



THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations



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Thursday, Dec. 24, 1942

Reds Enter Ukraine, Crush Nazi Reserves

It's Different But It Really Is Christmas

No Snow, Far From Home, Yanks Still Make It A Merry Yule

American soldiers sitting down to Christmas dinner in the places left empty by English sons who have gone to war—

Underprivileged English youngsters amazed and happy as guests of the Yanks at the first real Christmas they've known since Europe went to war in September, 1939—

Finally, except for a few hours they took off to capture a fleeting moment of the Christmas feeling, tens of thousands of American fighting men polishing off their training on the threshold to the Continent, preparing the moment to attack—

That is Christmas, 1942, 3,500 miles more or less from home.

That is the Christmas that Adolf Hitler, battered in the East by Russia, pinched and trapped in the south by American and British soldiers, and blasted from the western skies by British and American bombers, won't forget for a while.

With English Families

In the British Isles, particularly, has been forged this Christmas week a chain of Anglo-American friendship that must have filled Herr Goebbels' Christmas stocking with bitter gifts. The average American doughboy sat down with the average English family to a real basis of friendship: each had something to give, and gave it.

Keystone of the Army's determination to observe Christmas and then get right back to the work of preparing attack was found in the Christmas message of Maj. Gen. Russell P. Hartle, temporary commander in the ETO in the absence of Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, to the Allied forces, in which he pledged that American fighting men would never rest until all the peoples of the world were free to worship and observe their festivals in peace and liberty.

The Yanks are a long way from home; it's their first Christmas—except for a small detachment that got here in the first three weeks after Pearl Harbor—in a foreign land. To them so many English homes are offering hospitality that Special Services reported there were more invitations than men available to accept them.

Visit English Homes

To English folk with three long years of war behind them, to their children, some of whom were too young to know what Christmas really is, the Yanks brought candy and small toys and a holiday feeling at parties throughout the Isles, and perhaps most of all, a fresh breath of American and the promise of better days.

But it's still a strange sort of Christmas for the American serviceman.

He's away from home, which is "just one of those things." But for almost every soldier from North of the Mason

(Continued on page 4)

Hartle Pledges Fight to Victory

A pledge that American fighting men would never rest until all peoples of the world at war are free to celebrate all festivals in peace and good will was embodied in a Christmas message today from Maj. Gen. Russell P. Hartle, acting commander of the ETO in the absence of Lt. Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower.

The message, which expressed Christmas good wishes to the Allied fighting services and the civilians behind them, stated:

"A profound determination to win the war, and the sustained effort to that end, will not prevent United States soldiers in Great Britain from celebrating Christmas in typical American fashion. Each one has found the spirit and interest to help bring the joys of the season to thousands of British children, most of whom are now living through their fourth wartime Christmas.

"In every camp, every flying field, and post our officers and men are giving parties, distributing candies, toys and useful gifts to children who might otherwise be without. Every American soldier

(Continued on page 4)

A Yank Soldier Is Christmas Host



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

From top general to buck private, Yanks are acting as hosts to children at Christmas parties throughout the British Isles during the holiday season. Maj. Gen. Russell P. Hartle, acting commanding general in the absence of Gen. Eisenhower, is pictured at a party yesterday.

'Weapons Now and Jobs Later,' Legion's Xmas Pledge to Troops

"Your needs, present and future, will always come first with us. That means arms to fight with now and jobs to live by later. Merry Christmas. God bless you. Carry on."

That Christmas message, coupled with its heart-warming pledge, goes out to the soldiers and sailors fighting in this war today from the men who fought in the last one. It was cabled to The Stars and Stripes by the American Legion yesterday to be relayed to the men serving in the European Theater of Operations.

Alas! Think of Having To Live on Champagne

WITH U.S. FORCES, Tunisia, Dec. 23 (AP)—A tank platoon under the command of Lt. Ben R. Homecker, Wheeling, West Va., was obliged to move up to a key point on the southern front so quickly that tank crews had to find food where they could to supplement the food they had. They made friends easily with the French and Arabs in the vicinity and soon were assured they would not go hungry.

These new friends, however, could offer few things because their own rations were practically gone. So—the Americans found themselves living on champagne, red and white wine, dark North African bread and whatever meat they had the opportunity to cook. Natives almost daily brought the men big chunks of raw mutton or satisfying lamb chops.

U.S. 75s Called Better Than Nazi 88s

By Wes Gallagher

Associated Press War Correspondent
WITH AMERICAN FORCES, Northern Tunisia, Dec. 23 (AP)—An American general taking part in tank actions at Medjez el Bab declared today that the U.S. Army 75mm. anti-tank guns are "more than a match" for the famed German 88mm. weapon.

"Our equipment equals the best the Germans have, and they are using tanks on this front so fresh out of the factory they have gone less than 300 miles," the general said.

While watching two Spitfires hunting a German raider in the clouds, the general, reviewing American fighting on this front, said that raw American infantry had been much better than the more

experienced German troops, and that U.S. medium tanks outfought the latest Nazis' Mark IV Panzers.

"In contrast to the doubtful morale of the German infantry, the Nazi tank crews have been fighting to the last man, even after their tanks were disabled," the general said.

In this, German crews had nothing on the Americans, for a few hundred yards from where the general was standing a group of American farmers who had fought in their General Grant even after four direct hits from German 50mm. cannon shells were repairing their damaged tank, working in the rain to be sure not to miss the next action.

Two of the crew were wounded in action but the remaining four—Sgt. Rolva Cantrell, 26, Hodgenville, Ky.; Cpl. Robert Eter, 23, Marlow, Okla., and

Drive's Fury Mounts As Foe's Lines Sag In Snow and Wind

'Germans Threatened To Shell Own Troops'

MOSCOW, Dec. 23 (UP)—Vivid details of the German difficulties on the Don front were given to the Russian commander by a captured Nazi non-commissioned officer.

Between 60 and 70 per cent. of his relieving battalion had been killed or wounded during the last six days; all the officers in his company had been killed, and the German High Command had threatened that artillery would shell the German troops if they retreated from the village, he said.

Nazis Retiring On Coast Road Toward Tripoli

8th Army Moved 1,100 Miles in 57 Days; Rain in Tunisia

Rommel's forces were moving back last night along the Tripolitania coast road toward Tripoli itself, as the Eighth Army continued to plod westward, clearing mines and repairing roads as it went.

The bulk of the Afrika Korps is already past Misurata, the defense of which is reported to have been entrusted to a fairly strong Italian garrison, it was reported by Morocco radio, now under U.S. Army control. The Cairo communique said that patrol activity was continuing.

In Tunisia the fighting again bogged down as rain turned roads into canals of mud. Allied air blows on Axis-held supply bases, however, continued.

1,100 Miles in 57 Days

The offensive in the desert, though not breath-takingly swift, has moved 1,100 miles in the last 57 days. Rommel obviously does not want to pit his battered forces yet against the power of the Allies, and there is a strong possibility that Tripoli may fall without more than a strong delaying action at one of the three large wadis between Sirte and Misurata, while Rommel pulls his main forces into Tunisia.

Advance units of the Allied forces are now in the Sirte area, according to United Press. The Axis had little to say yesterday about the fighting in Tripolitania. Both German and Italian communiqués claimed that Allied shock troops had been wiped out, the Italians saying that these operations took place in the Sirte area.

Rain Hampers Fighting

Bad weather such as that which has already made the Tunisian battlefields seas of mud, has returned and reduced both ground and air activity to patrolling. The Allies continued to bring up reinforcements and equipment for a showdown battle, but none hazarded a guess

(Continued on page 4)

Communication Line Hard Hit Far to Stalingrad's West

MOSCOW, Dec. 23 (AP)—The Red Army has moved into the Ukraine, gaining many opportunities for new blows against the sagging German lines.

Gen. Vatutin's forces, which have crossed into the Ukraine during the last 24 hours, are now only 132 miles from Rostov, and have advanced almost 200 miles west of Stalingrad.

Gen. Vatutin's troops advanced despite new reinforcements which the Nazis managed to throw in to aid the sagging German and Italian troops.

Adding eight new towns and many inhabited localities, capturing many prisoners and raising the Nazis' toll of dead, the Soviet troops seemed to pick up a new tempo in the increasingly bad weather.

Advance Despite Snowdrifts

A Pravda dispatch said that strong winds and snowstorms had swept the middle Don area, piling up big drifts which seemed likely to hamper operations, but the Soviet advance continued.

Some of the new towns are of no particular agricultural or industrial importance, but are of considerable military value. The German command had been using all of these towns in their lines of communication, some even as airports for flying reinforcements and munitions to the troops on the Stalingrad front.

An Izvestia dispatch reported that specially selected German troops were pouring into the middle Don area trying to halt Gen. Vatutin's westward advance.

A Pravda message said that the enthusiasm of the Red Army troops was terrific. Those under the command of Lt. Gen. Kuznetsov had been fighting for 144 hours, but hatred of the Fascists, plus victory and abundant captures of war material, made them forget that they needed rest.

Heavy forces of Russian infantry, following up the tank break-through, were straightening out the whole middle Don front line. It is no longer just a series of inhabited localities but a long, straight front of Red Army fighters attacking in depth with machine-guns, trench mortars, and big guns.

Artillery Keeps Up

One of the finest accomplishments of the Red Army in this middle Don offensive has been the way in which the heavy artillery has been able to keep up with the swift advance of tanks, infantry, and cavalry.

They have never lagged behind, and when it was necessary for them to blast fortifications they were always at hand in spite of deep snowdrifts and all kinds of bad weather.

Dispatches also revealed that Soviet air-

(Continued on page 4)

Mounting Nazi Casualties Bring Christmas Gloom

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 23 (AP)—The mounting German casualties on the Russian front are casting deep gloom over Germany's Christmas and are torpedoing the morale of the German people. Reports from the eastern front affect directly more German families than all the other reports taken together, the Deutscher Allgemeine Zeitung observes.

The Muenchener Neuste Nachrichten, quoted by the Stockholm newspaper *Allenhand*, complained of the uneasiness among the German people when "darkness is sinking over Germany and the German military situation." It suggested that instead of worrying about adversities, the people should "take care of their daily work as usual as the best way to come through the bad times."

Next Paper Monday

The Stars and Stripes will not be published tomorrow, Christmas Day, nor Dec. 26, Boxing Day. The next issue will appear Monday.

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Hush Marks

A carrier pigeon whizzing on its way toward a military headquarters with an important communique was suddenly jostled by a bird of the same feather, muttering, "Get a move on, buddy, I'm carrying the denial."

There's a T/5 named Kagle serving with a medical unit over here and he's a pretty



clever magician. Since he's been around this part of the world he's gone to see the local magic men do their stuff. Kagle tells us that one night one of the experts, going through his bag of tricks, was hit on the shirt front by an egg (which splattered, as eggs except powdered ones do, remember?)

A lot of men and officers—who probably never thought they would—were suddenly finding themselves using the French language and wishing they knew more. Members of a certain detachment designated for Africa, we are told, went well prepared. They got hold of a Linguaphone and made good use of the handy device on the way down.

Lieutenant (jg) Allard Russell, Navy flyer from Seattle, learning that his wife had baby boy, celebrated by dropping a 1,000-pound bomb on a Japanese transport—the bomb was labeled "Junior" in large black letters.

The fellows of a bomber group somewhere in England are telling this one on



Pfc. Joe Camelleri, of Reading, Pa. Joe's in the market for flashlights. The other night he followed a pair of kilts three blocks thinking he was just a few steps behind the ATS girl he had been waiting on.

We don't know we originated this little maxim, but we think it's one of the cleverest—"Loose talk costs lives—Loose lives cause talk."

J. C. W.

King's Artist May Get Yanks Fame

Painting Is Displayed At Art Exhibit In London

By Tom Bernard Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

A Sunday morning chat over a glass of bitter in a Chelsea pub may bring to two American soldiers fame more lasting than any string of medals across their chests.

The beers led to a conversation with a distinguished-looking white-haired man who dropped in similarly to quench his thirst. The conversation developed into an invitation to visit an artist's studio not far from the local.

The Yanks whose likenesses have been painted on the 32-by-42-inch canvas are T/4 Oscar Kaplan, 22, Linden, N.J., and T/3 Theodore A. Korona, 25, Latrobe, Pa.

The artist responsible for the canvas is A. E. Cooper, member of the Royal Society of British Artists, noted portrait painter, for whom King George VI has sat twice.

Small Sketch First

At the first Sunday morning visit, Cooper painted a small quick oil sketch of the pair. It pleased him so much that he decided to do a larger, more detailed painting.

They came back four times and posed an hour each time. Each time they returned they found the painting had progressed. Cooper had continued the job from memory during the week.

After 12 to 14 hours of work the painting was finished.

Cooper likes his new work. In fact he likes it so much that he has placed it in the annual United Artists' exhibition held every winter by the Royal Academy at Burlington House, Piccadilly.

The only thing that stumps Cooper and



Two American soldiers may achieve lasting fame because they posed for a famous British artist, A. E. Cooper, in his Chelsea studio. The result of the four sittings is the oil painting above, showing T/4 Oscar Kaplan, Linden, N.J., left, and T/3 Theodore A. Korona, Latrobe, Pa. It is now in the Royal Academy's annual winter art exhibition.

the soldiers is the title. They can't decide on one for the double portrait which portrays the two boys seated in front of a draped American flag.

Can't Decide on Title

Every one who enters the studio is asked by the artist by what name it should be called. He thought of "Doughboys" or "Buddies," but discarded those names when he found that "GI Joe" would be a more suitable name for the 1942 model American soldier.

But name or no name, it's hanging in the Academy.

Neither Kaplan nor Korona had ever been artist's models before. Kaplan worked in a New Jersey oil refinery before the war. He now is a typist-stenographer in the signal section in London. Korona worked in a Pennsylvania steel mill and is now a draftsman for the engineers.

They liked the experience, however, and any time Cooper needs a Yankee face for another picture they're ready to sit on the model's stand any time he asks.

This Christmas

It's Christmas Eve . . . and the first time in the lives of many of us that we've been absent from the family circle. But we are not forgotten, of that we can all rest assured.

The individual Christmas greeting from our home folks is but a token and a symbol of the nation's greeting to each and every one of us. All America is mighty proud of the service we are rendering and the duties we are performing.

And at home there is an empty chair that awaits our return. It is our chair in the home we'll miss this season; but in that home the knowledge of our service to America is the brightest light on the Christmas tree.

The bells of Christmas will ring out sweet and clear this year at home, and the message they will carry to us is the age-old message of "good cheer" from America's millions to each of us . . . wherever we may be.

Russian Navy

The Russian Army has played such a decisive role in the present war, and is now hitting the Germans so hard and so often that we have almost forgotten the fact that Russia has a navy, and a very good one at that. It is a powerful and a growing force.

The Russian fleet has sunk 81 enemy warships and 276 enemy transports and auxiliary vessels totalling over a million tons in 15 months of war.

Russia's submarine fleet is the largest in the world and one reason why Japan has left Siberia strictly alone. Prefabricated submarines have been built in Russian factories far from salt water and assembled on the coast. This Russian innovation has proved eminently successful and strategically valuable.

In new ship construction the Soviets added 112 vessels to their fighting force during 1940 and 168 vessels in 1941. Included in the group are several powerfully armed and very fast destroyers. Two 35,000-ton battleships and two aircraft-carriers of American design capable of carrying 40 planes each are soon to be placed in service.

The Russian fleet operates on four separate oceans—the Black Sea, Northern Arctic, Baltic, and Japan Sea. The fleet facing Japan is completely self-sufficient and Japan fears it.

Important as the activities of the Russian Navy have been so far in this war, its value may increase still further as new operations open new theaters of combat for the Russian sailors.

Transplanting Millions

The Germans are continuing the huge task of ruthlessly transplanting millions of Europeans in a desperate effort to strengthen a declining production of war material and food. Their latest project plans for the transfer of three million Dutchmen between the ages of 20 and 55 to Eastern Europe.

In announcing this program, the Germans pretend the Dutch people, by being given the chance of "colonizing" vast tracts of Eastern Europe, will be compensated for the "permanent" loss of the Dutch East Indies to Japan, and that at the same time an outlet is thus created for the "over-population" of Holland.

The fact that Germany looks forward to a "permanent" loss of the Dutch East Indies is interesting. Apparently they have given up all hope that Japan, in the case of an Axis victory, would recognize any right of Germany, as the country which occupied the Netherlands, to a share in the administration and exploitation of the Dutch Far Eastern possessions.

The German argument that Holland is over-populated so heavily that three million people must needs be transferred elsewhere is equally interesting and unquestionably nonsense.

It is, therefore, quite clear that what is really under way is the removal from Holland of the greater part of the fit population. This is all the more serious in view of the fact that another 450,000 Dutch people have already been sent to Germany proper, chiefly to work in industry.

The real reason for the transfer, it is believed, is Germany's urgent need for more food. This food she hopes to produce in the occupied territories of Russia, Poland and the Baltic States by using the best Dutch labor available—"forced" if necessary.

Buy Post-war Luxuries Now, U.S. Plan Purchases of Cars, Pianos, etc., Would Absorb Excess Cash

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (UP)—An elaborate plan to allow people in the United States to begin buying post-war cars, refrigerators, pianos, and the like now on an instalment-in-reverse plan is to be submitted for public consideration soon by the Office of Price Administration.

The plan embraces most major household items, including such things as central heating furnaces. What is earmarked for purchase now will be delivered after the war, but the buyer will pay now, either in cash or by instalments.

The basic idea is to drain about \$5,000,000 a year of excess purchasing power from the public pocket during the war years and at the same time leave the country in a position to give a big peace-time send-off when war orders cease.

Henry J. Kaiser, the "miracle ship-

builder," recently proposed such a plan to the National Association of manufacturers.

How Scheme Operates

The scheme would operate in this way: The consumer will purchase the article required now, either in cash or by instalments, but instead of receiving the goods will get a certificate. The money will be deposited with the U.S. Treasury, which would redeem the certificates from the manufacturer. The certificate would also amount to a priority ticket since those with the certificates would get first choice of the goods produced immediately after the war. Buyers could change the goods they have nominated, or the brand, and in addition get a small bonus on their purchase representing interest on what amounts to a loan to the country.

Opposition Overcome

Official opinion on the plan is reported to be divided in Washington, but all opposition by private business interests is understood to have been overcome by the authors. Business concerns began by opposing the plan on the ground that it implied post-war allocation of merchandise and the possibility of post-war price control. Now, however, they are reconciled to the idea of some form of post-war price control being inevitable, at least for some time. The plan has been compared to Germany's "volkswagon" idea, but, as one official said, "the difference is that we mean it."



Christmas in England

Today is Christmas, Full nineteen centuries have gone, Since golden starlight merged with silver dawn

To light the coming of the day of days, On which the blessed Prince of Peace was born.

Today is Christmas, Embattled Christ, your temples lie, Unroofed by vandal bombs; 'neath England's sky

A pagan cross, unseen against the night Hears Nazi pilots laugh, as children die.

Today is Christmas, Above all earthly grief and pain, Through war's deep sorrow, sounds a clear refrain

"Your land, your freedom, God my Father gave, And yours forever these shall still remain."

Alfred H. Von Koinitz, Major, Air Corps, A.U.S.

Christmas

Of all the love that loved ones know, Enriched thru years of warmth and glow; There's none I know quite so divine, As that which cheers at Christmas-time.

For me the world must stop a space, To give anew to God His grace: To recognize the love that's there, Tho' hidden oft by man's despair.

Lt. Kenneth Tredwell Jr.



"Well! Am I surprised!"

Beau Jack's Uppercut Was 'Hardest Blow'

Biff on Larkin's Jaw Is Historic Event, Writer Says

By Stanley Frank

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—At one minute and six seconds of the third round of the main event at Madison Square Garden last Friday night there occurred one of the most historic events in the annals of the New York prize ring. At that moment was exploded the hardest punch, pound for pound, seen here in the last 10 years.

It was the right uppercut Beau Jack brought up from the floor to the point of Tippy Larkin's chin, thereby winning the lightweight championship of the world in the eyes of the New York and the New Jersey Boxing Commissions and the 18,000 spectators who gaped at the blow's devastating effect.

Many Classy Wallops

The Garden fans, amazed, saw four men, including Beau Jack, the executioner, pick up the absolutely inert Larkin and carry him back to his corner where he was out of this world for five minutes afterwards despite his handlers' vigorous efforts to revive him. The holiday season came early for Larkin. He's been hearing Christmas bells for the rest of the week.

We know that numerous classy wallops have been struck around here in the last decade. There were the paralyzing right hands that Joe Louis threw at Paulino Uzcudun and Lou Nova, and the murderous belt that tore Max Schmeling apart in the first round. Max Baer hit Primo Carnera's chin so hard that Primo's ankle was fractured.

Fine Fight All Around

Nevertheless, Beau Jack, in kayoing Larkin, unloaded the hardest punch, proportionately, of the decade. Larkin has demonstrated his inability to take a stiff clout, but we believe that uppercut would have floored the majority of pre-war ranking heavyweights.

Without the punch it was a fine fight anyway. The crusher made it memorable, with the soles of Larkin's shoes clearly visible to the boys on the top shelf as the temporary pall bearers bore him away.

The Beau can be licked by a good man with a punch, but the man must be an awfully good one. One lightweight who answers that description is Beau himself. He may knock himself out some evening in a frenzy.

NEWS FROM HOME

New Orleans Shipbuilder Gets Big Contract for Cargo Planes

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—A contract under which Andrew Higgins, New Orleans ship builder, will build a "large number of cargo-carrying airplanes" for the U.S. Army was announced today by the War Department.

Neither the number of the planes nor the estimated value of the contract was disclosed. The War Department said only that the planes would be built on a cost-plus fixed fee basis, and the total outlay would be over \$5,000,000.

Dempsey's Wife to Divorce Him

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (AP)—Lt. Com. Jack Dempsey, who is now in the Coast Guard, said today that his wife, Hannah Williams, was consulting a solicitor on plans for divorce.

"I am very sorry about the whole thing," he said, "but I suppose that it is the only way. We tried very hard to make a go of marriage the second time but it didn't work. The divorce will be as friendly as possible."

Dempsey and his wife ended a year's separation last July and moved into a new home.

Plan to Revise Labor Laws

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—A legislative program for a sharp revision of labor laws, including the suspension of the standard 40-hour week and the outlawing of strikes, is reported to have been drafted for presentation to the new Congress.

In the present form the plan would strip the administration of power to deal independently with labor and management problems by creating a new War Labor Board responsible to Congress.

Gave Up Vacation, Get Bonuses

DETROIT, Dec. 23 (UP)—Bonuses amounting to about \$10,000,000 are being distributed to 140,000 workers at the Ford works. The bonuses are for workers who decided to work throughout the year without taking their usual summer vacation.

Ann Rutherford to Wed

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 23 (AP)—Ann Rutherford, the actress, and David May, the son of a department of Beverly Hills, the son of a department store owner, have applied for a marriage licence. Ann is 22 and David May is 30.

F.D.R. Makes Spelling Mistake

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (AP)—President Roosevelt spelt "Generalissimo"

Apps, Leafs' Center, Leads Hockey Scorers

MONTREAL, Dec. 23—Toronto Center Syl Apps leads the race for top-scoring position in the National Hockey League. Apps has piled up a 15 goal and added 13 assists for a 28-point total.

Bill Cowley, Boston Bruins, is next with seven goals, 20 assists in 18 games for 27 points. He is followed by Lorne Carr, Toronto Maple Leafs, who in 20 games has scored 13 goals, made 13 assists for 26 points.

Giants to Train In No. Carolina

New York Team Follows Change Made by Dodgers, A's

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—The New York Giants have announced that they will follow the Philadelphia Athletics and the Brooklyn Dodgers in moving their Spring training camps nearer to home base in North Carolina.

Likewise, Ed Barrow of the Yankees and Sam Breadon of the St. Louis Cardinals, have agreed to give up their St. Petersburg, Fla., training sites in 1943 and train together at some point outside Texas, Florida, or California. They are considering Albany, Ga., because it has two-club facilities.

The Giants have not only abandoned their Florida training site, but in agreement with the Cleveland Indians have cancelled plans for a long barnstorming trip to the North. They'll also start training later than the previously announced date of March 1.

The Athletics will change from Anaheim, Cal., to Savannah, Ga., and the Dodgers from Havana and Daytona Beach to some point in the Carolinas or New Orleans. Several minor leagues will also pull out of Florida. Baseball officials say many major league clubs will train at Hot Springs, Ark.

The wholesale training switch resulted from a letter from Baseball Commissioner Kenesaw M. Landis asking the clubs to avoid excessive traveling because of the lack of housing and transportation accommodations in compliance with the Office of Defense Transportation travel regulations.

with two I's when he wrote a longhand letter to General Chiang Kai-shek, and the staff of the U.S. office of War Information withheld distribution of facsimiles of the letter until they had eradicated the superfluous "I's"

Guard Another Coast Now

OTTAWA, Dec. 23 (AP)—The RCAF has disclosed that an entire RAF coastal command squadron had been transferred to this side of the Atlantic and was now participating in anti-submarine patrol off the U.S. Atlantic coast. The unit is still flying battle-hardened Hudson bombers sent from the U.S. to Britain.

Soldiers of Tomorrow

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23—There are about 2,500,000 youths of 18 to 19 years subject to military service in the United States under the recent draft legislation, according to an estimate given by the Census Bureau.

Bus in Landslide, 22 Die

NEW YORK, Dec. 23 (AP)—Twenty-two of the 30 passengers were killed when a landslide of more than 50 tons of rock and mud crashed on to a bus near Aliquippa, Pa., yesterday. Most of the bodies recovered were identified.

U.S. May Ration Butter

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23 (UP)—The rationing of butter, lard, fats, and oils will probably become necessary early in 1943, the Department of Agriculture announced yesterday.

They'll Be Throwing the Leather Soon



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

Wally May, who will train American servicemen for The Stars and Stripes fight cards at the Rainbow Corner, talks over preliminary plans with Pfc. Jerome Simons, Brooklyn, N.Y., and Pfc. James Ciampi, Mocaqua, Pa. They are shown in the ring at the Rainbow Corner.

80-Year-Old Connie Mack Sees Browns League Champs

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23—Cornelius McGillicuddy, known more affectionately as Connie Mack, has reached his 80th birthday in the best of health and with the conviction that baseball will carry through its "shakiest year" of all the 59 he's devoted to playing the game and managing the Athletics.

The St. Louis Browns, only major league team that has never won a pennant, are Connie's favorite for 1943.

"I like the Browns. If they had had pitching at the start of the season they might have given New York a tussle all the way last summer," Mack explained. "Considering how they came out of nowhere to finish third and the draft hasn't hit them hard yet, they look very good."

"The Yanks," he went on to point out, "won't be the class of the League. Not with Phil Rizzuto, George Selkirk and Buddy Hassett in the services and Frankie Crosetti suspended for the first 30 days. Then Rolfe has left to coach at Yale. And Dickey and Ruffing are growing older too."

"Baseball will keep going all right," Mack prophesied, "no matter how many players we lose."

"We'll play a lot of doubleheaders next year to allow extra time for traveling. We'll get along the best we can."

Late Drive Gives Bruins 4-4 Tie With Leafs

BOSTON, Dec. 23—A surging third-period drive saved the Boston Bruins from defeat by the Toronto Maple Leafs and got them a 4-4 tie. It was the second tie the two teams have played in four days with the same scores, and it kept clean the Bruins' record of being undefeated at home this season.

Boston led briefly in the opening period when Jack Schmidt slapped in a goal at 11:33. But before the period ended Toronto scored twice—Center Syl Apps getting the first tally unassisted and Defenseman Reg Hamilton scoring on Gaye Stewart's rebound.

The score was tied in the second period when Buzz Boll scored for the Bruins. Toronto forged ahead in the first half of the final period with Mel Hill scoring unassisted and Billy Taylor tallying a minute later. Boston began a desperate offense as Harvey Jackson sank one and Murphy Chamberlain tied it up at 16:14.

Lazy Defense

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 23—Joss Cody, Temple University coach, believes that a zone defense makes players lazy. "Zone players are not active enough," Cody says. "They believe their responsibility ends when they've covered the area they're assigned."

Chris Cagle Dies, Gridiron Hero

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—Chris Cagle, All-American halfback on Army's football team in 1928 and '29 and captain of the Cadets in 1929, died early yesterday in Physicians' Hospital, Queens, where he had been taken for treatment, suffering from a fractured skull and pneumonia. Police have been unable to ascertain whether Cagle, who lived in Jackson Heights, Queens, had been assaulted or hurt accidentally.

Cagle suffered a head injury Saturday night and managed to reach his apartment where he collapsed. He was taken to a hospital where his condition was aggravated by pneumonia.

Cagle began his career at Shawnee, Oklahoma, where he was a track star and a prominent sprinter for the Oklahoma University track team. He went to West Point, where his flashing brilliance, shifty open field running and passing ability gained him fame. His West Point career ended romantically—and tragically—when he was forced to quit the Academy after a pre-graduation marriage to Marion Haile. He then became football coach at Mississippi A and M and later went to the New York Giants as a coach.

Basketball Results

- Manhattan 43, Syracuse 42.
- Manhattan Beach Coast Guard 37, Brooklyn College 36.
- LIU 79, Springfield 50.
- Seton Hall 29, Cornell 28.
- Villanova 58, Philadelphia Coast Guard 35.
- North Dakota Aggies 35, Valley City Teachers 33.
- Loyola 52, Chicago 30.
- Evansville 65, Austin 29.
- Olathe Naval Air Base 49, Kansas State 34.
- Camp Grant 41, Illinois 31.
- Springfield Teachers 49, Friends 15.
- Omaha 55, Midland 43.
- Indiana Central 56, Central Normal 30.
- Wisconsin 48, Oklahoma 37.
- Purdue 43, Washington 42.
- Bowling Green 62, Heidelberg 41.
- Muskingum 45, Youngstown 38.
- Texas A and M 45, 95th Division 39.
- Corpus Christi Naval Air Station 54, Texas Christian 34.
- Texas Wesleyan 60, Stephen Austin 34.
- California 59, Santa Clara 31.
- Washington 62, Gonzaga 41.
- Utah 49, Montana State 40.
- Idaho 36, College of Idaho 26.

Yankees Win Close Fielding Race in League

Browns, Cleveland Finish Within 2 Percentage Points of N.Y.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23—Although it didn't pay off when the World Series rolled around, the New York Yankees won the team fielding honors for last season, but only two percentage points separated the first three clubs.

Walter Judnich, St. Louis Browns, Roy Weatherly, Cleveland Indians, and Ted Williams of the Boston Red Sox, set the pace among the League's outfielders.

Judnich made only three errors in handling 337 chances in 122 games for a .991 average. But his performance was equalled by Weatherly who took care of 334 chances. Williams made only four errors in 332 chances to gain a .988 average.

Fielding Below Par

The Yanks made only 142 errors, accepting 6,025 chances in 154 games. This made their percentage .976. The Cleveland Indians and the Boston Red Sox tied for second with .974.

The All-Star lineup of individual defensive leaders is dominated by Boston and Cleveland. There were fewer double plays than during the '41 season, 1,207 compared to 1,242. For the second time in the circuit's history, there were no triple plays.

Fielding for the League as a whole was off one percentage point to .971. The Indians' rookie, Les Fleming, led the League's first basemen, .993, one point better than the Red Sox' Tony Lupien. Fleming took part in five double plays in a single game to equal the League record. Rudy York, Tiger first baseman, broke the League record for assists for first basemen with 146, surpassing by three Chick Gandil, Washington Senators 1914 mark.

Boudreau Tops Shortstops

Bobby Doerr of the Red Sox, paced the second basemen with .975, two points above the Browns' Don Gutteridge. Cleveland's Ray Mack was in on five double plays in a single game, tying the second baseman's major league mark. Ken Keltner, Cleveland Indians, retained the honors as the leading third baseman, fielding .945. Lou Boudreau, also of the Indians, topped the shortstops with .941, followed by Phil Rizzuto of the Yanks, who was in on 114 double plays compared with Boudreau's 107.

Leading the catchers were Yank Buddy Rosar, with .996 in 58 games, Cleveland's Otto Denning, .992 in 78 games, and Johnny Peacock, Red Sox, .988 in 82 games.

Pitchers' fielding records included 22 perfect performances among ten-game or more hurlers. Most effective record was that of Tex Hughson, also of the Sox, who handled 76 chances for a .987 average.

Willie Pep KO's Joey Silva in 8th

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Dec. 23—Willie Pep, featherweight champion, scored a technical knockout over Mexican Joey Silva in eight rounds here last night. It was Pep's fight right from the start and the Mexican was hopelessly outclassed. Pep carried him along to give the cash customers a good show.

Silva didn't even touch Willie until the third round. In the seventh the crowd tired of the footwork and the fancy feinting and began to cry, "Run Willie, run." The champ (New York version) then went to work in earnest.

Pep is the first champion to fight in Jacksonville in a quarter of a century. The last was Gentleman Jim Corbett who kayoed Charlie Mitchell in three rounds in 1914. It was Pep's 57th victory.

News on the Air

News is broadcast on both the Home and Forces programs at 7 AM, 8 AM, 1 PM, 6 PM and 9 PM. An additional broadcast is on the Home Service at Midnight. Sports news from America is presented by The Stars and Stripes on the Forces at 7 PM every day except Dec. 24 and 25.



Tanks Finding Xmas Welcome In British Isles

Parties for Youngsters High Point of Holidays

(Continued from page 1)

and Dixon line, it's unusual in that it is a Christmas without snow.

However, there will be the familiar sound of church bells on Christmas morning, something Britons haven't heard for three years. The British Government, which except for one Sunday this autumn has barred the ringing of church bells since the invasion threat in 1940 (church bells will be used as an alarm in the case of invasion), relaxed the restrictions for three hours after 9 AM tomorrow.

High point of the Christmas week festivities, of course, is the program of parties for children scheduled by virtually every unit in the British Isles. Thousands of youngsters in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland suddenly found out that there really was a Santa Claus and he looked suspiciously like their Uncle Sam.

Red Cross Parties

The Red Cross rolled into the Christmas spirit with a long and detailed series of parties at clubs throughout the ETO designed to make GI Joe as happy as possible under strange conditions.

Basically, this still remains a week of work for the forces here. ETO headquarters announced that soldiers would be given time off to attend parties and for short leaves to the maximum extent feasible, but that otherwise there was to be no break in the regimen of training and work.

To those men who could get away on furlough or short leave and were to be guests at British homes the Army issued special rations so that their hosts might not be deprived of already short food stocks.

Perhaps the finest gesture of good will was entirely an affair within the Army's own ranks. Soldiers of Jewish faith in the largest single unit in the ETO volunteered to do extra duty over the holiday so that Christians might be free to observe the anniversary of the birth of their Christ.

Special Broadcast

BBC scheduled a dozen special broadcasts for Americans in the ETO, while the English bureaux of the American broadcasting companies also planned special broadcasts for the folks back home, largely comprising Christmas greetings from the boys in the service to the States, but also including shows and entertainment.

Admiral Stark will extend Christmas greetings to American forces here in a special broadcast over BBC tonight at 7 o'clock.

Tomorrow, on both the Forces and Home wavelengths, "The Fourth Christmas"—a description of Christmas in the Isles and in the Middle East—will be broadcast at 4 PM.

Sometime during the day there will be messages from the leaders of the Allies.

All sorts of parties are scheduled for today and tomorrow, and there will be a few more between Christmas and New Year's Day. The bulk of the soldiers' parties for children of villages and cities near their camps already has been held, with authorities reporting that more than half of the Christmas boxes of delicacies and sweets sent by the folks back home to the servicemen here have been passed on to those who had even less—the underprivileged children of blitzed areas the length and breadth of England.

It was impossible to catalogue all the parties today and tomorrow. A few of the highlights, in addition to the Red Cross affairs, included:

Sailors, Marines Entertain

Sailors and Marines are entertaining 200 children from near the Navy's Londonderry base tomorrow at dinner, games and motion pictures.

In Belfast, 4,000 youngsters are to be guests tonight of American soldiers, the Red Cross and American aircraft technicians who have made toys from scrap aircraft materials on an assembly line basis and will distribute them to the youngsters along with candy bars, soft drinks and other gifts. Other Belfast children will be American soldiers' guests at YMCA parties.

In the North of Britain, U.S. Marines have invited scores of little Scots to a Christmas party tomorrow, with a program that includes Mickey Mouse movies, a tree and presents of toys and candy.

An Engineer unit which subscribed £100 for a war orphan in 20 minutes went on to a Christmas party for all the children in their area.

At an American camp in Southern England, 1,200 are to attend a Christmas party and variety revue Friday afternoon. Two hundred WAAFS and ATS will be soldiers' guests at an open house and tea dance sponsored by the Red Cross club.

At Hampton Court Palace, 200 enlisted men of the Eighth Air Force in the London area are Christmas guests of the residents of the district.

For the most part, the Eighth Air Force—as the arm chiefly in action in this theater—is pretty much "standing by its guns" today and tomorrow, but they will still manage a few parties, among them one for the youngsters of one of London's most severely blitzed areas.

SOS Headquarters scheduled a party for 1,000 youngsters, with the First Special Service Unit playing the leading role in organizing the entertainment.

War Orphans' Fund Nears £10,000 Mark

The Stars and Stripes War Orphans Fund, the American soldiers' best gift to the blitzed children of the United Nations, came within striking distance of £10,000 yesterday.

A total of £9,538 19s. 6d. has been raised since the fund came into being, and indications were that an end-of-the-year drive would bring it over the £10,000 (\$40,000) mark by Jan. 1.

In addition to the total fund, £57 10s. has been contributed by American servicemen's units to see that "their youngsters" have a few extras.

The American Red Cross, which is administering the fund and bearing all expenses, reported that 48 orphans thus far have been selected by units which raised the necessary £100, and six others are being cared for out of fractional contributions to the general fund.

Red Cross Has Yule Program

Clubs Hold Open House For Servicemen in British Isles

The American Red Cross is seeing to it that no American soldier in the British Isles goes without a little of that old Christmas feeling.

With special parties, Christmas dinners, dancing, entertainment and assistance to soldier-groups staging their own Yule festivities for neighboring English children, the Red Cross is rounding out a Yuletide program of giving that has brought an American atmosphere to much of the British Isles.

Some Red Cross clubs throughout the ETO already have started their Christmas festivities, but for most of them tonight—Christmas Eve—is the beginning of the real celebration.

Some of the programs: The Mostyn Club, Portman St., off Oxford St., gets its activities under way this afternoon with a party for its volunteer and paid workers, entertainment to be supplied by the staff and soldiers. Carol singing and brief Christmas Eve services take place at midnight.

At St. Nurses' Club
The Charles St. Nurses' Club will have all of its festivities on Christmas Eve with dinner and a dance. There will not be anything special on Christmas Day.

The Washington Club, Curzon St., offers an informal "homelike" program, starting tonight with carols and refreshments. A party for children, who will dine with servicemen, is planned for Christmas Day.

The Hans Crescent hostel, near Knightsbridge station, will trim the tree tonight and present a variety show that includes carol singing. Christmas dinner will be followed by a dance at night, music by a 33-piece orchestra, and entertainment by Forsythe, Seamon, and Farrell.

Eagle Club Festivities

Festivities at the Eagle Club, off Leicester Square, start with Christmas dinner in the lounge. Later in the afternoon those who wish may accompany fliers from the old Eagle Squadrons to a party for kids at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital for Children. A 15-minute broadcast of the party will be carried over CBS.

The Milestone Club, Kensington Road, will sponsor a party for children of Finsbury on Christmas afternoon.

At the Rainbow Corner, Shaftesbury Ave., off Piccadilly, 36 Christmas trees will be decorated tonight by soldiers, following the theatrical show at Kingsway Hall. On Christmas morning 50 kids will be entertained at a party, have their dinner served by soldiers, receive gifts and have tea in the afternoon.

'Open House'

For the soldiers there will be dinner at noon, followed by "open house" and dancing at 4 PM. Musicians have been engaged to play in five rooms throughout the day. Dancing partners will be available, but if men wish to bring their own dates they can make arrangements at the club.

Glasgow volunteer workers plan a Christmas Eve party, at which servicemen will receive gifts from the volunteers. Singing of carols at 7 AM, turkey dinner at noon, and tea dance are scheduled for Christmas Day.

In Edinburgh a similar program is planned for tonight, but on the 25th dinner will not be served until 6.30 PM. There will be a party for orphans in the afternoon and movies at night.

Blondie

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



'Iowa-Colorado' Is Desert Fortress



In the shade of a General Sherman tank, nicknamed, "Iowa-Colorado," somewhere on the Libyan desert, a British tank crew waits for further orders and the Tommies take a nap on the sand.

Sport and General Photo

Sergeant Peeps Out of Turret, Sees Jerry Tank 2 Feet Away

WITH U.S. ARMORED FORCE, Tunisia, Dec. 22 (UP)—For years after the war Sgt. Rolva Cantrell will tell folks in Hodginsville, Ky., about the night he stuck his head from the turret of his tank, discovered a German tank two feet away and heard an enemy officer shouting at him in German.

Cantrell is a bit jittery now when telling the story, but at the time of the incident he thought fast, hurled two hand grenades at the German tank and ducked down in his own turret. The German officer also ducked, backed his tank off 10 feet and fired at Cantrell's tank which was holding a bridgehead. One German shell knocked the barrel off the American tank's center gun. Four other shots penetrated the armor, injuring one man.

Jerry Escapes

An American tank parked behind Cantrell's fired four shots at the German tank, but the enemy tank escaped in the darkness.

Telling how the incident occurred, Cantrell said: "We were parked by the roadside when a German soldier, walking along the road, stopped beside us and jabbered in German which we couldn't

understand. I sent him back to my company commander.

"A few minutes later we heard a vehicle approaching and thought it was an American half-track. I stuck my head out to speak to them and saw it was a German tank. I really ducked fast."

Soldier a Deserter

Cantrell's crew later learned that the German soldier was a tank crew deserter trying to surrender. He had tried to tell them—and later succeeded in telling the company commander—that German tanks had been knocked out of action on the hillside but that a third was approaching and that there were German 88s nearby. As a result of the deserter's information the Americans captured the gun positions easily.

Cantrell said: "I sure wish some of us could have understood that Jerry. We really would have been waiting for that tank."

Members of Cantrell's crew were Cpl. Robert Etier, Marlow, Okla.; Pvt. Eno Widberg, Clay Center, Kan.; Pfc Shirley Swan, Hamburg, Ark.; Pvt. M. Ridgeway, Mosine, Tenn.; and Pvt. Frank Bunner, Fairmount, W. Va.

Soldier-Actors Hartle Pledges Top Show Bill Fight to Victory

(Continued from page 1)

Soldier talent and actors from the professional stage and screen will top the bill at an "old fashioned" Christmas party for American troops and their guests tonight at Kingsway Hall, in Holborn, London.

The party gets under way at 8 PM and will run through midnight, ending with a short non-sectarian devotional service led by Chaplain C. R. McClelland, Dallas, Tex.

British families who have invited American soldiers to their homes for Christmas and 50 Tommies of the British RTO in London will be the special guests of the Americans at the party. More than 2,000 persons are expected to attend.

Leslie Howard and Robert Donat top the list of stage and screen stars on the entertainment program, part of which will be broadcast to the United States.

GI entertainers with a professional background include a cowboy singer, Pvt. Homer Harris, Denver, Col., who used to warble rangehand ballads on American radios, and 1st Lt. Max K. Gilstrap, Ardmore, Okla., who is an ex-Government ranger-naturalist from the Grand Canyon and Yosemite national parks.

War. Offr. Frank Rosato and his Dixieland swing outfit from New Orleans will furnish the music, while two American non-coms will be at the organ—S/Sgt. Richard Griffiths, Norfolk, Va., and Cpl. Heinz Arnold, Patchogue, L.I., N.Y.

Free tickets for the party can be obtained at Red Cross clubs and at Special Services.

Hartle Pledges Fight to Victory

in the United Kingdom has made a contribution and a personal effort to brighten some youngster's Christmas day. Many find that in this way they capture, for a few hours, the holiday spirit of their American homes, in which their own children are celebrating the occasion.

"Our soldiers cherish Christmas and all it stands for, peace on earth, good will toward men. In foreign lands all over the globe American men are fighting for the freedom which will once again make it possible for the peoples of the world to celebrate the great common festivals, in peace and good will. They will not give up until this freedom is established.

Second War Christmas

"For America, this is the second wartime Christmas. We, together with the other United Nations, have the strength to win this war. At home, the American people are behind us—in offices, factories and on farms. Our fighting services are trained and ready. Many are already in the battle; the enemy has felt our might on all fronts. The future is full of hardship and weariness, but this Christmas we are beginning to see our hope fulfilled. We are on the road to Victory and nothing will stop us.

"I join with my officers and men in wishing the personnel of the forces with which we are associated, and the civilians behind those forces, a genuine MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR."

Japanese Again Try Bombing Planes in Flight

Zeros Flank Forts While Others Drop Missiles From Above

SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA, Dec. 23 (AP)—Allied Air Force Headquarters disclosed yesterday the Japanese were using "aerial bombs" in an attempt to increase their margin of success in air battles in New Guinea and the Solomons.

At headquarters Lt. Col. George C. Kenney, Commander of the Allied Air Forces in the southwest Pacific, reported two such attacks recently. Both were unsuccessful and three enemy fighters were shot down and a fourth damaged.

The Japs first used "aerial bombs" against a single Flying Fortress on reconnaissance around Buinasi in the Solomons. Seven Jap fighters attacked in two "V" formations.

While three Jap fighters flew parallel with the Fortress, the others climbed 1,000 feet above, then dropped bombs which burst and fell "in a streamer effect with small red fires at the ends," according to the report of the Fortress's crew.

With the last explosion the three fighters flying alongside closed in and opened fire. Then they climbed above while the other four flew parallel with the Fortress and repeated the performance.

The fight lasted 40 minutes. One Jap fighter was destroyed and one possibly destroyed. One was damaged. The Fortress fired 1,000 rounds of ammunition and escaped undamaged.

The Zeros used "aerial bombs" for the second time against Liberators along the coast of Papua. One Zero was shot into the sea.

The Australian communique today said that the Allied troops in the Buna area of New Guinea are pushing a slow advance through "intricate and thoroughly prepared positions."

Russian Drive Enters Ukraine

(Continued from page 1)

craft were keeping up their attacks on the retreating enemy, strafing them and bombing their lines, causing great disorder.

This was having a marked effect because, with such snow and wind storms as were prevailing on the front, it became necessary to fly very low, enabling the Soviet fliers to pour a hail of bullets upon the already sorely battered Germans.

The tanks plunged on ahead of the infantry, capturing more and more storehouses. One group wirelessed back: "We are distributing Dutch chocolate and Rhine wines to our fighters."

From the frozen northern front to the snow-swept southwestern front, the German communications took a worse turn as the invaders lost a total of 905 railway miles to the advancing Soviet forces.

Upwards of 430 miles was rendered inoperative on the southwestern front by Gen. Vatutin's drives. One hundred and forty miles of the Stalingrad-Tikhoretskaya line is in the possession of the Red Army, and nearly 200 miles of line between Voronezh and Millerovo.

Free Tickets Handed Out For Troop Show Sunday

Distribution of approximately 2,500 free tickets for the holiday show for troops Sunday at 2.15 PM at the Palladium Theater was begun yesterday by representatives of the Special Service Section, Red Cross clubs and the Special Service officers of units in the London Base Command.

The show, produced by USO Camp Shows and American Overseas Artists, will be "for American soldiers and their Allied guests," a Special Service officer said.

Originally scheduled to be held at the Hippodrome, the show has been transferred to the Palladium. Stars will include Kay Francis, Martha Raye, Carole Landis and Mitzi Mayfair, of the USO group, and Ben Lyon, Bebe Daniels, Vic Oliver and Teddy Brown, of the American Overseas Artists.

Africa - - -

(Continued from page 1)

when large-scale fighting would be resumed.

Meanwhile U.S. fighter pilots brought the total score of Axis aircraft they have destroyed in six weeks in the North African campaign to 96 when they shot down two or three JU88s which attacked the Allied forward positions and badly damaged a third Junkers. In the same period the U.S. forces lost 55 planes.

A headquarters spokesman said the final score for the week ending Dec. 18 was 24 enemy planes destroyed by U.S. planes alone, with 12 American aircraft lost.

American fighters also shot up an enemy tank and 12 other vehicles with ammunition trailers yesterday and scored hits resulting in explosions in lorries and other trailers in another sector.