the bell

As expected, Pvt. Johnny Robinson, Kansas City middleweight, hammered out a hard-earned victory over Pvt. Ralph Simmons, 154, of Cumberland, Md.

Although Robinson dropped Simmons to his knees with a hard right in the first round, the scrap developed into an exchange o froundhouse rights by Robinson and looping rights to the stomach by Simmons. These partly slowed the Kansan, but were not enough to prevent his severally triumph. his seventh triumph.

Wins Ninth Straight

Wins Ninth Straight
The card opened with Pvt. Nick
Gugliardo, 143, New Orleans, winning
his ninth straight ETO victory by handing Pvt. Sammy Johnson, of Jacksonville,
Fla., his second defeat in five starts.
Pvt. John Barzee, 127, New York,
drew a technical KO over Pvt. Irving
Waters, 125, Gary, Ind., in one minute,
33 seconds of the third round, After
drawing blood from Waters' nose midway
in the second frame, Barzee inflicted a in the second frame, Barzee inflicted a cut over Waters' left eye, and the doctor halted the match.

In an action-packed fight, Cpl. Junior Lowe, 132, New Orleans, gained a decision over Pvt. George Witt, 135, of Brooklyn, N.Y. Lowe got off to a bad start, but landed hard lefts and rights in the second and third.

Cpl. Lafayette Drummond, 152, St. Louis, earned his fourth Corner decision

in a close, much-booed battle with Pvt. Wilbur White, 152, Youngstown, Ohio. Pvt. Anthony Ponterella, New York lightheavy, added his third victory in four starts with a technical KO over Pvt. David Morgan, Scranton, Pa., in one minute 52 seconds of the third round. Morgan took second stanzas and went down in both. He was hanging on when the referee stopped the scrap.

In other fights: Pvt. Frankle Drezowicz, 156, Trenton, N.J., atpointed Pvt. Lawrence Dobbins, 155, New York.

outpointed Pvt. Lawrence Dobbins, 155, New York, Sgt. Johnny Ruth, 151, Philadelphia, outpointed Pfc Lee Mills, 151, Kansas City, Pvt. Morris Schapiro, 165, Philadelphia, outpointed T/4 David Coleman, 161, Niles, Ohio. Pvt. Carmen Bassillio, 176, East Boston, outpointed Ed Bailey, 169, Carroltown, Ga. Sgt. Porter Young, 236, Greenville, S.C., kayoed Pvt. Tommy Thomas, 232, Gary, Ind., in 41 seconds of the first round.

Ralph Zanelli Outpoints Fritzie Zivic at Boston

BOSTON, Dec. 21—Durable Ralph Zanelli, veteran Providence welterweight, outmauled former world welterweight champion Fritzie Zivic, of Pittsburgh, here last night to take a surprise tenround decision before 8,000 fans.

Zivic, except for occasional rallies, was content to fight in close while Zanelli scored with looping rights and a jumping left jab. The gamblers took another shellacking as Zanelli entered the ring a 10—7 underdog. Zanelli weighed 1481 and Zivic 1521.

Rehabs Notch 17th Straight

Rehabs Notes 17th Straight

— CONVALESCENT HOSPITAL,
Dec. 21—Winning their 17th straight
game to remain undefeated, the Rehabs
licked the previously unbeaten — Ordnance, 47—42, near here last night. Lt.
Jerry Seeders, ex-Penn player, and Pvt.
Steve Lacey, former Franklin and
Marshall cage star, each tallied 16 points
to lead the winners.

Great Lakes Basketball Coach SpurnsCamp Grant Challenge

CHICAGO, Dec. 21—Col. Frank Bush, amp Grant athletic director, admits that Great Lakes athletic officer) says the low hanging bleachers cramp his club's style, Camp Grant athletic director, admits that his soldiers have a good basketball team this year and would like to lure the Great Lakes Bluejackets on to the court. Bush dared the sailors to "come out and Diay," thus adding fuel to a basketball feud that has been steaming for the past two years.

Bush says that if the sailors persist in dodging the Warriors they cannot justly claim the Midwestern service team title under any conditions.

"Great Lakes beat us twice two years are" the colonel fumed. "Last season

ago," the colonel fumed. "Last season we won 31 and lost two and the sailors wouldn't play us. The only floor we have is the Rockford (III.) High School

hanging bleachers cramp his club's style, although the sailors had beaten us there previously. I don't like Cook's dictating to us, saying that if we play we have to play at Great Lakes. He is using his reasoning as a subterfuge and I think he is just afraid to play us."

At Great Lakes, Cook said, "Ha ha, it's a cold day and the colonel had to do something to get warmed up. Under a Navy Department directive we are not allowed to play a service team on a neutral

allowed to play a service team on a neutral floor, and although Rockford High School is the only place Camp Grant has to play basketball, we consider it a neutral





Home Folks to Hear ETO GIs On Yuletide Radio Broadcasts

3-dayParties forChildren On Already in a Festive Christmas Preview

Christmas radio broadcasts, direct from the ETO to the United States, will carry the voices of some soldiers into their own living rooms at home this year. Without benefit of microphone, thousands of other soldiers throughout the theater are straining their voices, Christmas carol style, as they make every day this week and next week a hilarious holiday for English children, who might not otherwise have an echo of Santa Claus in their homes.

in their homes.

Four ETO fathers will talk to their children in New York on "Transatlantic Call," scheduled at 5,30 PM, Dec. 26. The fathers will be T/5 Heywood T. Gibson, Sgt. Carl Krug, Pfc Frederick H. Hatchard, and T/5 John E. Perry. Recorded interviews with men from New York will be broadcast over WMCA on Christmas, day.

Christmas day. Ten servicemen from New York also

Ten servicemen from New York also will broadcast on Christmas Day over WNEW. The men will be Pfc Charles J. Barrett, Pvt. Meyer Rubin, Cpl. George Woodruff, Cpl. Arnold W. McTaggart, S/Sgt. Frank X. Burke, Cpl. Morris L. Samuelson, Sgt. Louis J. Millio, Cpl. Harry Tuma, Pfc Morris A. Stern and Cpl. Harold L. Swisher.

Two of the biggest parties being given for English youngsters by American soldiers are on a three-day scale, running from yesterday through tomorrow. An aviation engineer battalion has divided up its Christmas program into visits to three schools. One QM depot is giving three parties for a total of 700 children whose fathers are serving overseas.

The Navy chimed in on the holiday note yesterday, when enlisted men and officers of the plans section gave a Christmas party for 15 students of a song school in Surrey.

More than 800 children ranging from

mas party for 15 students of a song school in Surrey.

More than 800 children, ranging from four to 14 years of age, were guests of 50 members of a general depot yesterday. Capt. Eugene A. Harrell, of Chattanooga, Tenn., played Santa Claus. An ordnance depot entertained 150 evacuee young-

sters.

Neighborhood children near an aviation engineer battalion will be given toys, made for them by the soldiers, at a party today. The children's mothers also are

Mason said the White House Christmas

Greer Garson, Paul Lukas

Chosen 1943's Top Actors

NEW YORK, Dec. 21 (AP)-Perform-

ances of Greer Garson in "Random Harvest" and Paul Lukas in "Watch on the Rhine" are described by Film Daily as the best on the American screen in 1943. The verdict is based on a poll.

Runners-up were Ingrid Bergman in "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and James Cagney in "Yankee Doodle Dandy,"

AFN Radio Program

On Your Dial

Wednesday, Dec. 22

1100—GI Jive 1115—Hymes from Home. 1190—South American Way. 1200—Harry Roy and his Orchestra (BBC). 1210—Family Hour. 1310—World News (BBC). 1310—Barracks Bag—A grab-bag of entertain-ment.

ment. 1400—Visiting Hour—Hospital Show. 1430—Sign off until 1745.

U.S. Mansfields Play Santa to British Cousin

MANSFIELD, Nottinghamshire, Dec. 21-Christmas toys for needy children here are en route from U.S. cities named Mansfield, Col. O. H. Stanley, of Belmont, Mass., commanding officer of the - General Hospital, said.

Col. Stanley sent an appeal to mayors of ¶3 American towns and cities named Mansfield, suggesting that U.S. toys would help make this Christmas merry for children in this Mansfield.

Packages from three Mansfieldsin Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Illinois-already have been shipped. More are expected from Mansfields in Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, Missouri, Ohio, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Washington. The hospital group plans a big Christmas party for the kids.

Thursday will be given by a general hos-pital, an engineer depot, an aviation engi-neer regiment, two aviation engineer battalions and a QM service battalion.

On the day before Christmas youngsters will be entertained by a maintenance engineer regiment, a station hospital and other units.

An Eighth Air Force bombardment group will celebrate a special kind of Christmas, provided for them by the people of Lakeland, Fla., where the group was stationed before coming overseas.

Lakeland citizens have mailed more than
200 presents for Chaplain William M.

Miller, of Steubenville, Ohio, to distribute among the men.

four to 14 years of age, were guests of 50 members of a general depot yesterday. Capt. Eugene A. Harrell, of Chattanooga, Tenn., played Santa Claus. An ordnance depot entertained 150 evacuee youngsters.

Neighborhood children near an aviation engineer battalion will be given toys, made for them by the soldiers, at a party oday. The children's mothers also are neited.

Christmas parties for English children

among the men.

One of the Christmas Day parties will be given for 12 youngsters at a crippled children's institution. Thirty soldiers from an engineer maintenance unit will be siders out of odd bomb crates, will be given to 200 "blitz kids" from London's East End by headquarters personnel of Eighth Air Force Service Command, who are planning one of the many post-Christmas parties.

White House Xmas Tree | Non-Operating Unions Ceremony Will Be Held May Join in Rail Strike

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 — Guy Mason, a commissioner of the District of Columbia, who announced several days ago that the annual White House Christmas tree ceremony had been cancelled, said the ceremony would be held after all. He said the change in plans was made at the suggestion of Mrs. Roosevelt, who asked that a curtailed program be held.

Mason said the White House Christman WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (AP)—A warning that a railroad strike "could do more harm to the war effort than anything the enemy might do" was given by Transportation Chief Joseph B. Eastman as leaders of 1,000,000 non-operating railroad employees threatened to join the five operating brotherhoods in a nationwide strike for higher wages.

Goaded by the failure of the House of Representatives to act on a Senate-

have ornaments paid for by contributions of school children. He said that Mrs. Roosevelt had requested that people who come to the ceremony be asked to walk there and not use their automobiles.

Goaded by the failure of the House of Representatives to act on a Senate-approved resolution to validate an eight-cent-an-hour wage increase, 15 leaders of the non-operating unions called a meeting for today to consider setting a strike date.

Meanwhile, heads of the operating brotherhoods were to meet again today with management representatives in an effort to avert a strike.

Meanwhile, a hint that the strike would be settled before the Dec. 30 deadline was given by President Roosevelt. The President said at his press conference that he hoped for a Christmas present for the American people in the form of a settlement.

Yanks Man Captured Gun

U.S. troops of the Fifth Army examine an Axis 20mm, anti-aircraft gun captured in Italy. The four-barreled gun, camouflaged by branches, may be swung up and down in a wide arc and used as an anti-tank gun as well as an anti-aircraft weapon.

Fliers Honored Allies and Tito Posthumously

Missing U.S. Fighter Pilot, 3 Killed in Bombers Get DSCs for Heroism

An Eighth Air Force fighter pilot now missing in action and three members of bomber crews who lost their lives in combat have been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, second highest U.S. military decoration for valor, it was announced yesterday by ETOUSA headquarters.

The awards went to 1/Lts. Vance P. Ludwig, of Lakewood, Ohio, and Harold R. Christensen, of Eagle Grove, la.; F/O Harry E. Edeburn, of Brookville, Pa., and S/Sgt. Lester. W. Saunders, of Chicago.

Lt. Ludwig, the missing fighter pilot, was cited for "extraordinary heroism over Germany" on Oct. 4, when he destroyed three planes after engaging a greatly superior force.

Lt, Christensen, a bomber pilot, was wounded mortally Oct. 14, but remained at his post until his plane was out of

F/O Edeburn was injured fatally on a mission Sept. 6, but courageously tried to remain in his co-pilot's position on a beavy bomber.

Sgt. Saunders was decorated posthu-mously for remaining at his left waist gun on a heavy bomber, despite fatal wounds and repeated enemy attacks.

Conclude Pact 'Full Agreement' on Plans

For Military Action Is Reported From Cairo

Jugoslav partisans yesterday pressed their offensive, which is tying up nine German divisions, as news reached them of a successful Cairo meeting at which representatives of Marshal Tito and high American and British staff officers reached "full agreement" on plans for a military

Although no representative, of King Peter's Jugoslav government-in-exile was present, reports of the conference indicated the Americans and British would attempt to heal the breach existing between Tito's National Committee of Liberation and Gen: Mihailovich's forces, which are supported by King Peter.

Liberation and Gen: Mihailovich's forces, which are supported by King Peter.

That the breach was widening rapidly was revealed by a Free Jugoslav radio broadcast which demanded that Tho's National Committee of Liberation be recognized by the Allies as the legal government, rather than King Peter's regime.

Meanwhile, a partisan communique announced that patriots were pressing the advantage gained after a sixth big German drive had failed.

Czechs Help Clear Villages Menaced by Fort's Bombs

AN EIGHTH BOMBER STATION, Dec. 21—A group of Czech soldiers helped American MPs to clear the in-habitants from a village when a crashed aiready in flames. threatened

imminent explosion, it has been disclosed.

Lt. Nedartus, in charge of the detachment, saw the crash and ordered his men to assist the MPs. Shortly after, fire caught the Fort's bomb load and the resulting explosion shattered homes and windows of houses in the vicinity. Thanks to the prompt action on the part of the Czechs and MPs, no lives were lost.

Soldiers to See Pantomime

The London Coliseum, with 1,500 seats, has been turned over to the U.S. Army for a preview today at 5.30 PM of Emile Littler's "Humpty Dumpty," one of Britain's most famous pantomimes, Rainbow Corner will distribute EMs' tickets. A limited number of officers' tickets will be available at the hospitality desk at 189 Regent St.

NEWS FROM HOME

Epidemic of Flu Abating in U.S., Survey Reveals

Michigan, Hardest Hit, Cites Decline; North Central Area Affected Most

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21—Reports from health authorities all over the country indicated that the influenza epidemic which has been affecting almost as many as one out of every ten persons in some sections had passed its peak and now was abating.

The north central region of the country apparently was hit hardest. One of the most seriously affected states was Michigan, but reports from there show that there has been a decline in the number of cases in the last few days.

In several states, suburban schools closed earlier than usual for Christmas holidays in an effort to stem the course of the epidemic.

A declining number of cases was re-ported from Chicago, Washington, Phila-delphia, Indianapolis and Minneapolis. Pittsburgh, however, reported that from eight to ten per cent of the population there had influenza.

Tinker, Yes; but Food-Ah!

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21-Gadget-minded Americans miss food even more than the various appliances whose supply has been curtailed or eliminated by the war. In a survey conducted by the War Production Board, 5,000 persons were asked: "What are some of the shortages which have bothered you most?"

Seek Food for Occupied Nations

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21 (UP)—A re-solution urging the State Department to open negotiations with the British govern-ment to allow food shipments to pass through the blockade to enemy-occupied nations was approved yesterday by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Stork Won't Be Intimidated PORTLAND, Ore, Dec. 21—Mrs. Cardyn Davis Wilson, 21, who has spent the last three weeks in an iron lung as the result of an attack of paralysis, was removed, gave birth to a normal baby, then was returned immediately to the respirator.

Clerks Strike in Montreal

MONTREAL, Dec. 21 (AP)—More than 2,000 municipal clerks and typists went on strike today for the second time in a week for more pay. They voted to strike for wages-"comparing favorably" with the pay boosts promised city firemen and policemen.

Edsel Ford Leaves \$66,000,000

ELLSWORTH, Me., Dec. 21—A tenta-tive valuation of \$66,000,000 was placed on the estate of the late Edsel B. Ford, Henry Ford's son, when a copy of his will was filed for probate here yesterday.

Writer of Hit Tunes Dies

NEW YORK, Dec. 21-Thomas Joseph McCarthy, composer of such hit tunes as "Alice Blue Gown," "Rio Rita" and "They Go Wild, Simply Wild Over Me," died here at the age of 58.

4 Naturalized Americans Convicted of Espionage

naturalized American citizens of German birth were found guilty by a federal jury of violating the Espionage Act of 1917 after ten days of testimony. They face a maximum penalty of 20 years imprisonment. Those convicted were Friedrich Schroeder, New York; Pvt. Hans W. Koenig, Fort Dix, N.J.; Carl Kranz, Rochester, N.Y.; and Eric H. W. Wedemeyer, Floral Park, New York.

10,000 Cases of Whisky Offered with War Bond

CHICAGO, Dec. 21-The Carter Dis-CHICAGO, Dec. 21—The Carter Dis-tilling Company announced in a series of newspaper advertisements that it will sell 10,000 cases of whisky at standard prices to dealers who will buy a \$100 War Bond with each case. Each purchaser will be limited to five

cases, said Maurice B. Frank, owner and president of the company. He said that the sale was planned to call attention to the fact that the liquor retailer is not responsible for the shortage of whisky.

A Film Star Every 5 Weeks Is ETO Show Schedule for '44

No More Draft Till Strikes A group of Hollywood stars—including this theater will rise from the present obably James Cagney, Paulette God-ard, Ray Milland, Ann Sheridan, Fred Jan. 15. probably James Cagney, Paulette God-Are Settled, Board Rules dard, Ray Milland, Ann Sheridan, Fred Astaire, Bing Crosby and Mickey Rooney LITTLE FALLS, Minn., Dec. 21 (UP) The local draft board ruled that it would expect to visit troops in the ETO beginning early next year, USO-Camp Shows announced yesterday. conscript no more men until all strikes were settled for the duration,

"We have definite commitments that we will have at least one star every five weeks, beginning in mid-January," said William M. Dover, USO-Camp Shows executive director, recently returned from the U.S.

Expansion of the organization's over-seas program, he said, would bring a steady flow of Hollywood and Broadway

Dover said that most of the stars he mentioned hoped to come to England but that this could not be guaranteed, since the War Department selects the combat zone to be visited and plans are liable to last-minute changes.

The Camp Shows chief told of a Holly-

wood mass meeting he attended where nearly every star present volunteered for overseas entertainment. He said Capt. Clark Gable, Lt. Comdr. Robert Montgomery, Bob Hope, Joe E. Brown and others who have been in combat zones stars into camps and stations here. As spoke at the meeting and nelped arrange a result the number of shows touring in the new plans

Terry and the Pirates









1430—Sign off until 1745.

1745—Program Resome—Spotlight on Sonny Dunham.
1800—World News (BBC).
1810—What Do You Know, Joe?
1820—Gl Supper Club—"Wachieity Night"—Pfc Barbara Richfield.
1900—"Seven O'Clock Sports."
1905—Kate Smith—First in the New Fall Series.
1930—Music Agout America.
2000—News from Home—Nightly roundup of news from the U.S.A. presented by The Stars and Stripes.
2010—Fred Waring Program.
2015—This Is the Army—little known facts presented by The Stars and Stripos.
2030—Kay Kyser's Kollege of Musical Knowledge.
2100—World News (BBC).
110—Melody Roundup—Western Music.
1125—Marching On (BBC)—Dramatized News of the Week.
155—Trith or Consequences.
225—Final Edition.
230—Sign off until 1100 nours Thursday, Dec. 23. Printed in England by The Times Publishing Company, Limited Printing House Square, London, E.C.4, and Published by the United States Armed Forces-22-12-43.