



THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations



Vol. 4 No. 98

New York, N.Y.—London, England

Friday, Feb. 25, 1944

Heavies Again Blast Reich's Air Vitals

Planes Strike 1,300 Miles From Tokyo

Task Force That Hit Truk Makes Bold Thrust 1,300 Miles From Philippines

The war's first Allied blow against the Marianas, southernmost islands of Japan's so-called home-defense ring, was dealt with "great power Tuesday" by hundreds of U.S. naval planes from a carrier fleet now prowling enemy-dominated waters of the Eastern Pacific, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced yesterday at Pearl Harbor.

After lashing at Truk in a "neutralization blow" exactly a week before, the same U.S. task force then moved 700 miles northwest to rain bombs on Saipan and Tinian Islands—strongest of the Marianas—which lie only 1,300 miles south of Tokyo and 3,500 miles west of Pearl Harbor.

Rear Adm. Marc A. Mitscher, who commanded naval surface units for Maj. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle's 1942 Tokyo raiders, directed the air blow which American newspapers last night heralded as "carrying the war to the very doorstep of Tokyo."

Details Are Withheld

Adm. Nimitz's terse communique mentioned neither damage inflicted on the Jap strongholds nor Allied losses. Further information would be withheld until radio silence had been lifted.

The Marianas, sometimes known as the Ladrone, lie north of the Carolines—site of Truk—and about 1,300 miles east of the Philippines. The islands consist of two groups. Those to the north are mountainous and uninhabited.

The southern islands are flat and low and, in addition to Saipan and Tinian, also include Guam, the former U.S. air and naval base which fell to the Japs seven days after Pearl Harbor.

Naval observers in Washington speculated last night on new attacks in the Eastern Pacific within the next few days—possibly at the Nipponese mainland itself, which is less than eight hours' flying distance from the Marianas.

Observers pointed out that the carrier attacks provided fresh evidence of the might of the U.S. Navy today and its ability to strike almost at will in the Pacific, without a challenge from the Japanese main fleets.

The Marianas raid is the fourth big U.S. operation against the Japs this month and came a few hours before U.S. troops had completed the six-day conquest of Eniwetok atoll in the western Marshalls.

Linkup in New Britain

In the Southwest Pacific, American Marines in northern New Britain have linked up with U.S. Army units in the Arawe sector on the southern part of the island, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced yesterday.

The southern troops are composed of elements of a mechanized cavalry regiment from Texas, artillerymen from Idaho, and Arizona and New Mexico infantrymen, including several hundred Indians. The latter have been cited for their work as bush experts.

Allied troops now dominate 40 miles of the southern tip of New Britain. More than 6,000 Japs have been killed in the two-month campaign, it was announced officially.

For the second day in a row, Japan's battered Rabaul base offered no air resistance to Solomon-based U.S. planes which dumped 100 tons of bombs on harbor and airfield installations.

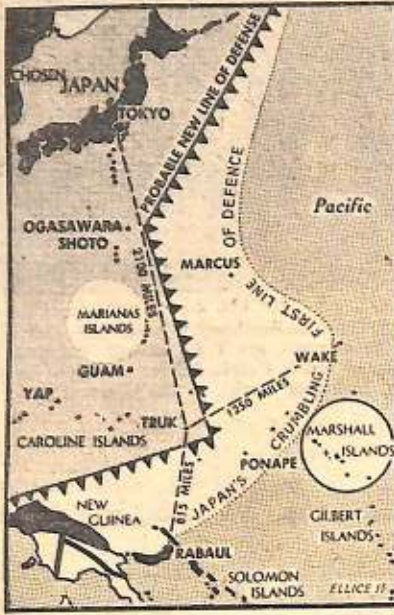
118,128 Army Casualties Kite U.S. Total to 157,865

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—The Army has suffered 118,128 casualties since war began, including 19,499 dead, 45,545 wounded, 26,339 missing and 26,745 prisoners of war, the War Department announced today.

Navy, Marine and Coast Guard casualties total 16,506 dead, 9,322 wounded, 9,491 missing and 4,418 prisoners on the basis of official reports to date, according to Reuter. This with the Army figures brings the total U.S. casualties to 157,865.

Prisoners reported to have died in camps, mostly in Japanese areas, number 1,664. The actual number, however, is said to be much larger.

On Tojo's Doorstep



Barkley Is Kept In Post; House Overrides Veto

Senate Democrats Retain Leader; FDR in Personal Appeal to Kentuckian

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—Democratic colleagues of Senator Alben W. Barkley unanimously re-elected him party leader in the upper house today 15 minutes after the veteran Kentuckian—unmollified by an eleven-hour conciliatory telegram from President Roosevelt—had resigned in protest against what he termed the Chief Executive's "unjustifiable assault" upon congressional integrity in his veto of the tax bill.

Less than an hour later, the House overrode Mr. Roosevelt's veto, 299 to 95, and sent the \$2,315,000,000 measure to the Senate for action tomorrow. The vote in the House, where 394 of the 435 members were recorded, found 36 more than the required two-thirds voting against the President. Even if all members absent had upheld the White House veto still would have been defeated.

Barkley's re-election as party leader—virtually a vote of confidence—capped one of the most dramatic political splits in Washington in years. Since he took the Senate floor yesterday to denounce Mr. Roosevelt's demand for \$10,500,000,000 in taxes as "fantastic" and to announce he could go no further with the President, Barkley had received more than 6,000 letters and telegrams urging him to accept re-election.

The Kentuckian's successful challenge of the White House lifted him into the spotlight as a possible Presidential candidate. Charles H. McGlue, former Massachusetts Democratic state chairman, was quick to forecast a "draft Barkley" movement. Meanwhile, Wall Street saw a minor boom on the market because of the probability of continued low taxes.

Mr. Roosevelt's telegram, transmitted from out of town, was delivered to Barkley personally by Presidential Secretary Stephen Early.

Addressed to "Dear Alben," it said in part:

"I regret to learn from your speech... that you thought I had in my message attacked the integrity of yourself and other members of Congress. Such, as you must know, will not in my opinion... You and I may differ and have differed on... (Continued on page 4)

Finland Ready For Peace Now, Is Awaiting Terms, OWI Hears

One of the clearest statements yet made by a Finnish statesman on Finland's peace hopes came yesterday from Vice Premier Vaino Tanner, who said, "Finland would withdraw from the war immediately if acceptable terms were offered."

Premier Tanner's statement, broadcast by Finnish radio and picked up by OWI in New York, was regarded as a reply to allegations that he was an obstacle to peace in last week's talks in Stockholm. "If anyone wants peace I am the man," Tanner said. "But Finland cannot accept any conditions."

Last Barrier In Drive for Pskov Falls

Reds Take Dno; Rogachev Captured in New White Russia Offensive

Dno, last Nazi outpost buttressing Pskov, gateway into Latvia and Estonia, fell to the Russians yesterday as a new Red Army offensive in White Russia smashed a 30-mile hole in Nazi lines northwest of Gomel, overwhelmed Rogachev and swept toward Bobruisk and Minsk in Poland.

The captures, announced by Marshal Stalin in separate orders of the day within an hour, opened the way for a final all-out assault on Pskov from north, northeast and east, and a swift thrust northwest of the Pripiet marshes which might outflank the whole Nazi White Russian front.

After the Soviet occupation of Strugi-Krasnye, 40 miles northeast of Pskov on the railway from Luga, Dno was the last stronghold left holding up the Red sweep toward Pskov. Sixty miles east of that junction, Dno fell to simultaneous thrusts from north and east.

One of a chain of Nazi bases along the Leningrad-Odessa railway, Rogachev, 14 miles north of Zhlobin, where the rail line from Gomel to Minsk crosses the Dnieper, was destroyed completely by artillery fire before evacuation, a German commentator said in a Berlin broadcast.

Three-Day Offensive

In three days the dawning offensive here broke through a strongly fortified enemy zone and pushed the enemy back 12½ miles on a front 30 miles long, Stalin said.

Moscow reported a lull in the Dnieper Bend fighting, but German reports told of strong Stormovik attacks in support of Soviet tanks and infantry pressing Nazi rearwards west of Krivoi Rog.

Russian correspondents in that iron-core center said miners who had been in hiding for weeks to escape a German drive to find labor for deportation to the Reich now were coming up the shafts by the hundreds. Women of the town, using secret entrances, kept their menfolk supplied with food.

Meanwhile Col. Ernst von Hammer, German News Agency commentator, claimed Nazi motorized divisions had retaken Roshyshe in the western Ukraine, 12 miles north of Luck, on the Kovel-Rovno railway, and had wiped out the Soviet garrison.

Dewey Cancels Entry In Wisconsin Primaries

ALBANY, N.Y., Feb. 24—Gov. Thomas E. Dewey, of New York, asked Wisconsin supporters today to withhold his name from the State's primary at which delegates to the Republican National Convention will be chosen.

Time Changes April 2

Britain will go on Double Summer Time from April 2 to Aug. 13, Home Secretary Herbert Morrison announced yesterday. Clocks will be advanced another hour, putting British time six hours ahead of New York time, instead of five. American time will not be changed in the summer, as Daylight Saving Time has been in force since the war.

Schweinfurt, Gotha Bearing and Plane Plants Hammered

15th Major Day Raid of Record Month Meets Fierce Opposition; Largest B26 Force Bombs Enemy Airdromes

Massed fleets of Eighth Air Force Fortresses and Liberators struck straight to the heart of Germany's battered aircraft industry in daylight yesterday and pounded home their fourth major blow in five days.

Schweinfurt and Gotha, some 450 airline miles from London, and other targets across the Reich were bombed by the heavies as they and their fighter escorts carried out the 15th day of operations in a record-breaking month.

German radio reports of the attacks described vast air battles along the route to the ball-bearing works at Schweinfurt and the Messerschmitt plant at Gotha. Berlin Radio said Italy-based heavy bombers, which hit the Reich while the Eighth AAF was grounded Wednesday, again joined the assault.

As the heavies and their fighters poured in almost endless stream from British bases, the largest single force of Marauder medium bombers yet to fly here blasted simultaneously at three Luftwaffe airdromes in Holland, one of them only ten miles from the German border. It was the B26s' nearest approach to the Reich itself and was carried out without loss.

Over 250 Marauders Out

More than 250 Marauders formed the force which helped to clear the way for the heavies and, at the same time, probably interfered with German night raids against England. Fires were left in fuel dumps on the airdromes at Leeuwarden, Gilze-Rijen and Deelen, nearest Germany.

First official announcement by U.S. Strategic Air Forces headquarters did not list losses or claims for the day's attacks, which kept up the battering of Nazi aircraft factories, accessory plants and airdromes and depots. RAF operations Wednesday night were confined to Mosquito forays, but early last night Berlin radio went off the air "for technical reasons," frequently an indication of a raid.

Crews of some combat wings in yesterday's attacks came home to report fierce resistance by queued-up lines of German fighters, while others met only slight resistance as they pushed on to the inner circle of German defenses. One wing of Liberators reported almost endless combats with fighters and rocket-carrying interceptors.

It was the first attack on Schweinfurt, once the site of Germany's major ball-bearing works, since the history raid of Oct. 14, in which almost every factory of the big plant there was hit by American bombs. That attack cost 60 aircraft, a loss figure equaled only by the Battle of Central Germany on Jan. 11.

The bearing plants there, which once turned out some 50 per cent of the ball-bearings used by the Nazi forces, were repaired after the October raid, even as they had been after the first attack there on Aug. 17, and production was estimated to be at 70 per cent of normal.

(Continued on page 4)

The attacks have been carried out by the largest force of bombers the Germans have used since 1941, and it is known that the Nazis have moved many bombers from the eastern front to western Europe. German military commentators said a non-stop offensive against London had started.

London Again in Front Line
London was right back in the front line of the air war. A large number of persons were trapped when a high explosive bomb struck a large block of flats in one section. One HE bomb narrowly missed one of London's most famous buildings, smashing a six-story apartment house nearby. Another destroyed a shop containing priceless antiques, art works and jewelry. Scores of apartments, homes and business properties were struck, and smoke still rose yesterday morning from debris where rescuers toiled to free trapped victims.

An American Red Cross club was damaged so badly it will be closed for a month. Several persons were hurt, but none seriously. At many other clubs, American soldiers answered calls for help.

FDR Order Ends Strike; Los Angeles Lights Go On

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24—President Roosevelt's order for Army operation of Los Angeles' strike-crippled Municipal Water and Power Department brought a quick collapse of the 11-day walkout today.

Striking workmen, informed by a White House statement that their demand for an extra \$15 a month was impeding the war effort, streamed back to their jobs, and Army authorities in control estimated that two-thirds of 50,000 homes without electricity would be re-connected within a few hours.

Spaatz in Mediterranean

ALLIED HQ, North Africa, Feb. 24 (AP)—Lt. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, commander of the U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe, is now on a special Mediterranean trip. Accompanied by Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, commander of the Allied Mediterranean Air Forces, he has visited bases from which Liberators bombed Steyr yesterday.

U.S. Blitz on Reich Just Starting—Patterson

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—The bombing offensive against Germany is just beginning, Under-Secretary of War Robert Patterson declared today, and "the strength of the Eighth U.S. Air Force in first-line planes and reserves has reached a point where it can sustain an offensive against a system of targets until it has achieved success."

Warning that the "air war... will not be won without heavy cost," Patterson told his press conference that "the full might of our air strength is just beginning, but the climax is yet to come." He pointed to Germany's "substantial recuperative powers" in the task of rebuilding the airplane centers bombed by the Allies, but added that existing fighter formations were being destroyed in the attacks as well as the productive capacities on the ground.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Printed at The Times Publishing Company, Ltd., Printing House Square, London, E.C.4 (Tel. Cen. 2000), for U.S. Armed Forces, under auspices of Chief of Special Service ETO, Col. Oscar N. Solbert.

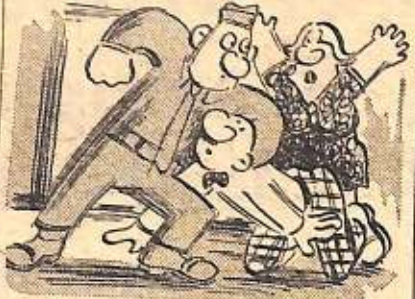
Vol. 4, No. 98, February 25, 1944

Hash Marks

Incidental information: Some GI who has been reading the Handbook on Company Administration sends out this warning: "Absence without leave on the 28th day of February results in the loss of three days' pay and absence on the 29th results in loss of two days' pay." So, "have your fun" some other time.

S/Sgt. Jack W. Manning, of the ETO, says he can't figure out what goes on in the minds of people on the home front. Manning was transferred to a Sub Depot. He sent his girl his new address and she wrote back, "What are you doing in a sub depot? I thought the Navy took care of its own equipment."

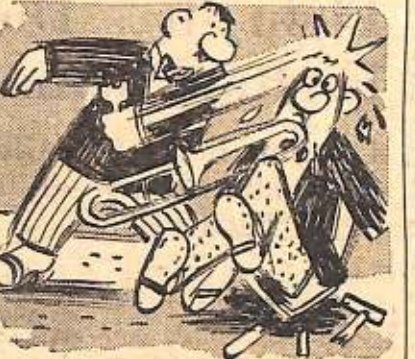
Fun on the Home Front: A Cpl. back in the States returned home on furlough. His mother had not written him that she



had married again. So, when he enters the house and sees a "strange" man, he grabs the "stranger" and is in the process of breaking his arm when mother rushes in and shouts, "Careful, Junior, you're killing papa!"

According to a report from our spy in the underground, huge crowds gathered in Copenhagen recently when Field Marshal Erwin Rommel drove through the Danish capital. After Rommel had passed through, the crowd still remained; so police told them to move on. "Oh, no," was the retort, "We're waiting for General Montgomery—he always follows right after Rommel!"

If you have children with musical talents, you'd better tell them to stick to the piano or the piccolo. A man was



dancing with his wife in a Wyoming night club. When the music stopped he sat his wife down, picked up a champagne bottle, walked to the trombone player and conked him on the head. He told police, "His music made my wife nervous."

Most surprised man in these parts this week was a captain, on duty in London. Through some mix-up in the mail he received an order to sign up for duty with the Home Guard! There was a long list of application blanks to fill out and, as far as he could figure out, the only way to get out of duty was in a paragraph listing, "Conscientious Objector; Undue Hardship; Already at work in an essential war job." From what he heard, he boldly encircled the sentence "already employed in essential war work" and sent the form back—with a clear conscience. J. C. W.

A Cackle From GI Rockers

Graybeards Rise to Protest 'Oldest Draftee's' Claim



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo. Not draftees certainly, but veterans of enough years in the Army to make any draftee (even a 44-year-old-one) feel like a mere babe in arms, are T/4 Domenik Takmauh, of Boston, and M/Sgt. Theron C. Bollinger, of Battle Creek, Mich., who have been in the same outfit for nearly 27 years, including service in the last war.

By G. K. Hodenfield, Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

Pvt. Robert C. Dickson, you will now pin together your GI swaddling clothes and totter into ETOUSA's kindergarten. We have just separated the men from the boys.

At the ripe old age of 44 you dared claim for yourself the title of "The Oldest Draftee in the ETO." Your claim has been challenged by nine men of 47 years, 25 of 46 and 17 of 45. There also are seven of 44 who feel they can give you a few months.

The list of challengers includes men who were drafted in the last war. It includes grandfathers. It includes numerous veterans of the last big fracas, plus one vet of the Mexican border campaign. It includes Pfc's who want to throw rank. It even includes another college professor.

In the words of T/5 John S. Schall, of Aberdeen, Wash., who will be 47 in July, "The professor (that's you, Dickson) isn't dry behind the ears yet." Or, as T/4 Norbert B. Moehringer said, in closing, "Regards to Bobbie." Moehringer will be 46 next month.

Cpl. Paul Gilch was one of the earlier challengers for the title. He's 45. As a further claim to fame, he states that he wears size 13 shoes.

S/Sgt. Ben Stuart will be 47 in April. He wants you to know that he is not bald, and can still get around Piccadilly Circus ("I was there, last Saturday night," he said).

An old man of 44 years nine months is Pfc Kostis T. Argoe. He used to sign the payroll at WJCCC—mm-mm, which one is that?—where he said he was a professor of history. He said if you didn't concede the honors graciously, he was gonna pull rank.

Cpl. David M. Merritt will be 46 next month. He was drafted, too. Not only that, he and the better half will celebrate their silver-wedding anniversary in July. He added, for no apparent reason, "The last 15 months have been the easiest and most carefree I can remember."

Granddaddy of 'Em All In the ETO a Volunteer

The oldest private in the ETO, and possibly in the entire Army, is probably Pfc John J. Donahue, of New York, aged 55 years six months. Donahue, inevitably called "Pop" around his service-group station, has 12 years' previous service in the Navy. "Pop" wasn't drafted, he talked a leg off Army officials to get in.

Another volunteer who has passed the half-century mark is Sgt. Frank L. Stinson, of Nampa, Idaho, 51. Stinson is a grandfather, and was exempt from the last war because of dependents. When he was notified that his son had been killed in the Solomons in August, 1942, he tried to enlist. He was turned down, but pulled some strings and finally was accepted in February, 1943. He now is an engineer in the Transportation Corps.

If you want to hear a really sorry tale, Dickson, harken to the story of Sgt. William R. Lyons, who'll be 47 in April. Lyons received greetings from the President in the last war and ended up at OCS, minus a commission because the Armistice was signed before he could prove he was worthy of the gold bars. This time he was too old for OCS, but not too old to be drafted.

If you need further proof that you spoke out of turn we refer you to such men as William Just, aged 46, a corporal in the Mexican border campaign, a sergeant in the last war and a drafted private in this one; T/5 Rex Torbert, 45, a vet of the last war who claims special distinction because he visited England twice in peace time; Cpl. Edward C. Chapman, 46, who volunteered in 1917 and called you "only a youngster"; Sgt. Boleslaw Sawicki, a grandpa at 46; and Sgt. Warine Anderson, 46, of Salt Lake City, who's drawing longevity for the two years he spent in the Navy in the last war.

See what a private, even 44 years old, gets for popping off, Dickson? The Stars and Stripes Cluster to the Spam Ribbon for the oldest draftee in the ETO will have to be shared by nine men, and you ain't in it. Until somebody at least 48 writes in, these men are champs:

Cpl. John Cattell, 1/Sgt. Charles Bagarry, T/5 Maurice E. Maney, Pvt. Tony T. Estony, T/Sgt. Frank Shultz, Pvt. William C. Rourke, Sgt. Rollie F. Smith, S/Sgt. Samuel Tashley and T/4 Tony Morrow.

Of the nine, it seems that Shultz has the best claim. Besides qualifying at 47, he served in the aviation section of the Signal Corps in the last war, has two sons in the Merchant Marine, and his sister, Sister Frances, a nun, was taken prisoner by the Japs in China.

Shultz now is an S-2 clerk at a Liberator station, and claims to be the original pilot of Spread Eagle, the biggest manure spreader in Erie County, Pa.

This Is The Army

THREE soldiers operating a post exchange at an ETO station hospital pride themselves on maintaining an atmosphere pretty close to that of an American general store.

In a Nissen hut, where a pot-bellied stove provides the rural atmosphere, the three—Cpls. Leslie C. Kiehl, of Chicago, and Charles A. Stoll, of Chestery N.Y., and Pfc Clair H. Neill, of West Point, Ill.—sell everything from cigars to cosmetics—sell everything from cigars to cosmetics—and encourage their customers to discuss topics ranging from the Dodgers to post-war planning.

The exchange differs from a store at home in that more than 50 per cent of the home in that more than 50 per cent of the articles on sale are of British manufacture, obtained under reverse Lend-Lease.

After fighting in Africa, Sicily and Italy, Pvt. John J. Hamill, of Chicago, was transferred to a base in Northern Ireland only a few miles from the village in which he was born.

Hamill once was rescued after being trapped for two hours in Italy when an air-raid shelter caved in, but he said the biggest thrill of his life "was revisiting the town of my birth."

Although he went to America in 1928, his 78-year-old grandmother had little difficulty in recognizing him from photographs he had sent her. He has visited most of his 200 relatives in Northern Ireland.

RECORD War Bond purchases are maintained by the engineer company commanded by Capt. A. W. Sinnott, of Minneapolis. Every man in the outfit buys bonds each month.

One of the first engineer outfits to come to England, the company spends a total of \$4,419.50 every month for War Bonds and insurance. Every man in the company was covered by a full \$10,000 National Service Life Insurance policy when the outfit left the United States.

Cpl. Donald Lawson, attached to the Eighth Air Force Air Support Command, has been awarded first place in a short-story contest conducted by Story Magazine among members of the U.S. armed forces, it was announced today. Lawson's "The Channel Island Girl" brought him \$100 as the first prize award.

Cpl. James H. McCool, of Huntingdon, Pa., recently visited an old friend of his grandmother—Lady Montgomery, mother of Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery.

Parachutist McCool's grandmother attended the same schools as Lady Montgomery.

Notes from the Air Force

FAR above Frankfurt the bombardier of the Fort Flak Happy II was pulled back to the ship's narrow catwalk just as he was about to hurtle through the open bomb bay doors.

Without a parachute the bombardier, 1/Lt. Albert H. Halpern, of Worcester, Mass., had gone to the bomb bay just as the ship began to make its initial bomb run. His oxygen mask became caught and was pulled partially loose. Dazed, he began to keel over.

The engineer, T/Sgt. Roy E. Williams, of Newcastle, Pa., looked in the compartment just in time and ran to pull Halpern to safety.

2/Lt. Richard McDonald, of Scituate, Mass., a fighter pilot, was reporting the destruction of an enemy plane to his intelligence officer:

"I brought my ship up close to his and looked over into the cockpit. I saw Jerry leaping forward on his chute harness straps, dead."

"How did you know he was dead?" snapped the intelligence officer.

"Damn it," retorted the Mustang pilot, seriously, "I couldn't see his chest moving."

THE crew of the Fort Shatzki II came back from Frankfurt with a new characterization of aerial warfare above Germany.

The return trip of the ship, which limped home on two engines behind its formation, was likened by the crew to the voyage of a lone covered wagon through an Indian-infested prairie. Seven fighters kept circling the plane. Occasionally one or two would break off and dive in, only to be driven off by the Shatzki's guns.

It was like a Hollywood Indian attack before the Nazi fighters gave up the fight, said the pilot, 1/Lt. Donald M. McGregor.

1/Lt. Glenn T. Eagleston, of Alhambra, Cal., Mustang pilot, gave the following account of an encounter over Germany: "I took after an Me109 at 23,000 feet, and he started down in a steep dive. I dropped my belly tanks and followed. My air speed indicator climbed to over 600 mph. At 6,000 feet the Jerry lost control and spun into a crash. I managed to pull out at about 8,000 feet and started back up. Right then I nearly got conked by my belly tanks coming down."

A LETTER which Lt. I. R. Furkey, member of an air force unit here, wrote to a fellow soldier six months ago taken a 24,000-mile trip. Last July, when he was stationed in California, Furkey wrote to a friend whom he thought was stationed in Washington. The letter was then forwarded to Colorado. The letter was then to North Africa, where the Army decided it couldn't find the addressee. Then the letter started back to Arizona, where Furkey had been transferred, chased after him to California, then to a port of embarkation and finally reached him at his station in the ETO.

Assault on Marianas

The most significant fleet action of the entire war in the Pacific is now in progress, for a U.S. carrier task force has attacked the Saipan and Tinian islands in the Marianas (Ladrones Island group), located about 1,600 miles from Tokyo.

The Ladrones comprise 14 islands, not including Guam, with a total area of 639 square kilometers. The odd name was given by Magellan's officers, for when he discovered the Marianas in 1521 his officers, angered by the natives' thieving habits, called them Islas de los Ladrones (Island of Thieves), and that name has stuck.

The administrative center for the Ladrones group is located on the island of Saipan, together with a powerful radio station JRV, which is in constant communication with other Jap stations and naval units in the Carolines and South Pacific. Saipan is 18 miles long by nine broad, and its main town is Garapon, on the western shore.

Tinian has an area of about 20 square miles and is famous for its natural beauty. It has also been notable as the home of great herds of wild cattle, and during the past 50 years there has been a considerable traffic between this island and the neighboring islands of Guam and Saipan in the supply of beef.

The Mariana Islands comprise one long chain, extending for about 400 miles, and revelation that a U.S. task force can attack this group—the central Pacific step ladder leading to Japan—indicates that Truk may have been neutralized temporarily at least as Japan's outer defense base following the air-sea bombardment two weeks ago.

It also indicates that the Pacific fleet is strong enough to challenge the main Japanese fleet to a showdown in the Pacific, and it proves that 1944 finds America ready to drive straight through to China in preparation for the all-out assault on Japan.

An Unconquerable Spirit

"I see the damage done by the enemy attacks; but I also see, side by side with the devastation and amid the ruins, quiet confidence, bright and smiling eyes, beaming with a consciousness of being associated with a cause far higher and wider than any human or personal issue. I see the spirit of an unconquerable people."

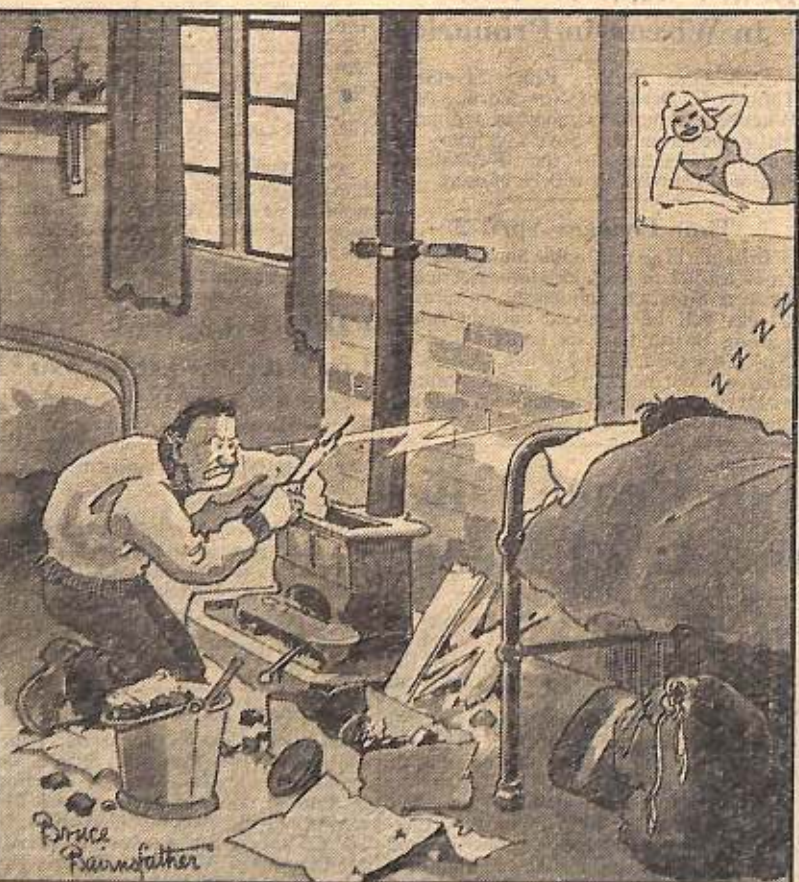
In these moving words, Winston Churchill, during the brave days of 1941, paid high tribute to the civilian warriors of Britain whose heroic deeds won the everlasting gratitude of the free peoples of the world.

Amid the roar and clash of recent raids, Mr. Churchill's words have taken on deeper meaning for thousands of American soldiers who have recently arrived in Britain. Now they know what Mr. Churchill meant when he spoke of "the spirit of an unconquerable people." They've seen it demonstrated. Perhaps they saw it in the courageous British major who kept cheerful while being buried a day and a half under smouldering debris, then died in a hospital. Or they may have felt it in the quiet manner of a civilian who gazed uncrushed into a pile of rubble where his wife was buried. Or they may have glimpsed it in the woman who risked death before a wall about to collapse to take a burned and water-soaked Bible tenderly from a blitzed church.

It gives one a different perspective to stand on an eight-storey building where great hunks of concrete have been blown from the street below. One can then appreciate the significance of the British remark, "If you think this is bad, you should have been here during the Battle of Britain." Then they had few planes, few anti-aircraft guns with which to defend themselves. Their chief reliance in those dark days was the will to resist and live, come what may.

This is the spirit Churchill saw displayed, the spirit we are seeing today. But fortunately we are now privileged to share with them these grim and trying experiences. Under these conditions trivial differences fall away, and we stand together as an unconquerable team with the other Allied nations.

PUBLIC ENEMY No. 1.



The room mate who shams sleep, while YOU light the stove.



Frank Reagan, former Penn All-American, is a captain commanding a Marine detachment on a warship. Three other former athletic greats are dealing the Nips a fit with the Marines in the Pacific. Lt. Jack West, former Iowa State all-Big Six center, has been in the thick of the Bougainville going; Lt. Bob Barnett, Duke captain and center on the Blue Devils Bowl squad in 1941, has ribbons for his bombing feats; and Lt. Sam "Little Sammy" Aaronson, a four-letter man at Wesleyan, in Connecticut, recently blasted a big Jap ammo dump on New Georgia.

Regret was the only filly ever to win the Kentucky Derby, but that doesn't keep owners from trying again. This year Ben Jones, just about tops in trainers, is sending in two fillies, Twilight Tears and Miss Keeneland, out after the classic.

Charley O'Rourke, who led Boston College a couple of years back, is getting plenty of consideration for the head coach's job when the war is over and the Eagles return to competition.

Clarence "Pants" Rowland, the new proxy of the Pacific Coast League, never played ball in his life, but has been a major and minor league manager, umpire, scout and now a league head. He got his first baseball job as manager of the Chicago White Sox, stepping into the position from a place as owner of a saloon in Illinois.

Sando Szabo, the Hungarian wrestler, has temporarily deserted the ring to appear in pictures. His latest is "Mission to Moscow." Szabo has always been known as one of the greatest comedians in the wrestling business, and that's some title. . . . The Phillies are coming up with a double no-hit pitcher next year in Al "Stumpy" Verdelle, who tossed the no-hitters for Bordentown Military Institute a few years back. Stumpy starred at Fort Dix as a pitcher until discharged because of a bad leg.

When Al Popick, former Oregon hoopster now playing for Kearns Air Base, Utah, got tossed out of a recent game for four personals, it was the first time he had been bounced in five years of basketball. . . . Minnesota has about twice as many boxers in the armed forces as any other state, according to Nat Fleisher of Ring Magazine.

The National Field Trials, the World Series of hunting dogdom, was postponed for this year due to a shortage of birds. . . . Dr. Eugene Lambert, basketball coach at Arkansas, has one recipe to stop the mile-high goal tenders now making headlines on basketball courts. Lambert wants a rule making it illegal to touch the ball after it has started on its downward course toward the basket.

Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, Stars and Stripes, 37, Upper Brook St., London, W.1. Telephone, ETOUSA, Ext. 2131. Unless otherwise stated in the ad. direct all correspondence c/o Help Wanted.

APOs Wanted

SGT. George Ambler, S/Sgt. Herman Binder, William C. Bohl, S/Sgt. Henry Boucher, Newton, N.J.; Peter Byrnes, Jackson Heights, N.Y.; Capt. Francis P. Chinnard, Baltimore, Md.; T/Sgt. Allyn Colburn, Fred Case Jr., Rose, N.Y.; Pvt. Thomas Crews, Dayton, Ohio; William J. Cummings, Marlboro, Mass.; Lt. Herbert Gottlieb, mimes, Marlboro, Mass.; S/Sgt. Maurice Healy, NYC.; Brooklyn, N.Y.; S/Sgt. Lawrence Ingram, Atlantic, Iowa; CPL. William Jaynes, Bennettsburg, N.Y.; Al Kaminsky, Toledo, Ohio; Pfc Palmer Knooper, Dallastown, Pa.; Richard Meacham, Ashland, Ky.; Maj. John R. Roche, Davenport, Iowa; William F. Roston, Hope, Ark.; Cecil Schneider, Georgetown, S.C.; S/Sgt. Robert E. Segal, Richmond, Va.; Pvt. Garnett G. Share, New Columbia, Pa.; Maj. Walter Shepard, Easton, Pa.; Sgt. Herbert Shoemaker, Philadelphia; Pvt. John J. Sikora, Jersey City, N.J.; Lt. Morna L. Smith, ANC, Schuylkill Haven, Pa.

LT. Albert M. Sammerfield; Gaylord C. Teter, Santa Rosa, N.M.; Archie Thompson, Haledon, N.J.; Joseph Tierney, Dallas, W. Webb; Cpl. Chester Tisdale; Maj. Newport, R.I.; William George G. Williams, Newpport, R.I.; S/Sgt. William Woodbridge, Marquette, Mich.; S/Sgt. William Hutz, Sgt. James Ryan and Albert Downey, New Shenandoah, Pa.; Sgt. Ferdinand L. Boesch, New Orleans; Cpl. William J. McAvoy, Savannah, Ga.; Cpl. Edward G. Delye, Denver, Colo.; Pfc John Cpl. Ladislav Hucek, Cleveland, N.C.; Cpl. L. Kolecik; Sgt. William Wilkins, Boz, Ala.; Clifton Kelley; Pvt. Wayne Leece, Greenville, Ala.; Pvt. William Robert Reynolds, Teanant, Portland, Pfc Charles Dyer; Lt. Edward S. J. N. Korzin; Cpl. G. M. Brunner; Sgt. Lloyd Rhoades; Pfc Col. M. R. Smith; Pvt. Lloyd Rhoades; Pfc

Toy Bulldog Hits the Canvas



Tony Galento, sporting an unaccustomed monocle, gives the once over to one of Mickey Walker's paintings at the Toy Bulldog's exhibition at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York. The guy under the chapeau is Walker—remember?

Mickey Walker Takes Brush In Hand, But Can't Fool Tony

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (AP)—When prizefighter meets canvas, what happens? In Mickey Walker's case, he picked up a beret and a palette and became a painter.

Now, before you start throwing any gallery cheers at the "Toy Bulldog," take a look at the results. Mickey came up with about a dozen paintings worthy of gold frames, grabbed a lot of free publicity in a picture magazine, and had an art exhibition in the Waldorf-Astoria's Jansen suite.

Bentley Cuts Cain's Margin

CHICAGO, Feb. 24—Doug Bentley's field day in the Chicago Hawks' 8-4 defeat of the cellar-dwelling New York Rangers Tuesday night increased his point total to 30, one behind the Boston Bruins' Herb Cain, who leads the loop.

Leading Hockey Scorers

| Name | G | A | Pts. | Name | G | A | Pts. |
|-------------|----|----|------|-------------|----|----|------|
| Cain, B'ton | 31 | 34 | 65 | A. Jackson | 22 | 29 | 51 |
| Carr, T'mto | 29 | 33 | 62 | Smith, C'go | 16 | 34 | 50 |
| D. Bentley | 30 | 29 | 59 | Bodnar | 18 | 39 | 47 |
| Chicago | 25 | 32 | 57 | Pratt, T'o | 13 | 33 | 46 |
| Carveth | 21 | 33 | 54 | Howe | 26 | 18 | 44 |
| Liscombe | 27 | 26 | 53 | Bruneteau | 29 | 14 | 43 |
| Detroit | 16 | 37 | 53 | O'Conner | 9 | 34 | 43 |
| Lach, M't'l | 19 | 33 | 52 | Montreal | 9 | 34 | 43 |
| Cowley, B'n | 19 | 33 | 52 | | | | |

Doug's four tallies almost single-handedly beat the Rangers. He led in goals last season.

Lorne Carr, the Toronto Maple Leafs' leading scorer, and Mud Bruneteau, of the Rangers, each have 29 with Carl Liscombe, another Ranger, close behind with 27. However, Cain leads in the total scoring with 65, due to 34 assists, Bentley having 29.

Buddy Rosar's Status With Tribe Undecided

BUFFALO, Feb. 24—Catcher Buddy Rosar refused to comment on reports that he will quit baseball for the duration and remain at his war plant job, so his Cleveland Indian bosses are still in a quandary.

Rosar, former Buffalo policeman, took a war job at the Buffalo Arms plant after the close of last season, but Indian officials expected him to return to the fold. Now, however, they don't know what he intends to do.

Shakespeare, Ex-Irish Grid Star, Gets OCS Bid

CAMP ADAIR, Ore., Feb. 24—Sgt. William Shakespeare, former All-American halfback at Notre Dame, was the only member of the 70th Division to be chosen for Infantry OCS at Ft. Benning, Ga.

Shakespeare, who lives in New York, arrived here last August as a buck private.

Dutch Clark on Way In

DENVER, Feb. 24—Earl "Dutch" Clark, one of college and professional football's all-time greats, has been accepted for Army duty after passing his physical and will report in three weeks. He is father of a nine-year-old son.

Li'l Abner

St. John's Scalps Violets; Bluejackets Topple Oilers

Henry Armstrong Stops Garrison in the Fifth

KANSAS CITY, Feb. 24—Henry Armstrong, former triple title-holder, stopped Jimmy Garrison, Los Angeles welterweight, via the TKO route, in the fifth round of a scheduled ten-rounder here last night.

Garrison was down twice in the fourth round from trip-hammer lefts to the head, getting up the second time as the bell sounded. In the fifth round Armstrong worked rapidly on Garrison, putting him on the canvas five times before the referee stopped the scrap.

Missions to Stay In Sacramento

Franchise Saved by Sale To New Group Of Owners

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24—Sacramento business men saved the day and prevented the city's Pacific Coast League franchise from slipping away to Tacoma, Wash., or Vancouver, B.C., when the League's board of directors voted unanimously to approve a purchase offer.

Clarence "Pants" Rowland, loop proxy, said the offer was acceptable to Sam Bredon, president of the St. Louis Cardinals, who owned the franchise.

Dick Edmonds, Sacramento sports editor, and Yubi Separovich, cafe owner, headed a committee to collect money from business men and deposited \$40,000 to the directors for the Missions' franchise, the money to be turned over to Bredon.

The new operators also have the alternative of purchasing the park from Bredon for \$50,000, \$10,000 less than the original purchase price, or renting it from the Cards for \$5,000 per year.

CAGE RESULTS

- Bainbridge 62, Navy 44
- Camp Reynolds 39, Allegheny 37
- Colgate 75, Sampson 45
- Delaware 42, Washington College 34
- Dow Chemical 55, Provo All-Star 46
- Ft. Custer 51, Detroit Tech 45
- Great Lakes 55, Phillips Oilers 39
- Harlem Globe Trotters 49, Logan Collegians 47
- Indiana State Teachers 60, Bunker Hill Naval 52
- Kansas 32, Kansas State 24
- Lafayette 54, Newark 32
- Oregon 56, Washington State 44
- Philadelphia Const Guard 52, LaSalle 51
- Salt Lake Sheriffs 77, Hill Field 26
- St. John's 50, NYU 40
- St. Joseph's 91, Elizabethtown 30
- Temple 31, Penn State 30
- Upper Iowa 46, Luther 33
- Western Michigan 69, CCNY 49
- Wooster 74, Ashland 28

Prince Quillo Assigned Top Weight in Widener

MIAMI, Feb. 24—Top weight of 126 pounds has been assigned to Prince Quillo, an Irish-bred "refugee horse from Europe," in the \$25,000 Widener Handicap to be run here at Hialeah Park Mar. 4.

Hot Shot 4-F

Calverly Burning Up Court After Medics Gave Him Boot

PROVIDENCE, R.I., Feb. 24—Discharged from the Army Air Corps last July with a solemn warning not to exert himself too strenuously because of a heart murmur, Ernie Calverly, of Pawtucket, R.I., certainly isn't following the advice. He is the most colorful member of Rhode Island's basketball squad and has broken all individual scoring records.

Thus far, he has tallied 518 points in 19 games. The previous recognized record of 515 points was established last year by George Senesky, of St. Joseph's. Calverly made his best bid for the scoring title Tuesday night when he scored 45 points to lead Rhode Island to a 115-37 victory over the University of Maine. He hooped 27 in the first half,

CCNY Downed by Western Michigan; Navy Is Beaten

NEW YORK, Feb. 24—An 11-point surge in three minutes enabled the Redmen of St. John's to scalp New York University, 50-40, in the feature game of a Madison Square Garden basketball double-header last night, thus assuring the Brooklynites of a bid to the National Invitation play next month.

Western Michigan's dribblers took the measure of CCNY, 69-49, in the opening game of the twin bill.

NYU threatened to sweep the Redmen from the court at the beginning of the nightcap and had an 11-3 margin at the five-minute mark. Wade Duym then entered the game for the Indians and the tide changed immediately, Duym and his team mates pouring the points through until the half, when St. John's led, 21-18.

The second stanza was fairly even throughout the first 17 minutes, the lead changing hands five times. The Violets managed to take a 40-30 lead before St. John's opened up their scoring fury to wilt the New Yorkers.

Duym was the leading light throughout for St. John's, pouring in 13 points.

Western Michigan had no trouble in subduing City College as lanky John Canywood racked up 22 points. Canywood, six feet four inches tall, was effective on the setups and maneuvered into position easily. He tallied 20 of his points in the first half, which favored Western Michigan, 41-23.

Great Lakes Shows Strong Defense

GREAT LAKES, Ill., Feb. 24—The Great Lakes Naval Training Station's basketball combinations scored its greatest victory last night, defeating the Phillips Oilers, National AAU cage titlists, 55-39.

Lt. Tony Hinkle's Bluejackets had the Oilers completely puzzled with their fire horse attack and man-to-man defense. The sailors swept through the Oilers' defense on the first play and scored easily. From there on the Navy men were never in danger.

Herman Schaefer put on a display of trick shots and finished with a total of 16 points. It was Great Lakes' 29th victory in 32 games and the second loss in 23 for the Oilers since they annexed the crown.

Kansas Clips

Kansas S., 32-24

MANHATTAN, Kan., Feb. 24—Kansas University gained a tie for third place in the Big Six basketball standings last night, the Jayhawks defeating Kansas State, 32-24. It was State's eighth straight circuit setback.

Kansas had an 18-12 half-time advantage.

Middies Suffer Third Loss, 62-44

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Feb. 24—Navy's basketball team suffered its third loss of the season last night, losing to Bainbridge Naval Training Station, 62-44.

The Middies gained an early lead in the first period, but the Commodores soon overtook them and went on to win, rolling up a 32-24 half-time advantage.

New Assaults By Anzio Nazis Are Beaten Off

Artillery Blasts at Other Units Massing to Attack in Cisterna Sector

Artillery smashed German forces massing for a new assault on American positions west of Cisterna, while in the Carroceto sector of the Anzio bridgehead enemy thrusts were beaten back, reports from the front said last night.

As Marshal Kesselring was reported to be organizing his nine divisions for a third major offensive, the Allied Tactical Air Force raided Nazi shipping and ports along the Dalmatian coast of Yugoslavia.

Bombed were Zara harbor, Juges near Marina, a landing field near Knin, targets north of Split and shipping in Drvenicki Channel.

The absence of major fighting on the Anzio front indicated that the failure of their offensive last week had disorganized the German forces more than was believed. However, adverse weather, which protected the Germans from the full weight of superior Allied air strength, helped the German efforts to regroup.

On the main Fifth Army front, only patrol clashes and artillery fire were reported as a lull continued. Northwest of Cassino, three large explosions followed an American artillery bombardment of German positions.

Although the Americans hold one-third of Cassino, there were no reports of fighting from the town.

A 20-Foot Slide Fastener On New GI Sleeping Bag

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—A 20-foot zipper fastener—the longest ever manufactured—closes a new-type sleeping bag described by the Quartermaster Corps for use in evacuating wounded in Arctic areas or in the extreme cold of high altitudes. Ten sliders permit easy access to any part of the wounded man without entirely exposing him.

Barkley - - -

(Continued from page 1)

important messages, but that does not mean we question one another's good faith. In working together to achieve common objectives we have always tried to accommodate our views so as not to offend the other whenever we could conscientiously do so. But neither of us can expect the other to do further.

"When, on yesterday, I read your portions of my tax message and you indicated your disagreement, I made certain changes as the result of our talk. You did not, however, try to alter my basic decision when you realized how very strongly I felt about it, while I did not realize how very strongly you felt about that basic decision. Had I known, I should not have tried to dissuade you from exercising your own judgment in urging the overriding of the veto.

"Certainly your differing with me does not affect my confidence in your leadership, nor in any degree lessen my respect and affection for you personally.

"I sincerely hope you will not persist in your announced intention to resign as majority leader in the Senate. If you do, however, I hope your colleagues will not accept your resignation, but if they do I sincerely hope they will immediately and unanimously re-elect you."

Barkley received a tumultuous ovation when he entered the party conference to resign. He emerged grim-faced shortly afterward to hear more cheers as he entered the Senate chamber. A few minutes later the party conference sent out a deputation to escort him back to its meeting as its re-elected majority leader.

Interviewed later, Barkley said, in response to a question, that a possible fourth term for Mr. Roosevelt "had nothing to do with this."

"I have always had the deepest personal affection for the President," he said. "Both personally and officially, he stands beside Woodrow Wilson, who has been my ideal of a President for the last generation."

The House vote to override Mr. Roosevelt, taken before crowded galleries, revealed another split. Rep. Robert L. Doughton (D., N.C.), 80-year-old chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, declaring that the President had in effect asked Congress to accept his dictation, announced, "This is where I part company with the President."

AFN Radio Program

On Your Dial
1375 kc. 1402 kc. 1411 kc. 1420 kc. 1447 kc.
218.1m. 213.9m. 212.6m. 211.3m. 207.3m.

Friday, Feb. 25
1100—GI Jive.
1115—Personal Album with Martha Tilton.
1130—Bandwagon.
1200—Kate Smith (Repeat).
1230—Carnegie Call.
1255—Quiet Moment.
1300—World News (BBC).
1310—Barracks Beat.
1400—Visiting Hour.
1430—Sign off until 1700 hours.

1700—Sign on—Gerald and his Orchestra, and Program Resume.
1730—Family Hour.
1800—World News (BBC).
1810—GI Supper Club.
1900—Seven O'Clock Sports.
1905—Comedy Caravan.
1910—Designed in Britain.
2000—News From Home—Nightly roundup of news from the U.S.A.
2010—Fred Waring Program.
2025—This is the Army—Little known facts about your Armed Forces.
2030—Jubilee.
2100—World News (BBC).
2100—Roundup Time—Western Music.
2120—Charlie McCarthy Show—with Edgar Bergen.
2140—Dale Evans and Ray Noble's Orchestra.
2205—One Night Stand with Paul Martin.
2215—Suspense.
2235—Final Edition.
2300—Sign off until 1400 hours, Sat. Feb. 26.

Month's 15th Raid Brings U.S. Pace To One in 38 Hrs.

Yesterday's air offensive against Schweinfurt, Gotha and other targets deep in Germany comprised the 15th day of operations this month for USSTAF heavy bombers based in Britain; an average of one raid every 38 hours through February. Herewith the month's box score:

| DATE | TARGETS | LOSSES | | CLAIMS | |
|----------|--|---------|----------|------------|-------------|
| | | Bombers | Fighters | By Bombers | By Fighters |
| Feb. 2 | Pas de Calais | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| " 3 | Wilhelmshaven | 4 | 9 | 1 | 8 |
| " 4 | Frankfurt, W. Germany | 21 | 1 | 4 | 8 |
| " 5 | Central France airfields | 2 | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| " 6 | Airfields and plants in Central France | 4 | 4 | 4 | 13 |
| " 8 | Frankfurt, N. France | 12 | 9 | 3 | 16 |
| " 10 | Bronswick, Gibe-Rien | 29 | 8 | 29 | 55 |
| " 11 | Frankfurt, W. Germany, Pas de Calais | 5 | 14 | 3 | 32 |
| " 12 | Pas de Calais | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| " 13 | Pas de Calais | 4 | 0 | 0 | 6 |
| " 15 | N. France | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| " 20 | Aircraft plants in Germany | 21 | 3 | 65 | 61 |
| " 21 | Aircraft plants and depots in Germany | 15 | 5 | 18 | 33 |
| " (x) 22 | Aircraft plants and depots in Germany | 41 | 10 | 34 | 59 |
| " (y) 24 | Schweinfurt, Gotha and others | ? | ? | ? | ? |

Note: (x)—Only Eighth and Ninth Air Forces losses on first co-ordinated attack from north and south on Reich.
(y)—Yesterday's figures incomplete.

Nazi Air Vitals Again Blasted

(Continued from page 1)

Some 60 miles north of Schweinfurt, Gotha is the site of one of the largest components factories turning out parts for twin-engine Messerschmitt 110s; and there Liberators of yesterday's force heaped bomb after bomb onto the plants, leaving smoke and flames all across the target area.

Bomber crews told of "almost suicidal" German defense tactics. From the moment the first bombers crossed the Nazi coast, reefs of fighters, stung to desperate efforts by the endless pounding which started in 1,000-plane thunder Sunday, hurried in them. U.S. Thunderbolts, Lightnings and Mustangs escorting the bombers took on one formation after another of Nazi fighters to add to their record box score—517 enemy aircraft destroyed for the loss of 128 U.S. planes since Jan. 1, not including yesterday's figures.

Over Schweinfurt, the bombers found a smokescreen laid by Nazi defenses, but made long bombing runs to drop explosives and incendiaries with what first reports said might be "among the best results of the war." As they turned home, the Fortress crews saw smoke rising to 10,000 feet, they said.

"Those B24s really got to their target," reported Capt. James R. Martin-Vegue, of Tampa, Fla., lead navigator in one of the Fortress formations which attacked Schweinfurt.

"We could see the Liberator target just burning to beat hell. It must have been 60 miles away and there wasn't a cloud to obstruct our view. Our own target, Schweinfurt, was covered by smoke from the bombs of the preceding formation when we got there.

"When we left, the whole target area was on fire."

Lt. Col. Louis W. Rohr, of Teaneck, N.J., led a B17 combat wing against Schweinfurt for the second time, and said it was undoubtedly the most successful mission he had ever flown.

"Fighter support was good all the way," he said. "There were at least 100 of our fighters in sight at all times."

Additional praise for the fighter support which covered the bombers to and from the target came from Capt. Robert L. Lecates, of Seaford, Del., pilot, who had taken part in the two previous USAF attacks on the Nazi ball-bearing center.

As the third battle of Schweinfurt began, German radio was quickly on the air with reports indicating the operation might be one of the most bitterly fought of the war. Berlin radio stations spoke of "hundreds of interceptors" going up to meet "bomber formations from north and south," and a little while later made a parenthetical announcement that "final claims" of last Tuesday's two-way attack had reached 124 U.S. aircraft destroyed. (The official U.S. announcement on Tuesday's operations said 61 bombers and 13 fighters were lost by the Eighth, Ninth and 15th Air Forces.)

Terry and the Pirates



Yanks See What's Left of London Raider



Two U.S. fliers and a British airman examine wreckage of a German plane which was shot down near the suburbs of London. The plane damaged several houses when it crashed. All of its crew were killed.

Americans Get Split With Spain Taste of Blitz Urged in House

(Continued from page 1)

volunteers to fight fires or aid in rescue work.

Two American soldiers and a girl were rescued from a cave-in basement. Other Americans were injured by flying glass, and air raid warnings warned many of their works and stay off the streets.

Numerous German airmen who bailed out of planes crippled by London's most intense barrage landed in London suburbs and were captured.

At least five planes were shot down Wednesday night, four over England and one over its base in Belgium.

Although the strength of the raids is well below that of blitz days, when attackers numbered 400 and 500, their punch per plane is much heavier, and their threat has increased shelter and subway sleepers to many thousands.

To Londoners the big difference between the present bombings and the 1940-41 days is the thundering barrage put up by British anti-aircraft.

"In the old days all we heard was German planes and bombs, which at least made it easier to duck," said one Briton. "Now you probably couldn't hear the bomb coming in this din."

Learning a Combat Trick the Hard Way

Yanks Splashing in Icy Pool Aren't All Wet, Mr. John Bull

By Tom Hoge
Stars and Stripes Unit Correspondent

A U.S. INFANTRY DIV., Feb. 24—British country folk, who a long time ago resigned themselves to the queer ways of the Yanks, are still a bit startled these frosty mornings at the sight of a small group of GIs shivering knee-deep in the town swimming pool.

And when they pause to gape, they notice a couple of Joes paddling little canvas rafts back and forth across the pond. Other rafts, laden with weapons, are floating around the pool. Proper daft, chum. Proper daft.

Actually, it isn't screwy at all. It's just a vital phase of infantry training that has proven most important in combat.

Entitled the "Stream Crossing Expedition," the exercise teaches heavy-weapon platoons how to ford a turbulent stream in a hurry without leaving all their equipment behind.

Each platoon learns how to construct a seaworthy raft out of a shelter half, a

few pieces of rope, a couple of tent poles and a rifle.

Properly made, such a raft can carry a fully equipped soldier and is water-tight. Three such contrivances can transport the fighting equipment of a weapons platoon. In the first float a man crouches with a paddle. Tied to the rear are two canvas "tenders," each carrying two machine-guns, tripods, ammunition boxes and water cans.

"We've had teams go through the entire operation in seven minutes," said Lt. Donald Casapulla, of Paterson, N.J., one of the instructors. "That means breaking down equipment, making the rafts, loading and crossing. In combat that could be plenty important.

"Don't forget, the platoon could be doing a forced march and run into a river 20 feet deep. How are you going to get across, swim? Not with a couple of 60-pound machine-guns and tripods, you're not. That's why we're teaching everybody this shelter-half trick. You never know when you might need it."

NEWS FROM HOME

January Output Of Munitions Is Down Two Pct.

But Nelson Cites Emphasis On—and Gains in—Types Of Specialized Arms

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24—January munitions production, which fell two per cent below the December level, was marked by specialized increases in several expanding programs such as aircraft, landing craft and airborne-radio equipment, Donald M. Nelson, chairman of WPB, said yesterday.

WPB said yesterday production as typical of the divergent trends which will be characteristic of 1944, the report pointed out that this year, unlike 1943, when virtually all munitions programs were expanding, emphasis would be on production shifts to turn out special types of armament most needed.

Increased production of landing craft, according to Nelson is "now the number one munitions program," and a decline in output of Army Ordnance and ground-signal equipment, reflected the close relation between output and military needs.

Aircraft production of 8,789 in January was only slightly below December's 8,802. However, the report stated that "numbers no longer do justice to the progress of the aircraft program," as production now was concentrated on the larger and heavier combat types.

He Stuck to the Truth

BAINBRIDGE, Md., Feb. 24—A rookie on nine-day liberty from the Bainbridge Naval Training Station wired: "Request ten-day extension. Uncle dead." Investigation verified the uncle's death—nine months ago. The recruit returned on schedule.

GI Discipline in Reverse

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 24—Mrs. Patti Doak, 20, was granted a divorce from her husband Edward, 25, a shipyard worker, when she testified he made her walk the streets with downcast eyes—so she couldn't look at other men.

U.S. Japs Better Be Loyal

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 (Reuter)—The House yesterday passed, 111 to 33, a measure providing for denaturalization and deportation of disloyal Japanese-Americans.

Bakelite Inventor Dies at 80

BEACON, N.Y., Feb. 24 (AP)—Dr. Leo Hendrik Baekeland, 80, inventor of Bakelite, died yesterday. Born in Ghent, Belgium, he had been president of the Bakelite Corp. since 1910. His discovery gave great impetus to the modern plastics industry.

Pretty Good Habit

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Feb. 24—Over a stretch of years Mrs. Julius Straubenmuller had "fined" her husband 50 cents for each bottle of beer he drank. Recently they turned the meter, \$487.50, into War Bonds.

One on the House

PROVO, Utah, Feb. 24—A waitress decided on a beer glass as a cache for diamond rings worth \$500. Later a customer was served a beer in the same glass—and the rings were missing. In a few days they were returned in an unsigned letter.

Nailed

HUGO, Okla., Feb. 24—A woman tried to enter a store through a window at 4 A.M. The proprietor lowered the window in time to pin her by the neck. Then he drove a nail through the frame. He delivered a 45-minute lecture on the futility of crime. Then he let her go.

Lonergan Murder Trial Postponed Once Again

NEW YORK, Feb. 24 (Reuter)—The trial of Wayne Lonergan, 25, former Canadian Air Force cadet, on a charge of murdering his beautiful 23-year-old heiress wife, Patricia, in her swank New York apartments was adjourned again today until Monday.

The defending counsel, Edward V. Broderick, failed to appear in court for the second successive day. When notified yesterday of his absence, the judge remarked: "I think his conduct constitutes contempt of court."

By Milton Caniff

