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Heavy Guns in Duel for Mareth Positions

More Planes Coming for Spring Drive

U.S. Mission to Rennes Heaviest of Its Kind, Bomber Chief Says

American bomber forces in the ETO are being built up for a spring offensive against the Nazis in Europe, Brig. Gen. Newton Longfellow, Bomber Command chief, revealed yesterday.

In a message to personnel of the Eighth Air Force bombers, which expressed a hope that in "the near future" American plane strength here would be such as to mount daylight air blows comparable in force to the night blows of the RAF, Gen. Longfellow stated that the Rennes raid by U.S. bombers was "probably the most devastating raid of its kind of the war."

The mission to Vegesack, Germany, "crippled that base for a considerable period of time," Gen. Longfellow added.

"Our forces are being rapidly increased," Gen. Longfellow told the members of his command. "In the near future we hope to have sufficient force to make raids during daylight hours comparable to those that are now being made by the RAF during the hours of darkness."

'Complete Destruction'

"Our primary objective has been, and will continue to be, the complete destruction of the German war industry and its means of waging war."

The general's message followed by only 24 hours the statements of Maj. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, commanding the Eighth Air Force, that larger and faster bombers will go into action in this theater by night as well as by day.

Gen. Longfellow commended the command for "excellent" bombing results in recent missions. He revealed that Bomber Command carried out 28 operations against the enemy between Nov. 1 and Mar. 20, dropping more than 4,000 tons of bombs on "a variety of enemy targets," an average bomb load per mission of about 145 tons.

During the same period, according to his message, Flying Fortress and Liberator gunners shot down 329 enemy aircraft for certain, 265 more "probables" and damaged 168.

90 For 356

Earlier Gen. Eaker revealed that 90 American bombers have been shot down on operations at a cost of 356 Nazi fighter planes since last August.

Gen. Longfellow singled out the good results of attacks against targets which included, primarily, Nazi U-boat bases on the west coast of France, the construction yards in northwestern Germany, steel and freight car factories and air bases and air depots.

"You have learned many important lessons," the General told his combat crews and ground service men. "You have developed new aerial technique and made adaptations in your equipment which have increased its effectiveness. I am looking forward with all of you to the near future, when we will be instrumental in delivering an increasingly stronger effort against our enemies."

"I fully appreciate your perseverance in the face of weather which has caused long waits and countless missions scrubbed out," Gen. Longfellow said. "In general,

(Continued on page 4)

Need Ships For Europe Front

WASHINGTON, Mar. 25—Landings on the continent of Europe, Rear Adm. Howard L. Vickery said in a speech here today, "will involve combined operations—and that means ships—on a far greater scale than the North African campaign."

Vice-chairman of the United States Maritime Commission, Adm. Vickery spoke of a European invasion as a for-gone conclusion in an address before the American Society of Electrical Engineers.

"After the landings have been effected," he went on, "many vessels must remain allocated to the supply routes which will support the Allied forces on the Continent."

"A similar situation will arise with every new offensive undertaken. We must be prepared to supply the necessary shipping or forego the offensive—and I assure you that we intend to lose no opportunity to smash the enemy."

Life on Allied Airport in Tunisia



Protecting an advanced Allied airfield in Tunisia, U.S. artillerymen (top) keep their anti-aircraft battery on the alert for Luftwaffe attacks from a dugout in the Tunisian sands. A U.S. pilot (bottom) pushes up the cover of his foxhole, improvised from empty fuel cans, on the airfield's outskirts.

Soviet Armies Near Smolensk

In Dorogobush Suburbs After Forest Battles With Germans

MOSCOW, Mar. 25 (UP)—Russian troops closing in on Smolensk from the north and east are advancing through some of the most heavily-fortified ground in the world. Despite the difficulties they are facing, Red Army communiques said tonight, they have reached the outskirts of Dorogobush, last major German defense position before Yartsevo.

Terminal of a branch line of the Smolensk railroad, Dorogobush lies 35 miles north-east of Smolensk and 25 miles east of Yartsevo.

Another Russian column has already by-passed Yartsevo on the north and has occupied seven more inhabited localities around Dukhovshina, which lies a few miles north-west of Yartsevo.

The German fortifications protecting Smolensk extend in depth through several dozen miles of difficult terrain. The land is densely forested and dotted with swamps, lakes and rivers.

The Russian breach in the outer ring of defenses in this area was accomplished by a Soviet tank force, which battled for 12 hours at one point against a large German Panzer group, supported by heavy guns and six-barrelled mortars.

The Germans counter-attacked incessantly but failed to stop the Russian thrust.

Germans Desperate

Russian reports say the battle in the Smolensk area is raging night and day without any let-up and that the Germans are clinging desperately to every defense line and counter-attacking without regard for their losses in materials and men.

"Our units are methodically crumbling enemy defenses," one report reaching Moscow from the front said after emphasizing the violence of German resistance.

On one sector in this area Russian tanks routed a German column, wiping out 20 lorries and destroying a company of the enemy's troops. Another Russian unit repulsed seven German counter-attacks within 36 hours. The Germans were thrown back and, leaving hundreds of dead before the Russian positions, began a retreat to the southwest.

Nazis Fire on Italians Surrendering to Yanks

WITH U.S. FORCES, Central Tunisia, Mar. 25 (AP)—Forty Italian soldiers who came forward to surrender to the American force near Maknassy were immediately fired on by a German unit on their right, an informed source revealed today.

"I am unable to tell you the result of this action or the number of prisoners taken by us from this group, but I can say that we regard this firing on Italian troops by the Germans as highly significant," the informed source said.

Berlin Says 'Malaya' at Gib

The British battleship Malaya, two aircraft carriers, five cruisers and more than 140 tankers and troop transports are at present at anchor at Gibraltar, says a Berlin radio report. Two days ago the Rodney was also at Gibraltar, Berlin said.

Lend-Lease Ambulance Train Ready for Action on Any Front

By Charles W. White

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

A U.S. MEDICAL STATION, England, Mar. 25—Brig. Gen. Paul R. Hawley yesterday inspected the first of hospital trains turned over under Lend-Lease to the American Army.

Formerly a British mobile hospital unit, it consists of six ward cars, a car for sitting-up patients, two kitchen cars, a pharmacy car, and others for stores, offices, medical officers, nurses and attendants. American soldiers in charge now call the units "ambulance trains."

Maj. Ward A. Fritz, of Wooster, Ohio, is in command of the unit which has occupied the newest lend-lease train, which was built by British workmen.

Studying past experience and learning by doing, American enlisted men have made themselves able for what may come. They can build and repair ambulance trains—have done so. They are ready to receive casualties, transport them in

Yanks Gain Control Of Important Heights In Advance to Coast

Americans Narrowing Rommel's Corridor, Dearth of News on Fighting in Line Recalls Silence Before Alamein

Heavy guns of the Eighth Army and the Afrika Korps were reported last night to be engaged in a terrific duel for control of positions in the Mareth Line, while farther north American forces inched ahead against strong enemy opposition in the drive towards the Tunisia coast from Maknassy and El Guettar. The Americans were said to be in control of the vital heights overlooking the coastal plain.

The situation in the Mareth Line was confused. Axis sources claimed that Gen. Montgomery's bridgehead near the coast had been wiped out and that his flanking movement around the southernmost extremity of the line had been stopped, while Algiers radio reported that the British had forced a second bridgehead in the coastal area and other gains had been held.

A British military commentator in London emphasized that the Allied setback in the Mareth battle on Wednesday was no cause for gloom, since "it took us nine days to get through at El Alamein—and I don't think we need to weep over this retreat."

The Allied tactics, he said in an optimistic vein, had forced Rommel to split his armor into four units: (1) The Maknassy road; (2) the El Guettar road; (3) southwest of El Hamma to meet the British flanking force, and (4) the Mareth Line positions. Furthermore, he said, the Allies' aerial superiority is mounting daily.

Mareth Line—

Fierce battles which flared up to new heights after Rommel's counter-attack Monday night still raged on the Mareth Line, according to reports last night, with guns of both sides engaged in one of the heaviest duels of the war.

There was little information about the movements of either of the two main British forces—the northern force which forced a bridgehead in the line near the coast, only to be driven back by counter-attacks, and the southern force, which outflanked the line and approached to within eight miles of El Hamma, an oasis 30 miles west of the Nazi supply port of Gabes.

The Allied Force Headquarters' communique said only that "on the Eighth Army front the battle for the Mareth Line continued yesterday with a heavy artillery duel from both sides." Further than that headquarters forbade correspondents to write of the battle, speculate on future developments or draw any conclusions.

Speculation Banned

"The situation now is the same as obtained during the period when Montgomery was hammering at Rommel's lines before El Alamein," Edward Beattie, United Press correspondent, cabled last night from Allied headquarters. He recalled that a similar ban had been imposed then "because of military security, until it became known that a breakthrough had been forced into Rommel's lines."

From the air forces, however, came news that the air offensive against Rommel was mounting daily as Allied aerial superiority continued to gain. Previously the weight of the air assault had been described as exceeding even that at El Alamein, when the greatest Allied aerial might ever gathered in support of ground operations was hurled at the Axis.

A big role in the aerial warfare was (Continued on page 4)

American Front—

American units, according to the Associated Press, have won control of the last mountain ramparts overlooking the narrowing Axis corridor between Maknassy and the sea, and are pushing stubbornly across the mountain range towards Mezzouna despite heavy Axis bombing attacks. Their patrols clashed with Axis elements in an indecisive action at the town of Mehri Zebbeus, 12 miles south of Maknassy.

Two "Long Toms," American 155mm. long-range guns, operating at a range of 20,000 yards, about 13 miles, destroyed five aircraft parked on Mezzouna airfield and made the field itself unusable, an Associated Press dispatch from the front reported.

Maj. Walter Thomas, a U.S. artillery officer, described how the big guns, in effect, "captured" the field from a firing point 13 miles away in the Maknassy vicinity.

"Two guns were moved into position overnight," he said. "This morning, ten minutes after a group of planes had landed, our artillery opened fire and knocked out some of the planes. No other German planes were able to take off for the rest of the day and the airport is now useless."

Guettar Lines Hold Firm

In the El Guettar area, a few miles southwest of Maknassy, the fury of the Nazi attacks on American positions was reported to have diminished.

Nazi attacks during Wednesday were limited to a futile attempt by infantry to seize the heights northeast of Djebel Berda and south of the valley, where the black hulks of 15 wrecked German tanks stand like grotesque scarecrows, visible from El Guettar.

It was in this area that the Americans have beaten off severe attacks by tanks and infantry in a desperate attempt by Rommel to keep his coastal corridor from closing. The most desperate counter-attack was made Tuesday, when, according to a Reuters correspondent with the United States forces, Rommel threw a (Continued on page 4)

Stimson Warns of Cost Of Advances in Tunisia

WASHINGTON, Mar. 25 (AP)—Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson predicted today favorable progress in the Tunisian campaign, but said it would be paid for with heavy casualties.

Mr. Stimson attributed the successes of the Tunisian campaign in part to the series of heavy day and night bombing attacks on Germany and German-occupied territory. These attacks, he told a press conference, made it necessary for Germany to keep a large number of fighting planes at home.

Mr. Stimson said the German people were "demanding greater fighting plane protection against British and American bombing raids" and "since Germany does not know where we will strike next she is forced to disperse these planes throughout the entire country and occupied territory."

safety and comparative comfort. The procedure is already standardized.

Once a U.S. soldier has been wounded, treated in advance mobile unit, evacuated to base and is considered all right for moving, he may "sail in" on one of these trains.

Besides medical and nursing staff, they are complete with flexible sterile beds, surgical rooms—even ash trays and fans beside the man's bunk.

Each train, including cars built by British workmen and American soldiers, carries one medical officer in command; two operating MOs, three nurses, possibly 48 enlisted attendants. There is room for 228 stretcher cases, 16 sitting cases (sick officers), 48 sitting cases (sick enlisted men). There are, for each train, two padded compartments for men whose nerves may have cracked under battle strain.

The trains can run on English, French, (Continued on page 4)

Navy, Division Fives Named For Playoffs

Sailor Team Chosen From Top Hoopsters at Derry Base

An All-Star Navy quintet from Londonderry and two fives from the Division are the latest teams to enter The Stars and Stripes ETO championship basketball tournament which starts Tuesday at the Royal Albert Hall.

The sailors are headed by Guard Maurice Losey, EM1C, of Stretator, Ill. Losey played for two years with Illinois Wesleyan and then for five years with the Harvey Loopers, a Chicago semi-pro squad.

Three forwards on the Londonderry team have been taken from the champion Creevagh Eagles, top Navy dribblers in Ulster. They are William Taylor, PHM2C, of Rockville Center, N.Y.;

The Navy center, Harry Nichols, SF2C, of Chicago, played for one year in the Knights of Columbus loop and for four years in the CYO league.

Cruikshank Leads in Open

PINEHURST, N.C., Mar. 25—Bobby Cruikshank, 48-year-old Richmond professional, added a par 72 to his opening round 71 for a 143 total to retain his lead at the halfway mark of the 41st annual North-South Open golf championship here.

Two to five strokes behind Bobby were: Joe Kirkwood, 145; Gene Sarazen, 147; Johnny Farrell, 147, and Joe Turnesa, 148.

The three-day tourney, the nation's oldest uninterrupted open, winds up today with a 36-hole finale for the \$2,000 war bond purse.

Dickey Signs for \$21,000

ASBURY PARK, N.J., Mar. 25—Manager Joe McCarthy has announced that veteran Catcher Bill Dickey has agreed to the terms of his 1943 contract and will leave Little Rock, Ark., immediately to join the Yankees. Dickey's contract is believed to be \$21,000, about \$4,000 under last year.

NEWS FROM HOME

Michigan Buys \$645,607,000 In War Bonds, Leads Nation

DETROIT, Mich., Mar. 25—Michigan led the nation in war stamp and bond sales today on the basis of February's figures, Frank N. Isbey, chairman of the State War Savings Committee, announced.

More than 90 per cent of the people in the State are investing their savings in war securities, Isbey said, and a total of \$645,607,000 had been reached by Mar. 1.

Isbey declared that 4,682 establishments in the State have pay-roll deduction plans for the purchase of bonds in operation.

War Dims Mardi Gras

NEW ORLEANS, La., Mar. 25—Thousands of spectators filled Canal Street last night for the annual Mardi Gras festival, usually a colorful and extravagant affair. This year costumes were few and the elegant floats which always have been a feature of the parade were missing.

Mine Owners Obdurate

NEW YORK, Mar. 25—Coal mine operators of the Southern Appalachian District split with northern owners today by rejecting a proposal from the United Mine Workers that contract negotiations be extended beyond Apr. 1 on a retroactive basis.

Eden Visits Bragg, Benning

FORT BRAGG, N.C., Mar. 25—Anthony Eden, British Foreign Secretary, watched a full-dress demonstration here of ground-air cooperation in which para-troops, dive-bombers and glider forces

Spears, Rockne Rival, To Coach at Maryland

COLLEGE PARK, Md., Mar. 25—Dr. Clarence "Doc" Spears, colorful, top flight football rival of the late Knute Rockne, has been named head coach of the University of Maryland, succeeding Clark Shaughnessy, T formation expert who recently was named head coach at the University of Pittsburgh.

Spears has been coaching at the University of Toledo for the past decade, but during the famed Rockne era at Notre Dame he headed Minnesota's Gophers. He was graduated from Dartmouth where he was one of the greatest all-time All-American tackles.

DePaul Routs Indians, 46-35

Hoyas Trounce NYU, 55-36, in Collegiate Semi-Finals

NEW YORK, Mar. 25—The Blue Demons of DePaul trounced Dartmouth, 46-35, in the first game, while Georgetown's Hustling Hoyas downed NYU, 55-36, in the second contest of the semi-finals of the Eastern National Collegiate AA basketball tournament at Madison Square Garden last night.

Dartmouth, champion of the Ivy League for the past six years, was never in the game as DePaul's speed dazzled the Indian set defense and the Demons' man-for-man defense bottled up the Indian set shot offense. "Big Mike" Mikani, bespectacled six-foot eight-inch DePaul center, snared 20 points for high-scoring honors and was the deciding factor from the opening whistle.

Tournament Jitters

The Indians appeared troubled by tournament jitters in the first half as DePaul, victors in 18 of 22 games this season, limited them to four field goals and held a 26-14 half-time edge. Slim Audley Brindley was high man for the Indians with ten points and paced the rally at the start of the second half, but DePaul came back to build up a 39-26 lead before the first team was pulled out of the game.

Georgetown, victor in 19 of 23 games during the regular season, had little trouble with the NYU Violets, winner of 18 out of 20 regular season contests. Another six-foot eight-inch center, Georgetown's Johnny Mahnkens, rang up 20 points, of which 18 were made in the first half to send the Hoyas into a comfortable 32-19 lead. The Violets handcuffed the lanky center for only two points in the second half, but Johnny's mates continued to pour it on for an easy triumph.

DePaul and Georgetown will battle tonight for the right to meet the champion of the Western Division on the 30th. The Western semi-finals are scheduled for tomorrow at Kansas City, in which Oklahoma meets Wyoming and Washington faces Texas. The finals will be played Saturday.

teamed with machine-guns, infantry and artillery in the "capture" of an objective. Earlier he and Sir John Dill, as guests of Gen. George C. Marshall, U.S. Chief of Staff, visited the Infantry OCS at Fort Benning, Ga.

N.Y. Assembly Okays Bingo

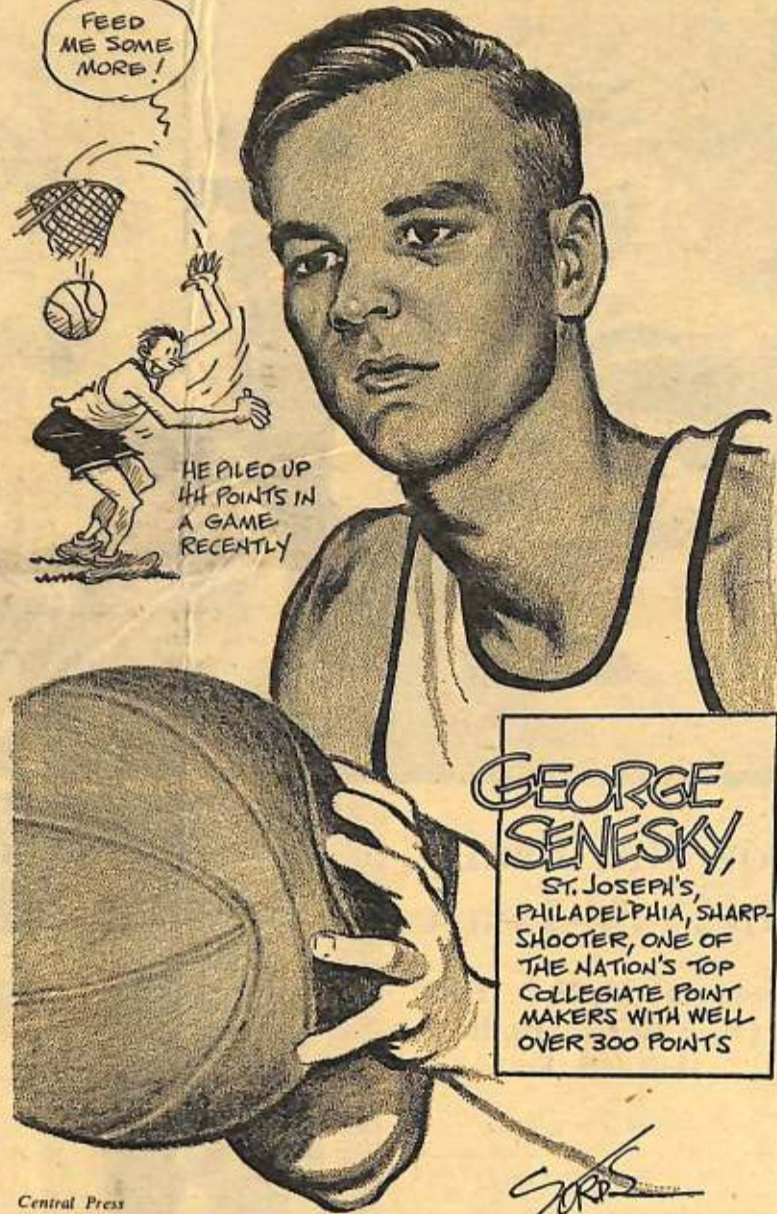
ALBANY, Mar. 25—The Assembly passed, by 101 to 33 votes, a bill legalizing Bingo in communities where five per cent of the population sign a petition asking that the game be made legal. The bill outlaws games organized by professionals and would limit them to religious, charitable, fraternal and non-profit organizations.

WPB Demands Storage Steel

NEW YORK, Mar. 25 (AP)—Owners of some 2,445 tons of steel in storage at New York ports have been notified that the metal must be put into war production by Apr. 1, or the government will take the necessary steps to purchase it as scrap, it was announced yesterday by the WPB.

Sharpshooter

By Jack Sords



Athletics Bank on Rookies To Lift Them Out of Cellar

By Stan Baumgartner

Philadelphia Inquirer Sports Writer

PHILADELPHIA, Mar. 25—Despite the fact that 20 of his men have entered the armed services, Connie Mack, president and manager of the Philadelphia Athletics, has hopes of getting his club from the cellar this season.

The team began training this week at Wilmington, Del., and will play 13 exhibition games with the Phillies, Toronto, the Red Sox, and Baltimore before the official season opens at Shibe Park on April 21.

The club, as it has shaped up in early drills, is composed of veteran Dick Seibert at first; Rookie Irving Hall, from Williamsport, at second; veteran Pete Suder at short, and another freshman, Eddie Mayo, up from Los Angeles, at third.

The outfield includes Sophomore Elmer Valo in right field, old man Jojo White in center, and Rookie James Tyack in left. Hal Wagner looms as first string receiver with Bob Swift a close second. Earle Brucker, veteran catcher-coach of the pitchers, has been restored to active duty and will act as third string backstop.

On the mound, Mack has veterans Southpaw Herman "Aunt" Bease, right handers Roger Wolff, Luman Harris, and Russell Christopher. The rookie hurlers include Southpaw Talmadge Abernathy, from Wilmington, Donald Black, formerly with Petersburg of the Virginia League, Fred Caligiuri, holdover from Wilmington, Samuel Lowry, also a Wilmington prodigy, and Jess Flores, purchased on trial from Los Angeles.

The extra infielders Richard Adkins, shortstop from Wilmington, Bruce Knopka, first sacker from the University of Southern California, and Francis Skaff, from Lowell, Mass.

Ninth Straight for Bombers

A BOMBER STATION, Mar. 25—Cpl. Robert Goslin, of Brooklyn, N.Y., again paced the Bomb Wing quintet as they racked up their ninth straight victory, 31-23, over another Bomb Wing five. Goslin netted 12 points, while Pfc Ray Lewis, of Rhinelander, Wis., was high for the losers with eight tallies.

Constantino Outpointed

NEW YORK, Mar. 25—Phil Terranova, of New York, outpointed Lulu Constantino in their feature eight-round bout at the Broadway arena here.

Hummell Pins Norman Twice In Mat Bouts

14 Servicemen, 4 Pros Take Part in Show At Rainbow Club

Wrestling made its third appearance at the Rainbow Corner last night with 14 servicemen and four pros going through their muscle paces on the mat before a packed house.

In the liveliest and fastest match of the evening, Pvt. Malcomb Hummell, of Clearfield, Pa., 168, racked up his third straight win as well as his second victory over T/5 John Norman, of New York, 163, by pinning Norman twice—at 39 seconds of the second round and 11 seconds of the third.

Pvt. William Graham, of Clearfield, Pa., 176, had a tough time with Cpl. Harold Bernstein, of New York, 178. Graham pinned Bernstein in 1.45 of the second but found him too tough in the third, winning the referee's decision on points.

After losing his first match at the Corner a month ago, T/5 Robert Rice, of Sunbury, Pa., 155, made a comeback in the fourth event of the evening when he decided T/5 Anthony Psaros, of New York. This was in the nature of an upset with Psaros a pre-match favorite because of his experience.

Medic Wins Match

Medic Pvt. Constantino Scotti, of Newark, N.J., had use of more than his mat skill when his opponent, T/4 Francis Richardson, of Shamonkin, Pa., 171, pulled a tendon in his ankle on his way down at one minute of the first. Richardson had to be carried from the ring and referee Lt. Col. P. B. Hawley automatically awarded the contest to Scotti.

In the third match of the evening Cpl. Robert Bostian, of Sunbury, Pa., 146, an artilleryman, had to sweat and strain for two rounds until he was able to pin S/Sgt. Robert Blair, of Baltimore, 145, at 1.55 of the third round.

As expected, S/Sgt. Maurice Roy, of New York, 130, came through with a decision victory over Pvt. Dan Blust, of Mechanicsville, Va.

Roy, although unable to pin his man, showed his ten years' experience all the way through, and had the advantage in all the periods.

The fastest match of the evening came in the second tilt with Cpl. William Skurowski, of Parma, Ohio, pinning Pfc Cyrus Quinn, of Centerville, Mass., in 37 seconds of the third period.

In the professional matches, five minute, six-rounders, Sgt. Ronnie Hurst, of the RAF, drew with Sgt. John Gold, of the British Army. Sgt. Tony Mancelli, also of the RAF, was awarded his match over Pvt. Chick Knight, of the British Army, in the fifth round, when Lt. Mickey Wood stopped the show and gave the scrap to Mancelli.

Greg Rice to Receive New York AC Award

NEW YORK, Mar. 25—Mechanical man Greg Rice, unbeaten in 63 straight races dating back to the 1940 season, has been voted the Veterans' Trophy by the New York AC for "athletic progress during 1942" and will be awarded the prize at the New York AC all-sports dinner on May 5.

Rice will be seeking his 64th triumph at the Cleveland Knights of Columbus meet tomorrow when he completes his indoor season. During 1942 Rice set two American records in the three-mile event.

Phils Get Hurlers Rowe And Kraus in Dodger Deal

BEAR MOUNTAIN, N.Y., Mar. 25—The Dodgers have swapped southpaw Pitcher Jack Kraus, who won 12 and lost nine for Montreal last year, and an unannounced cash sum for Phillie infielder and catcher, Bobby Bragan, who has been with the Phils for the last three seasons.

In another deal, Montreal-Brooklyn farm club—sold veteran right-hander Schoolboy Rowe to the Phillies in a straight cash transaction for an unknown sum.

Novikoff Wants \$10,000

LONG BEACH, Cal., Mar. 25—Chicago Cub Outfielder Lou Novikoff has returned his second unsigned contract, refusing \$6,000 and a \$500 raise. He said he would continue to hold out for \$10,000.



Mountain Bases Afire in Allied Sweep on Japs

Fighters, Bombers Strafe 44 Passes Near Salamaua

ALLIED HQ, Southwest Pacific, Mar. 25—Sweeping low through mountain passes around Mubo, south of Salamaua, in New Guinea, Allied attack planes and long-range fighters yesterday poured 30,000 rounds of cannon and machine-gun fire into Jap positions, today's communique reports.

Forty-four passes were strafed and bombed, silencing enemy machine-gun positions and destroying Jap tents and buildings. The area was enveloped in smoke following the attacks.

Ack-ack fire was encountered but all Allied planes returned safely.

5,000-ton Ship Hit

Near Kaimna, in Dutch New Guinea, Allied medium bombers attacked enemy shipping, scoring a direct hit on a 5,000-ton merchantman and a near miss on a smaller ship. One of three enemy aircraft that intercepted this action was damaged.

Allied bombers carried out bombing and strafing attacks on villages on the Kai islands, Aroe islands, and Buka island in the Solomons, where a two-hour harassing raid was made on the airport runway and dispersal areas. At Lae, and Finschafen, in New Guinea, heavy bombers carried out bombing attacks on the airfields and towns.

Flying Fortresses and Navy Avenger torpedo-bombers attacked Japanese positions at Kahili in the Shortland island area last night.

Fires were started. A small enemy ship in the Shortland island area was bombed with unobserved results.

All the U.S. planes returned.

Army Audience Hears Menuhin

Two thousand soldiers of the United Nations and their guests filled the Royal Albert Hall last night for the first London soldier-audience concert of Yehudi Menuhin's current tour.

Sprinkled among the OD-clad American troops were men in British, French, Polish and Norwegian uniforms—drawn by an opportunity to hear the world-famous violinist. The concert was arranged by the U.S. Army, Special Services Division, SOS, ETOUSA.

Menuhin opened with Mendelssohn's violin concerto in E minor, Op. 64. His second selection was the violin concerto in D major from Brahms' Op. 77.

During the intermission, Maj. Gen. Harry C. Ingles, Deputy Commander of U.S. Forces in the ETO, visited Menuhin in his dressing-room and thanked him on behalf of his men.

Three other American generals were in the audience. They were: Maj. Gen. John C. H. Lee, Commanding General, SOS, ETOUSA; Brig. Gen. C. C. Chauncey, Chief of Staff of the Eighth Air Force; and Brig. Gen. Lee Miller, Chief of Staff of the Air Service Command, Eighth Air Force.

Texans to Meet At Mostyn Club

"State Night" program will continue next week at the American Red Cross Mostyn club, London, when Texans meet on Monday, soldiers from Louisiana on Wednesday and those from Illinois on Thursday.

Last night Michigan servicemen over here held their reunion at the club.

Present included: Pvt. Charles Hook, Col. Paul Mantel, Cpl. Casimir Savitsky, Sgt. Dan Fedea, T/S Andy Bino, Sgt. Harold R. Brandt, Pvt. Virgil Fields, Cpl. Harold Steuber, Pvt. John Brady, Pfc Stephen J. Foreney, Pvt. John Daly, Cpl. Edmund Tokarski, S/Sgt. W. F. Tindall, Pvt. Carl Palkas, Cpl. Joseph C. Boyd, and T/Sgt. E. C. Staub—all from Detroit.

T/Sgt. Rudy Kolenic and Pvt. Everett Branka, from Muskegon; Pvt. Louis Eberhardt and Pvt. Victor Lundberg, from Grand Rapids; T/S Hubert Lamley, Dowagiac; T/S Lloyd Fales, Kalamazoo; Sgt. Louis Plasecki, Marquette; Pfc Howard E. Rarick, Tekonsha; Sgt. Albert Selter, Highland Park; Pfc Harry L. Crosby, Tecumseh, and T/3 Curt Reitmeyer, Ingalls.

Pvt. Richard Newman, Royal Oak; Cpl. Robert G. Bender, Battle Creek; Pvt. Wilford Latt, Chelsea; Pvt. Allen J. Fein, Fort Huron; Pfc Bill Hungerford, Sault Ste. Marie; Pfc Hubert Belding, Greenville; Cpl. John Rowe, Benton Harbor; T/Sgt. John Oak, Wyandotte; Pfc George Constan, Ann Arbor; Pvt. Kenneth H. Burk, Jackson; Sgt. Andrew Seaman, Saginaw, and Pfc Joseph Rawza, Hamtramck.

Soviet Ambassador Asks Maximum U.S., British Aid

Ivan Maisky, Soviet Ambassador to Great Britain, called yesterday for the "maximum help in the nearest future" from Great Britain and the United States. "My country," he said, "is doing its maximum to defeat our common enemy and my people are expecting that all our allies, and most particularly Great Britain and the United States, will also do their maximum in the near future to bring this terrible war to an end at the earliest possible opportunity."

Ambulance Trains Now Ready for Action



Hospital Train On Lend-Lease

American Medics Take Over British Built Rail Outfit

(Continued from page 1)

and a few Russian tracks. They cannot run on most Russian gauges, nor can they operate in North Africa. Everything is complete and ready, including hot water and clean kitchens.

Speed of the trains will be 40 to 60 miles per hour. Dynamos provide light and warmth. In accordance with international law, there is no armor nor armament. The exterior color of the trains is khaki, but each car bears the Geneva Red Cross, clearly visible from land and air.

Active operation of the new units may tax energies of the men now qualified to run them. For instance, Sgt. Reginald Jenkins, of Portsmouth, Ohio, Sgt. Antoine J. Mailhot, of Holyoke, Mass., mess sergeant, supply sergeant, and platoon leader, and T/4 John P. Kellner, of Saugus, Mass., pharmacist—to choose at random—are the only non-coms on the train. Gen. Hawley inspected yesterday. All the rest are privates. They are, however, skilled men.

Medics' Task

Jenkins, Mailhot and Kellner, on this one train, have more than 30 of what they call "our guys" to do what is necessary—wash wards, keep fires going, cook, keep the cars clean, take patients' temperatures and, in general, run the job of getting wounded men to base hospitals in quick time.

"The average casualty will be on the train from two hours to three days," top-sergeant Jenkins said. "Supplies are ready for more days, but the longest ride is considered three.

"The trains will meet the evacuation points, pick up wounded from Army stretcher bearers. Casualties will be set in, cared for, and made comfortable."

The men working with Sgt. Jenkins all have been trained along medical lines, as have thousands of their counterparts. Efficient from experience, they will have the advantage of working under competent surgeons such as Capt. Samuel B. Biller, of Brooklyn, N.Y., whose title is chief of surgical service on the typical train.

A complete moving unit, it even carries electricians, plumbers and carpenters.

There are more such units, and more coming. Hammers ring and forges glow in nearby shops, devoted substantially to manufacture of ambulance trains.

Such questions as—"When?" and "Where?"—are asked and answered and argued every night in any barracks. Nobody knows exactly. U.S. and British hospital trains, according to men here, can operate almost anywhere on the Continent.

Jitters

Rome radio said German soldiers, "evidently suffering from shortsightedness," fired on Sicilian fishermen because they mistook them for the advance guard of an invasion fleet.

Blondie

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



by Chic Young



Keystone Photos

Aboard one of the new ambulance trains to be used by the U.S. and British armies, Lt. Shirley Ralph (top) checks a pulse as her orderly gives a drink of water to a patient on one of the ward cars. A patient is hoisted (above) into one of the new converted carriages by attendants of the hospital train.

Disciplinary Center Schedules Field Training for Offenders

The American Army's first disciplinary training center in an active theater, designed to restore offenders to ranks as better soldiers, has been opened in England, it was announced yesterday.

Patterned to some extent after the British system for retraining recalcitrants, the new center emphasizes education of the soldier rather than punishment, officials said. The soldier keeps his status as such; has a soldier's rights

except as restricted by training requirements and, according to the Provost Marshal Department of the U.S. Army Services of Supply, in most cases comes out a better man.

The recalcitrants are quartered in a three-story grey stone building which was used as a detention barracks by the British Army. A golf course near by is used for rigorous outdoor training. Here men can be seen charging with rifles and fixed bayonets down the fairways, or crawling into sand traps as they practice small unit tactics. There are frequent marches into surrounding farm country.

A shoe repair shop is maintained; trainees get courses in motor maintenance; lectures on basic military subjects and aircraft identification round out the program.

For good work, men may receive time off their court-martial sentences, and, in exceptional cases, the commander of the barracks may release a man and return him to duty with his unit. Basic training usually lasts 13 weeks.

Hitler's Former Baker Arrested

NEW YORK, Mar. 25 (AP)—The FBI announced yesterday Hitler's former baker, who concocted pastries for the Nazi Elite Guard and SS at Berchtesgaden, has been arrested. The baker, 40 years old, had been in the United States since 1937—he refused to serve in the U.S. Army, the FBI said.

If Japs Gassing Chinese, We'll Use It, Too—FDR

WASHINGTON, Mar. 25 (AP)—President Roosevelt said yesterday he would check up on reports from Chungking that Japan had again used poison gas.

Last June the President cited authoritative information that Japan had used gas, and said any repetition of it would be regarded as directed against this country, and that retaliation in kind, and in full measure, would be meted out.

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Americans Gain Heights in Push Toward Coast

Withstood Fierce Attacks By Tanks, Troops At El Guettar

(Continued from page 1)

large panzer force against the American flank below the Gafsa-Gabes road.

The attack, preceded by a fierce artillery barrage, was made by Mark Three, Mark Four and giant Mark Six "Tiger" tanks.

"American artillery positions were subjected to the heaviest bombing attacks yet seen in Tunisia, but they held their ground," the Reuters correspondent said.

"Fifteen panzers got to within a mile and a half of the divisional command post, but American gunners knocked out four and sent the remainder scuttling back. Altogether ten German tanks were destroyed and 20 knocked out."

Of the scanty reports of the American's activity which were permitted to come out of Tunisia, one of the most vivid was sent by Philip Ault, United Press correspondent with the United States forces below El Guettar. He wrote:

"American troops in foxholes on the treeless slopes at El Guettar, southeast of Gafsa, today (Tuesday) stood 12 hours of merciless Axis dive-bombing, as well as ground attacks.

"By nightfall they had smashed two German tank attacks, and still held their original positions. With the help of superb air support they knocked out from 35 to 40 German tanks.

Died at Guns

"From a foxhole I watched wave after wave of dive-bombers, bombers and fighters try unsuccessfully to blast a path for the tanks.

"Many American boys died at their guns, firing at pointblank range. German guns laid down a smokescreen for their tanks, but the smoke drifted the wrong way and left the tanks exposed.

"The tank column, however, roared ahead and actually overran some of the American gun positions. The gun crews went on firing to the last through the smokescreen laid down by the tanks themselves.

"The Germans are still over the other side of the pass tonight (Tuesday). Their advanced group of 15 tanks got over the ridge, but four of them were knocked out and the others withdrew.

"Hundreds of American bombers and fighters plastered the German positions, particularly along the Gafsa-Gabes road. At the same time American 155-mm. guns, known as "Big Tom," poured shells into the attacking Germans.

Mareth - - -

(Continued from page 1)

being played by Hurricanes adapted for tank-busting—"Flying Can-openers," as they have been dubbed.

In support of the Mareth outflanking movement, the Hurricanes had hit 32 tanks and destroyed nine, it was announced in Cairo.

The Hurricanes have been mounted with unusually heavy caliber guns and are flown by pilots especially trained to maneuver planes with heavy fire-power.

A heavy attack was made by American Flying Fortresses, with Lightning escort, on Ferryville, now one of the main Tunisian ports and a base for Axis supplies. Docks and two cargo ships were hit, and an RAF pilot said the bombing was the most accurate he had ever seen.

British Troops Retake Hill

DJEBEL ABIOD SECTOR, Northern Tunisia, Mar. 25 (AP)—British troops in bright moonlight Wednesday night raced up a small hill near Neftza station and wrenched it from a German force on the crest.

The hill, which the troops call "The Pimple," is the same one which the Nazis captured on the night of Mar. 20/21. An Allied counter-attack at the time failed.

Wednesday's attack resulted in the capture of 11 prisoners while the remainder of the German force numbering between 40 and 50 men were killed or wounded. The attack was launched after artillery preparations carried out throughout the previous day.

Raids - - -

(Continued from page 1)

bombing has been good and is improving rapidly. In recent raids, almost without exception, it has been excellent. . . ."

Gen. Longfellow's statement came after a trans-Channel flurry of air blows in which the Luftwaffe obviously was stepping up its scale of attacks against Britain. Yesterday afternoon RAF Whirlwinds attacked the Abbeville freight yards without loss.

Six German raiders were shot down over lowland Scotland and northeastern England Wednesday night after a day of raids which saw damage and casualties in coastal areas. There were casualties and damage in the night raids as well. New type incendiaries were reported dropped by the German bombers. German radio said Ashford, in the south of England, also had been hit.