

## Panzers in Full Retreat Beyond Pass

### How It Feels to Bomb Germany . . .

By Andrew A. Rooney

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

A U.S. BOMBER STATION, Feb. 26—From the nose of Lt. Bill Casey's Banshee, I saw American Fortresses and Liberators drop a load of destruction on Wilhelmshaven today.

We flew to Germany in the last group of a Fortress formation and Banshee was in the trailing squadron.

Soon after dawn the bombers thundered down the runway. Lt. Casey's windshield was splattered with mud on the way. It really was a blind take-off.

Like a pickup football team on a Saturday morning, we grew in strength as we flew, until all England seemed to be covered with bombers.

Everything was quiet—almost monotonous—for an hour after we left the English coast.

#### Sees First Enemy Plane

Then the trouble began.

Peeling out of the sun came shining silver German fighter planes, diving at one bomber in the formation and disappearing below the cloudbanks as quickly as they had come. They seemed tiny, hardly a machine of destruction, and an impossible target.

My first glimpse of a German fighter came when the navigator, 2nd Lt. William H. Owens, of Tullahoma, Tenn., nearly knocked me into the lap of 2nd Lt. Malcolm A. Phillips Jr., the bombardier, whose home is in Coffeyville, Kan. Owens swung around at what appeared to be an Me109 as it whipped down through the clouds on our left.

From that time until three and one-half hours later, when we were half way home, no one had to look far to see a German fighter. They were all



Andy Rooney . . . went to Germany

over and they were all kinds of planes—Me109s, Ju88s and Me110s. There were no FW190s, by far the best plane Jerry has to fight the Forts. Their absence strengthened Allied contentions that Germany is desperately short of fighter planes.

From a vantage point in the pilot's cabin Lt. Casey and his co-pilot, 1st Lt. Kelly G. Ross, were calmly giving information over the inter-com.

"Here comes one at 2 o'clock, Elliott. Get the son-of-a-bitch."

T/Sgt. Wilson C. Elliott, of Detroit, Lt. Casey's top turret man, is the only man from the original Banshee crew left.

Before we were very deep into Germany deadly black puffs began to appear around us. It seemed as though they were "air mines" that were touched off as we came to them. A puff would appear to our right and then in quick succession a row of five more black splotches flowered out, each one closer as they caught up to us.

Lt. Casey zigged, and the puffs appeared in the tracks of our zig. He was one jump ahead of the flak. All but once he was one jump ahead.

#### Thought Plane's Nose Torn Off

Lt. Phillips was leaning far forward in the nose, between his guns and bomb-sight, when suddenly the whole nose seemed to break out of the ship. My first impression was that they had given up the flak and had thrown the gun at us.

Lt. Phillips sat back on his heels and covered his eyes with his hands. Splinters of flexiglass formed coating over his helmet. It was a minute before he recovered from the shock to open his eyes and find that he could see and was unhurt.

What appeared to be the nose being ripped off actually was only a small hole the size of a man's fist.

The formation was perfect, and the German sky dotted with Forts in front of us and Liberators behind us was comforting. Below, the land seemed to be farmland for the most part. Even that was divided into aggravatingly square plots. It looked German and unfriendly. You had the feeling you would have known it was Germany even if you hadn't attended the briefing.

German flak didn't seem to bother German fighter planes. They poured in even when their own flak was thickest.

Approaching the bombing run, the doors of the ships in front of us could

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## Allied Tanks, Planes Blast Fleeing Foe

### 8th Army Pilots Also Hit Columns Withdrawing Toward Gafsa

ALLIED HQ, North Africa, Feb. 26 (AP)—Pursued by Allied ground and air forces, Rommel's panzers appeared in full retreat in southern Tunisia today. American and British infantry and armored formations snatched the initiative by recapturing the vital Kasserine Pass.

Tommies and doughboys drove up the mountains on each side of the pass yesterday afternoon, driving the Germans into the foothills beyond and allowing the British and American tanks through the gap on the heels of Rommel's withdrawing forces.

By day and night American and British bombers and fighters poured destruction on panzer columns moving southward toward Gafsa.

Bisleys raided Gafsa and Sbeitla, giving the Germans no rest. Pilots reported large fires in both places. The Middle East air forces were working in close cooperation all the time, giving a hand in chasing Rommel.

#### Engineers Remove Mines

United States forces on the Tunisian front regained Kasserine Pass—the vital gateway to the Hatab Valley—without a fight after the enemy's columns had retreated through the gap and continued to move southward through Feriana, presumably towards Gafsa. The wide valley through which the battle raged for three days was strangely serene as American engineers moved gingerly forward through the pass, lifting elaborate minefields which the Germans and Italians had left to protect their retreat.

The quiet was broken only by the occasional detonation of a mine. British units also edged down the Thala road removing mines left behind when the German tanks retreated along that route after their thrust northward had been doomed by Allied blows at their flank.

Approximately a dozen light Italian tanks, some of whose armor was pierced by American .50-caliber guns, were left on the field, but the Germans had removed their own disabled tanks.

#### Eisenhower Back from Front

(Gen. Eisenhower returned to Allied Headquarters in North Africa Thursday from the Tunisian front, United Press said. He watched the turning of the German tide at Kasserine and had long conferences with Gen. Alexander and with Gen. Fredendall, who commands in the southern sector.)

Over the battle area, American fighters maintained constant patrol making harassing attacks on German tank forces.

There were no reports of land activity from the Eighth Army, but Middle East bombers carried on a softening-up process against Axis positions with a raid on the Mareth Line.

American and British infantry wrested the last remnant of the initiative from the German panzers by attacking the mountains on either side of the Kasserine Pass yesterday, allowing Allied tanks to proceed five miles through the pass itself to the eastern mouth.

Further north in the Sbiba area the Germans were in flight, pursued by Allied forces which reached within nine miles of Sbeitla.

Allied forces progressed 15 miles from Sbiba, while it was not known how far beyond the Kasserine Pass the American and British armored units have gone.

Reports from the front gave no indication how far the Germans plan to retreat before making a stand, but it was clear that Rommel has lost the initiative he has

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## Wilhelmshaven Blasted Second Time by Yanks

### Fortresses and Liberators Smash at Naval Base; Seven Planes Lost

Flying Fortresses and Liberators bombed Wilhelmshaven again yesterday. It was the second daylight attack on the Nazi naval base by U.S. planes and the war's third American raid on Germany proper.

The Eighth Air Force bomber crews fought off heavy enemy fighter opposition to press home their attack on the port, at which a considerable portion of Nazi U-boats are constructed. Crews reported direct hits.

Seven bombers were reported missing from the mission.

Enemy fighters went up to meet the Americans before the formation reached its target, pressed home attacks during the bombing run and followed the American planes for some distance back over the North Sea.

There was no estimate of the number of enemy fighters shot down.

RAF fighter squadrons met the bombers on the way home and escorted them through the latter part of the journey.

Enemy fighters, which followed the bomber formations some 30 miles back over the North Sea after a running fight up to and over the target, consisted largely of Me109s, Ju88s, and Me110s. While some formations were attacked by FW190s, crews of other groups reported that not a single FW190 had been seen, possible indication of severe strain on the Nazi fighting strength, since the Focke Wulf is the Luftwaffe's best weapon against the heavy U.S. bombers.

While some squadrons reported lighter

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## German Home Affairs Now In Goebbels' Hands

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 26 (UP)—Hitler is devoting his whole time to military matters in Germany, the newspaper Aftonbladet said today, leaving the whole "home front" administration to four men, headed by Dr. Joseph Paul Goebbels.

Soldiers going to the front, the paper's former Berlin correspondent wrote, get only six weeks' training. Much of it consists of lectures on the outlook of a good Nazi. This indoctrination is considered necessary since most of the reservists are luke-warm in their support of the Nazi Party.

## U.S. Air Force to Match Axis, Giving Allies 2-to-1 Odds by '44

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—An American air force equal to the entire Axis air strength by the end of 1943, giving the combined Allied forces a two-to-one advantage over their enemies, was revealed today to be the goal of U.S. military officials. It also was disclosed that the Army intends to have a total overseas force of 4,750,000 by the end of 1944.

The figures were made public by the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee, which is inquiring into U.S. manpower problems, particularly whether the nation can support an armed force of 11,100,000 by the end of 1943 as the War and Navy Departments plan.

Donald Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, told the committee yesterday the United States could equip and maintain such an armed force without cutting civilian economy down to bedrock.

Lt. Gen. Joseph T. McNarney, deputy chief of staff, said an Army Air Force of 900 squadrons projected for this year to match the Axis would include a personnel of 2,450,000 men. His testimony along with that of witnesses during the month of closed hearings, was made public today.

This force, added to the 900 squadrons of the other United Nations, would give the Allies a two-to-one superiority, Gen. McNarney said. The Axis, including Japan, has 900 squadrons consisting of 25 fighters and eight bombers.

The testimony showed that the Axis probably would retain its superiority in ground forces next year despite the increase in the American armed forces.

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## Fourth of Food Going to Forces

### But Ample Supply Left To Feed America, Wickard Says

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard said here yesterday that approximately one quarter of the food produced in the United States this year will go to fill military and lease-lend requirements.

In order that supplies be available for American soldiers and those of other nations joined with the United States in the war, American civilians will have to hold their total consumption to pre-war levels, he declared.

Secretary Wickard said that 20 to 25 per cent of the nation's beef output, practically all of it for the American Army, would be required; 30 to 35 per cent of the pork output, 25 to 30 per cent of the nation's eggs, 15 to 20 per cent of the butter and 40 to 45 per cent of the cheese would all be unavailable to civilians. But the situation, he said, warranted "neither complacency nor hysteria."

#### 'Enough Food'

"I have told the American people numerous times in recent months," he said, "that there is going to be enough food for essential diets in this country, provided we manage our foods wisely."

Secretary Wickard said the most notable change in the supply of staple foodstuffs for civilians was in dried peas and beans. "We started 1943 with a record supply of those," he said, "but during the first six weeks of the year it became apparent that the needs for shipment to the fighting fronts and for accumulating reserves of these easily-stored foods against future contingencies, would take more than we had calculated early in January."

As a result, Wickard said, civilians will receive about two pounds less of these foods during 1943 than they did last year.

Wickard explained that the "Russian Allies need 5,000,000 bags of beans out of our total of 23,000,000 bags for their troops who are breaking the back of the Axis power in Europe."

## Stiff Resistance Slows Russians In Donetz Basin

### Weather Hinders Drives As Well, But More Villages Are Taken

MOSCOW, Feb. 26 (UP)—With heavy air and land reinforcements, the Germans have forced slower Russian progress on the fronts west of Kharkov and near Orel, and are making a determined bid to send their tanks and motorized forces behind the Red Army's lines in the Donetz Basin.

Here furious battles are raging, particularly between Kramatorskaya and Krasnoarmeisk, where the Germans are attacking in great force to try and restore the strategic communications of the area.

In spite of this greatly increased resistance, however, the Russians are continuing to push on even though progress is slower.

The weather is no longer on the side of the Russians. The Donetz fighting areas are a morass, roads are quagmires, without any snow.

The heaviest fighting in the Donetz Basin is centered between Krasnoarmeisk and Kramatorskaya and southwest of Voroshilovgrad.

On the latter front the Russians have managed to push ahead and capture a

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## Yanks Took Pass Without a Shot After 155s Finished Their Job

By Philip Ault

United Press War Correspondent

WITH UNITED STATES FORCES, Kasserine Pass, Feb. 25 (delayed)—

United States troops occupied the Kasserine Pass this morning without firing a shot, after shelling it all night. The German artillery withdrew during the night, leaving heavy minefields to delay the pursuit.

The Germans are also believed to have left the town of Kasserine and withdrawn their main forces from the Gafsa area.

American 155-mm. guns—called into action on this front for the first time—fired into the pass for hours during the night. Then, at 6:30 AM, the infantry attacked over the right shoulder of the pass, but met with no opposition. Next a tank destroyer unit and some medium tanks crept up the shell-torn road into the pass.

British forces, which had advanced

from Thala without meeting with any opposition, were moving along the left shoulder of the pass at noon, through minefields.

I stood on a rocky knob at the northern end of the pass with an advanced platoon of tanks, and watched the engineers below lifting mines. These were laid in a criss-cross pattern at ten-foot intervals.

Behind, the tanks maneuvered into position, waiting to go on through the pass as soon as the way was cleared.

Burned Italian and German tanks, vehicles and guns were scattered around the crater-pocked pass, victims of the intense bombing and the artillery barrage.

On a plain north of the pass were the charred remains of more than a score of lorries and at least eight Axis tanks, as well as a number of freshly dug German and Italian graves.

American troops were now advancing in strength over this plain.

## Libs Bomb Italian Ports, Hit Naples and Crotona

CAIRO, Feb. 26 (AP)—Liberator bombers of the Ninth U.S. Air Force bombed the harbors of Naples and Crotona in Italy last night, a U.S. communiqué said today.

"In Naples direct hits were observed on the docks and in the harbor area generally," it said. "In Crotona bomb hits were seen in the area of the quay and railroad lines leading to it. Enemy aircraft were present over Naples, but offered no resistance. All our aircraft returned safely to their bases."



THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of the U.S. Armed Forces in the European Theater of Operations. The Stars and Stripes is edited and published under auspices of the Director of Special Service Division, S.O.S., War Dept., Brig. Gen. F. H. Osborn, and Col. Theodore Arter, Chief of Special Service Sect., ETO, for the U.S. Armed Forces in the European Theater of Operations and Africa. Printed by The Times Publishing Company, Ltd., at Printing House Square, London, E.C.4 (Telephone: Central 2090). Contents passed by the U.S. Army and Navy censors: subscription, 26 shillings per year.

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Vol. 3, No. 100, February 27, 1943

Hush Marks

Members of an engineer battalion overseas; having read some of our recent accounts of "chow hounds," send in the following data on Cpl. Elmer "Eat it or Die" Shonts. Cpl. Shonts, they claim, is the army's champ chow destroyer. "He eats 7 cu. feet of food a day," they say—as long as the cooks stay in the serving line. His motto is "when bigger meals are made, Elmer will eat 'em." The letter was signed, "His starving friends of Co. A."

The spirit of rationing has apparently become thoroughly ingrained in the minds of army mess personnel. An officer



inspecting a mess barked at a KP standing by. "There are too many flies in this kitchen!" "Yes, sir," mumbled the startled GI, "how many are we allowed, sir?"

After having a lot of trouble with the "King's English," as spoken in the United Kingdom, a lot of GI Joes have moved on to territory where it's French that has them baffled. A couple of soldiers slipped into an Algiers cafe and got some wine—which is easy enough to get even if you don't know any French. But complications arose when a friend joined them and they needed a third glass. Undaunted, one of the GI's made a bold attempt, "Garcon, le glass, s'il vous plait." The waiter merely shrugged his shoulders. "Glass, glass, glass," shouted the GI. "Aah, oui, oui," beamed the waiter, dashing off to return in a few minutes with three plates of ice cream (glace to the French lads).

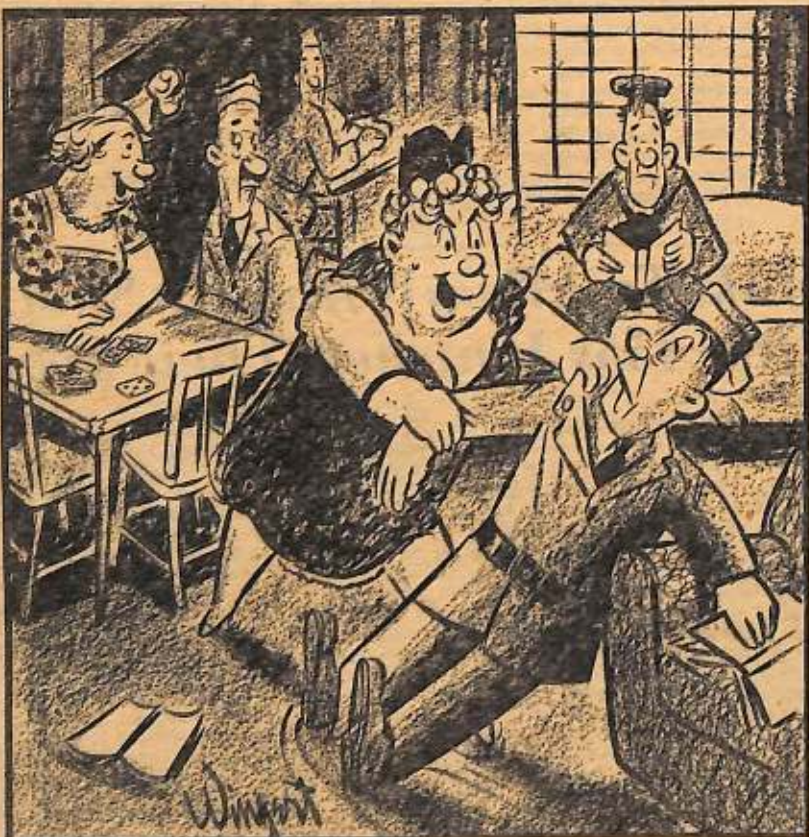
An Indian seaman appearing as a witness in a British court refused to answer questions asked him by a lady



clerk. "Me no speak to girls," he explained. "Me good boy." "That's all right," reassured a court official, "she's a good girl." Hearing this, the seaman beamed a smile of approval, saying, "She good girl! OK, me talk."

If the French language puzzles the Yanks, it's equally true that the French lassies have trouble with "American." At least that's what we assume by this little note which a friend of ours down there received from one of his tres jolies m'amselles.

"Dear Friend: Than become of you? Are you unwell? You wait as every evening at eight hour. Come Friday. Where or Saturday? Love, Well at you, Annette. How's that again, please? J. C. W."



"Young man, we're here to entertain you and we're going to, whether you like it or not!"

Dodging Jerry Behind His Lines

Yanks Straggle Back After Harrowing Adventures

In groups of twos, threes and more, American soldiers who had been cut off and believed lost are straggling back to the U.S. lines in Tunisia after days of ducking patrols in enemy territory. Some walked hundreds of miles, hid in the huts of friendly Arabs, fought skirmishes with German troops. Here are some of the stories, told to an Associated Press correspondent at the front

By Hal Boyle

Associated Press War Correspondent WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY, Southern Tunisia, Feb. 24—An army cook and a demolition engineer, unshaven and dust-covered, followed an Arab guide to an American tank on the battlefield leading to Kasserine Pass today and found themselves back with their home folks after walking 140 miles in an eight-day journey through enemy territory.

"They sure were glad to find out we weren't Germans," said Tank Capt. Lloyd Oleson, of Champaign, Ill., who paused in pursuit of retreating Axis forces long enough to give the two leg-weary soldiers a ride back from the front to the bivouac area.

"It felt like home sweet home when an American popped his head out of that tank," said Cpl. Warren K. Routh, 22, of Carbon, Iowa, an infantry cook. "We were leery at first, but we decided that if they were German troops we would toss our hand grenades and take what was coming to us."

Routh and his companion, Pvt. J. Russell Skinner, of an engineering company, were among a small group of men straggling back of a body of engineers and infantrymen who were trapped for two days on two hills south of Faid during the Sbeitla-Valley battle last week.

Many Captured

Their stories and those of other survivors indicate that most, despite a gallant stand, had been cut off and captured by German armored forces after making their way down from the hills the night of Feb. 16 and trying to make their way on foot across the plains and through the Axis lines.

"Although the hills were so rocky we couldn't dig in, we held them for two days and two nights against attacks by Stukas, tanks, artillery and German infantry," said Routh. "After getting orders to move out as a unit we destroyed all our equipment and vehicles and pulled out about 9:30 PM."

"We walked ten hours that night and the next morning, as we were nearing a mountain, we ran into a German troop convoy. We were worn out from two days and nights of constant fighting and there was only one machine-gun among the lot of us, since we were travelling light."

"We put up the best fight we could with hand arms in the running battle, but they had light artillery as well as a bunch of machine-guns. When they attacked us from the rear with Mark Four tanks, all we could do was scatter and make a break for it. Since they were on wheels and we were on foot, most of our fellows didn't have much chance to get away. They were cut off and surrounded and had to surrender."

Escape to Mountains

Routh and another soldier escaped to the mountains. After walking all night and escaping from German patrols, they found bread and water at an Arab hut. Routh had started the trip with only a quarter canteen of water and a can of salmon and met up that evening with five other American soldiers at another Arab hut where they learned that Sbeitla, their objective, had been taken by the Germans.

The group split to lessen the possibility of detection, and Skinner joined Routh and another soldier in a march toward Feriana. They walked all night and again



Keystone Photo

"Arabs were really 100 per cent," was the comment of one U.S. soldier after an eight-day journey through enemy territory to their home base. Arabs gave the men bread and water, shelter, and even guided them through the enemy lines to safety.

took refuge in an Arab house. "The Arab fixed us up a ride with a camel caravan going that way. I rode 30 miles on the back of a small donkey," said Routh, "and his back was sharper than hell."

At Kasserine Pass they learned that the Germans had taken the town, and they wandered in the mountains through days and nights of rain—cold, miserable and constantly fugitive from German road patrols. Finally the third soldier became so ill with rheumatism he no longer could move his left side and decided to surrender.

"He was helpless and couldn't go on so we took him to an Arab hut and left him there. Before we went on he made us take his canteen, gloves and other equipment, but later we got so tired we even threw away the outer coverings of our helmets to lighten us."

Two nights later Skinner and Routh crossed the enemy lines and found an Arab, who guided them to American positions. With them they brought much information on enemy troop movements observed during the epic walk.

Outran Rifle Fire

Skinner, who joined Routh at the first Arab house where he stopped on his long journey, had escaped from a German force which overwhelmed American engineers guarding a road block.

"I walked right through one German bivouac, but had to outrun rifle bullets when a sentry challenged me after I was 75 yards away," he said.

The two men twice had to dodge away from German patrols under machine-gun fire, but Skinner, who appeared none the worse for his experience, said perhaps the worst ordeal was scooping up drinks from a muddy waterhole used by Burros as a bathub.

"Those Arabs really were 100 per cent American," he said. "I really like those people."

Although they paid some Arabs 100 francs each for help, some refused to take money.

"That Arab bread really made our C rations seem delicious," said Routh. "All I could think of was swell things to cook and eat."

Routh, who still was haggard and weary, interrupted the story twice to dive into foxholes at the approach of planes, which turned out to be friendly.

"I still got the Jerry jitters," he apologized, smiling. "I figure I lost 15 to 20 pounds while hiking that 140 miles. All we had to guide us was the North Star and the sunrise."

"We steered by guess, and by gosh," was the way Skinner put it.

"It's tough—tougher than hell," said Routh, "and we didn't stop. We knew it would be tough when we came over here. I think for every ounce they dished out on that hill we gave them as much in return with what stuff we had—and we always will."

Epic 100-mile Trek

Three other lost American soldiers—one from Maine, one from New York and one from Kansas—met for the first time hiding in an Arab hut from the Germans and together made an epic 100-mile journey through enemy-held territory.

They were the first group to reach the American lines of infantry engineering and reconnaissance units who, for three days and two nights, were surrounded by Germans on Djebel Msaira mountain, six miles south of Faid. Their story was one of the most stirring during the withdrawal of the American Army from the Sbeitla-Feriana valley.

They were hungry, drank ditch water, walked the soles of their shoes to shreds and arrived back dust-covered, unshaven, shivering from the cold and sleepless from nights spent in the rain.

Reconnaissance Sgt. Robert C. Wells, 28, Baxter Spring, Kan.—he used to lead a quiet life selling dynamite before the war—spoke for the three when he said, "We feel like we want to get back in there as soon as we can."

His companions were Pvt. Leo J. Raymond, 25, former rolling-mill worker, of Frenchville, Me., and Pvt. Howard Anderson, 23, of Nelliston, N.Y., former student of the University of Chicago.

In the first day of the battle, Wells' platoon captured 30 prisoners during a break-through by the Germans and the following day his two assault guns

knocked out two tanks and a fieldpiece which one was towing.

"That night it wasn't too good for us," he recalled. "Our Engineers 100 yards ahead of us on the ridge tangled in a fight with German infantry. The third morning hell really broke loose when their artillery shelled us and we were back 200 yards."

"We did find out a little about our situation. We didn't get access to ammunition. That afternoon we went into action and 15 minutes later they knocked out one of our two assault guns. That left four men and myself."

Units Cut Off

"All of our units on the ridge were hopelessly cut off and were without hope of getting food, water and ammunition supplies. That night we were ordered to get out after destroying our equipment."

"We put the hammer to our vehicles, leaving nothing but wreckage for Jerry, and then took three of our wounded to a first aid station before starting out for our own lines with about 400 other men."

"But at 8 the next morning two German reconnaissance cars spotted us on the plains south of Sbeitla and sped away. They came back shortly with a towed 88mm. gun on the right and an armored car with machine-guns on the left."

"Our boys spread out in a long line, each man about 50 yards apart. I met Raymond in the middle of the line. An armored car opened up on us, but all we had were our rifles and I saw some of our fellows taken prisoner and heard cries of our wounded calling for medics. Some of our boys got excited, began to bunch up in a big wadi and an armored car caught them there. They got a lot of us."

"We turned to the right and made a break across an open field, keeping as low as possible and moved as fast as possible until we had covered four miles. I looked back and could see nothing but some of our fellows on the left still going ahead, so we know the others got away."

Arabs Offer Help

"Raymond and I took stock and found we only had two bars of ration chocolate and half a canteen of water between us."

While they were resting, two Arabs came from nearby huts and motioned for them to lie down; one, who had fought in France for the French Army and had been taken prisoner by the Germans earlier in the war, told them, "There are Germans all around you—take our robes and follow us up to our house and we will hide you."

"I told him, no, that we would be shot as spies if caught," said Wells. "Besides, we felt that if we were going to get it we wanted to get it in our American uniforms."

"However, we did go to the Arab's house and there found Anderson, who had been wandering in the mountains since leaving the ridge two days before. He sure was tickled to see us."

The three stayed with Arabs from noon until 7 PM and were fed with hard-boiled eggs and cereal, with hot milk. Then they set out across the mountains, crossed one range and then went up a second before lying down in the trench, covering themselves with leaves for a few hours' sleep.

Drank Ditch Water

They drank ditch water to allay their thirst. Next day they reached another mountain range and estimated they were close to Kasserine. They ran into another Arab, who told them the Germans had taken Sbeitla and got them a meal of bread, olive oil and eggs.

They followed a trail of ration cans and American half-track marks toward Kasserine. One mile from town they met an Arab, who told them the Germans were there. He drew a map showing where the nearest American troops were, and they walked until early morning, avoiding the mountain passes where Nazi soldiers might be entrenched, then were forced to stop because of weariness.

"Every step was torture. Our shoes were worn out and our feet blistered," said Wells. "It was raining and freezing cold."

They came out of the valley and Wells poked his head over the ridge of the Wadi to see if vehicles in the distance were American. An artillery barrage began, and from the position of fire he judged for the first time they were behind the American lines.

Forward Together

For the first time in this war American and British troops have met the German panzer troops in a major operation, and together they have inflicted on those troops an unqualified defeat.

A Reuter's correspondent with the American forces, in a cable from Allied headquarters, told the story in these words:

"Complete Allied control of the Kasserine Pass was effected by 3 PM yesterday. American infantry and combat command troops, starting early yesterday, cleared all remnants of the Axis rear-guards from the slopes of Chambi Hill on the southern side of the pass, while British troops of an armored brigade performed a similar clearing operation on the opposite slope of Semmama Hill.

"Once the hill positions were free of artillery, American tanks moved quickly through the pass, and the retreating German and Italian troops were pushed entirely away from the mouth of the pass towards the town of Kasserine."

The German offensive has thus come to a proper end. British and American troops, supported by Allied aircraft, have driven Rommel's veterans back on their heels, at a pace equal to their rapid advance. So far in this war the lot of both the British and American Armies has not been an easy one. Many of our soldiers have waited for years for a chance to smash at the Nazis. They have trained hard, and at times fought hard with insufficient and obsolete equipment. Today the picture is changing. Properly prepared, our troops are moving forward together, against the common foe. Together they will beat the Axis armies, and they'll keep on beating them until final and complete victory is achieved.

Tax Exemption

Exemption of all soldiers, sailors and marines from income-tax liabilities on pay they receive in the armed services has been submitted to Congress by Representative Woodruff, of Michigan.

Woodruff, a member of the Ways and Means Committee, said he would press for this principle when the committee opens consideration of the new tax Bill.

The Woodruff Bill favors tax exemption only on service pay, and not on any income derived by service men from investments or other sources.

Several important members of the present Congress have indicated that should the committee report unfavorably on tax exemption, they would seek to revise the present tax laws so that the wife of a service man would not be held responsible for any income-tax liability for a deceased husband.

Sources close to Washington indicate that tax exemption for the forces has an excellent chance of becoming the law of the land. It has been pointed out that despite the fact the American soldier in this war is the highest paid in the history of the world, he still receives much less than the home front war worker. Income-tax exemption would assist in adjusting this difference, and as most service men are not able to pay income-taxes while serving overseas, it would serve to eliminate the danger of these men facing a world at peace with "their future mortgaged."

Finns for Peace

The first Axis nation to withdraw from the present war may prove to be Finland. President Ryti, opening the 1943 session of the Finnish Riksdag, spoke to that group in a manner which could only be construed by the world as an attempt at reconciliation with the Allies.

The President of the Finns, in his address, seemed to be making a direct appeal to the United Nations by pointing out no civilized nation could ever sink so low as not to acknowledge the rights of a nation to fight for its own freedom.

This right was never questioned by America when Finland was attacked by Russia; but when Finland joined Germany in an attack on Russia it was a different story. It would appear that Finland has now had time to repent. If this is true, Finland will soon voluntarily withdraw from the war, and if that step is taken the American people will certainly do all in their power to see her rights to self-government are respected.



# New Records May Be Set In AAU Meet

## Warmerdan Sure to Break Meadows' Mark In Vault

NEW YORK, Feb. 26—Daniel J. Ferris, meet director of the AAU track and field indoor championships which are being held at Madison Square Garden tomorrow, predicts that at least six AAU records will be broken.

He said that the vault record was surely doomed. Cornelius Warmerdam, San Francisco Olympic Club, is a cinch to break Earl Meadows' mark of 14 feet four and five-eighths inches. The Flying Dutchman has already cleared 15 feet 27 times in competition. In the AAU meet he'll be shooting not only at Meadows' AAU standard, but his own indoor world record of 15 feet seven and a fourth inches.

### Greg Rice Confident

Defending champion Pvt. Barney Ewell, Camp Lee, Va., and Ed Conwell, NYU freshman, already have equalled the meet record of six and two-tenths seconds for the 60-yard sprint in previous meets. They'll be racing Saturday in a field that undoubtedly will push them over this mark.

Greg Rice, seeking his 60th straight victory, is expected to shatter his old three-mile record of 13 minutes 45 and seven-tenths seconds. Rice timed himself in a practice workout this week and was so far under the record at two and a half miles that he quit.

Other records expected to be broken are the mile, the 40 and the 60-yard hurdles.

## Canadiens Near Playoffs By Defeating Wings, 4-2

MONTREAL, Feb. 26—The Canadiens defeated the Detroit Red Wings, 4-2, here last night, jumping to within one point of the Chicago Black Hawks in the fight for the last National Hockey League playoff qualifying spot.

The Canadiens took the lead in the first period on goals by Dutch Hiller and Toe Blake. Detroit's first came at the 12-minute mark of the second period, when Joe Carveth scored from ten feet out. There was no more scoring until the final stanza, when Blake ripped a shot which Goalie Johnny Mowers stopped, but it bounced from Carveth's skates into the net. Elmer Lach pounded another Montreal pointer seconds later. Wing Carl Liscomb scored right after that.

## Don't Say Minnesota Isn't Against Crime

ST. PAUL, Feb. 26—A bill making it a gross misdemeanor for one hunter to "wound, injure, or kill" another hunter has been introduced in the Minnesota House of Representatives. The measure would subject the violators to fines of upwards of \$500 or imprisonment upwards of six months. Furthermore, a hunter convicted of wounding another would lose his hunting license for five years. If the injured man dies, the license will be suspended for ten years.

## Service Sports Helped by Fund

### Athletic Equipment Will Be Sent to Troops By Ring Committee

NEW YORK, Feb. 26—Representatives of various ring organizations have founded boxing's Service Athletic Fund to help provide sports equipment, principally boxing paraphernalia, for the U.S. armed forces at home and overseas.

Through the cooperation of the boxing commissions and the promoters throughout the nation the fund hopes to raise at least \$100,000 annually for equipment.

Promoter Mike Jacobs, of New York, was elected president of the new group. The officers of the fund said that they hoped to encourage boxing shows for the benefit of the fund in every club throughout the nation before the end of April. The clubs will be invited to set aside specific percentages or amounts. The boxers and the managers will also be asked to contribute a share of their purses to these shows.

## Rangers Still Surprising, Trounce Black Hawks, 7-4

NEW YORK, Feb. 26—The New York Rangers continued surprising the fans with 7-4 win over the Chicago Black Hawks at Madison Square Garden last night.

The last-place Rangers took an early lead only to have the Black Hawks rally to a 3-3 tie at the end of the second period. The Rangers regained their lead early in the third period, blasting three more goals past Goalie Bert Gardiner. It was the Ranger's biggest scoring of the season.

## Ski Champ Headed for Army



Art Devlin, 20-year-old Syracuse student and considered to be the nation's outstanding American-born ski jumper, soars into space to win the seventh annual Franklin D. Roosevelt Trophy at Bear Mountain, N.Y., with a leap of 153 feet. Devlin is scheduled to become a member of the Army Air Forces.

## Bill Cowley Handles the Puck Like Hutson Does a Football

BOSTON, Feb. 26—Bill Cowley, the center of the Boston Bruins who leads the National Hockey League in individual scoring, is the Don Hutson of hockey. He does the difficult things so smoothly he makes them seem ridiculously easy.

This season Cowley finally earned the recognition as one of the great play makers of all time—in a class with Frank Boucher, Joe Primeau, Cooney Weiland and Marty Barry. No hockey player today can equal Cowley's combination of change of pace, shrewd stick-handling and precise control of the puck. He is able to toss a flip pass which fools anyone.

Cowley, who is 30, weighs 170. Appearing unhurried in action, like Hutson, he's a man who delivers in a showdown. He gives dignity to assists which can be very cheap in today's generous distribution of scoring points. When Cowley assists, it's generally a more important contribution to the play than the swipe which sends the puck into the net. He has the ultimate art of laying up the puck like a clay pigeon in the mouth of the goal for his mate to plunk in.

### Part of 20-Goal Line

Proof of his skill is the uniform success with a variety of wings since he joined Boston in 1936. Almost all have scored more goals with Bill than at any other time in their careers.

His present partners, Buzz Boll and Art Jackson, never have approached the current scoring pace. Boll has 25 goals, the third best total in the League, but in the previous season got only 14. Jackson's 21 are four better than his previous top.

On down the list—Eddie Wiseman, Roy Conacher, Charley Sands, Ray Getliffe—all reached their scoring peaks beside Cowley.

Bill now has 40 assists with five more games to play and may surpass his League record of 45 set two seasons ago. With Boll and Jackson he forms the year's only 20-goal line. Bill has exactly 20 himself, the first time he's ever got that many.

## Irish Learn Basketball, Mix in Rugby and Soccer

BELFAST, Feb. 26—Irish children have become so interested in the American game of basketball they are trying to learn to play the sport themselves. Frank Kammerlohr, of Great Falls, Mon., athletic director at the Red Cross club here, has been giving them a few pointers.

The eager youths have difficulty in keeping from batting the ball with their hands instead of passing it. At times their play resembles soccer and rugby, the Irish national sports.

The Royal Ulster Constabulary has also taken an interest. One of its members, after watching a game, wrote a set of rules for his friends to follow.

### Hockey Standings

	W	L
Boston Bruins	22	17
Detroit Red Wings	20	11
Toronto Maple Leafs	19	16
Chicago Black Hawks	16	15
Montreal Canadiens	17	18
New York Rangers	9	26

### Mancuso, Ryan Sign Contracts

NEW YORK, Feb. 26—The New York Giants have announced the receipt of signed contracts from Catcher Gus Mancuso and Connie Ryan, second baseman. Ryan played with Jersey City last season.

## Artillerymen Split With RAF

AN ARTILLERY STATION, Feb. 26—Meeting some of the cream of RAF boxing talent in eight bouts, U.S. Artillerymen emerged with 50 per cent cream. Artillery featherweights, Cpl. Andrew A. McGinty, of Cleveland, and S/Sgt. George J. Patrick, of Philadelphia, both kept their colors flying. Pfc Satimo Gualandi, of Bloomington, Ill., lost by but a quarter point.

Summaries:  
Featherweight—Cpl. Andrew A. McGinty, 126, Cleveland, Ohio, Artillery, won by a TKO over A.C. Jones, 124, RAF; S/Sgt. George J. Patrick, 130, Philadelphia, Artillery, defeated A.C. Graham, 121, RAF, on a decision.  
Lightweight—Pvt. Jay Smith, 134, West Milton, Pa., Artillery, lost to A.C. Willoughby, 140, RAF, on a knockout.  
Welterweight—Pvt. Fay Horswill, 139, Rock River Falls, Wis., Artillery, lost to A.C. Mitchell, 140, RAF, on a decision; Pvt. John Robinson, 149, Kansas City, Kan., Artillery, won over Warrant Officer Vergerio, 148, RAF.  
Middleweight—Pfc Lewis Fetters, 148, Bellefonte, Pa., Artillery, knocked out A.C. Martin, 157, RAF; Pfc Satimo Gualandi, 156, Bloomington, Ill., Artillery, lost to A.C. Snedden, RAF.  
Light Heavyweight—Cpl. Fred W. Byers, 156, Milton, Pa., Artillery, lost to A.C. Corley, 164, RAF, on a decision.

## Ball Teams May Adjust Salaries Below \$5,000

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26—The War Labor Board has ruled that major and minor league baseball clubs could adjust their salaries below \$5,000 at their own discretion, provided the salaries are kept within the clubs' "established wage rates."

The Commissioner of Internal Revenue ruled last month that the clubs may adjust salaries over \$5,000 under the same conditions.

## 393 Entered in IC4A Track and Field Meet

NEW YORK, Feb. 26—Thirty-one colleges have entered a total of 393 athletes in the 22nd annual IC4A track and field games at Madison Square Garden on March 6.

Columbia has entered 36, NYU 35, Manhattan 32. Penn State, defending champion, has entered 23.

### Cubs Get Catcher Todd

CHICAGO, Feb. 26—Catcher Al Todd has been purchased from Los Angeles of the Pacific Coast League by the Chicago Cubs. Todd was with the Cubs early in '41, then went to Toronto of the International League. Last season he started with Milwaukee of the American Association and was sold to Los Angeles. He batted .285.

## 5 Cage Titles Decided; Race Enters Stretch

### Duke, Rhode Island State, Kentucky Already Crowned

NEW YORK, Feb. 26—About this time of the year dogfights are customary for the leadership of the various basketball conferences and, more often than not, two or more teams finish tied for first place. But last week saw the crowning of no fewer than five undisputed winners.

Kentucky checked in first with its second straight Southeastern Conference championship, far ahead of Louisiana State. Southern California bowled Stanford, 67-49, to take the Southern Division title of the Pacific Coast Conference. Then Creighton disposed of second-place Washington of St. Louis, 45-26, assuring the Bluejays of another Missouri Valley title.

### Wyoming Seems In

The Southern Conference reissued its crown to Duke, as defending champions, when they squeezed out a 64-61 overtime verdict over George Washington. The Blue Devils and the Colonials entered the payoff battle virtually on an equal footing and emerged nearly so as the basketball law allows; it was easily the hottest finish of the year thus far. Rhode Island State clinched its seventh straight New England Conference championship by whipping Maine, 68-60. Two days later Rhode Island bounced New Hampshire, 97-58, finishing the season undefeated.

Meanwhile, the Whiz Kids of Illinois rolled over Wisconsin, 50-36, for their tenth straight Big Ten victory. Indiana clings to the last forlorn hope that Northwestern will halt the Illini this weekend; this might give Indiana a chance at a first place tie, but Northwestern is a pushover for any moderately competent team.

Kansas, in the Big Six, and Wyoming, in the Rocky Mountain conference, likewise continued their untroubled ways toward titles which are quite certainly earmarked for them. The Kansans are two full games ahead with only three left to play after this week's 52-35 victory over Nebraska—their seventh consecutive conference victory. Wyoming faces an intersection playoff with Brigham Young, but nothing in the records even hints that the high-flying Cowboys need worry about the outcome.

### Northwest Has Best Scrap

Three conferences are still unsettled—Southwest, Eastern and the Northern Division of the Pacific Coast. The Southwest situation is somewhat surprising because last week Texas was two games in front with just four remaining, but Texas Christian and Southern Methodist rose from lowly second division berths and dumped the Longhorns, 49-44 and 65-56 respectively, letting Rice come through for a slight edge in the leadership. Rice needs only to win the finale with the Texas Aggies this weekend for a certain first place tie. Texas has two left and must win both to share the crown with Rice.

Something similar happened last week in the staid Eastern loop. Villain of this piece was much maligned Cornell and the victim was Pennsylvania. Cornell trimmed the Quakers, 35-30, thus giving second place Dartmouth an inside look at the leadership. Then Harvard added insult to it by licking Penn, giving the Dartmouth Indians a cinch chance to tie.

The best scrap is in the Pacific Northwest, where Washington and Washington State are taking turns at the leadership with Oregon constantly threatening. Washington State, at the moment, holds a slight lead, but may be toppled in the forthcoming four-game schedule. The stake in the Northern Division of the Pacific Coast conference is the dubious privilege of meeting Southern California, Southern winner, for the Pacific Coast crown. The Trojans are rated odds-on favorites to beat whichever team wins the Northern Division flag.

### Basketball Results

- Penn State 46, Temple 33.
- Kentucky 48, Tulane 31.
- Georgia 36, Mississippi 27.
- VMI 36, Maryland 35.
- LSU 67, Auburn 38.
- Baylor 40, Southern Methodist 34.
- Wyoming 53, Brigham Young 42.

### Phils to Train at Hershey

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 26—Bill Cox, new owner of the Philadelphia Phillies, has announced that they will train at Hershey, Pa. The players will report on March 21 for rigorous "commando training."

## NEWS FROM HOME

# Federal Statute Will Provide Death For Hostile War Acts

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26 (AP)—A comprehensive statute providing the death penalty for "hostile acts in time of war" is being considered by Congress, Assistant Attorney General Wendell Berge told the Federal Bar Association here.

Berge also expressed the belief that the FBI has "substantially checked" espionage in the United States. The new law, Berge said, would subject to a maximum penalty of death any person who, with intent to aid the enemy, commits any one of a comprehensive list of "hostile acts." The act also applies the death penalty to conspiracy to commit hostile acts. Moreover, it makes it criminal to fail to report to the FBI or other appropriate law enforcement officers knowledge that another person has committed or is committing, hostile acts.

### Author Saroyan Weds

DAYTON, Ohio, Feb. 26—Pvt. William Saroyan, the 34-year-old California-born playwright, who turned down a Pulitzer Prize for his play "The Time of Your Life," was married here Saturday to Carol Marcus, 18, daughter of the vice-president of the Bendix Aviation Corp. Saroyan entered the Army three months ago and is attached to a Signal Corps training film laboratory in the Middle West.

### Nevada Marriages in Doubt

CARSON CITY, Nev., Feb. 26—Discovery of a little-known statute prohibiting judges from accepting fees for performing marriages, may invalidate approximately 87,500 marriages in Nevada during the last six years. Many prominent figures in New York society and from Hollywood may find that their marriages are dissolved, lawyers here said. A Bill to correct the matter has been drawn up.

### Burglars Take Stamps

DANVILLE, Ill., Feb. 26—Burglars broke into Ward Bunting's apartment here last night, passed up silver and jewelry worth an estimated \$30,000 and stole two ration stamps and 38 cents—the price of a pound of coffee.

### Grant Sweeping War Powers

HARTFORD, Conn., Feb. 26—Gov. Raymond E. Baldwin was exercising wide-sweeping, war-time authority today, granted him in a bill he signed Wednesday. It gives him power to suspend any State law which "interferes with the war effort." Gov. Baldwin indicated he may

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# 8th Army Waits On 75-Mile Line For Signal to Go

## Patrols Probing Enemy's Positions at Mareth, But Front Quiet

CAIRO, Feb. 26 (AP)—There was no indication here today of increased activity in the western desert over yesterday's returns beyond normal patrol and scouting parties.

But, as Gen. Montgomery's forces waited "for the balloon to go up," which in army parlance is the moment of assault, his position was roughly this:

The battle is no longer an east-to-west battle but is north-to-south, due to the curve of the coastline and the Mareth Line, which is anchored in the range of hills south of Matmata. The Eighth Army's front resembles a tapering crescent, more than 75 miles long.

### Patrols Keep Tabs

In front of the crescent are the feelers, which are armored patrols and infantry units keeping a constant check on Rommel's pulse and noting the slightest change in the disposition of his troops.

Behind the feelers are truck-loads of infantry in such a position as to be able to deal with any effort by the enemy. Behind the infantry stand tanks and artillery, geared ready for instant use.

A drastic alteration in the conception of tank warfare has been apparent since the Alamein breakthrough. It was the custom previously to push the tanks through and then deploy them fan-wise in the method which was used to such effect in Flanders.

### Sappers Go First

But when the Germans began to train their 88mm. guns on a given point and to lure the tanks into a trap of cross-fire, Gen. Montgomery changed the battle-plan by sending sappers forward under cover of night to neutralize the enemy artillery, and then he burst through with his own tanks.

There is no doubt that much of the great success of this campaign has been due to his ability to scrap old plans and formulate new ones on the spot, and there is no doubt, either, that he has an answer ready to beat anything Rommel can think of as their forces face each other in the hills between Medenine and the Mareth Line.

## Tunisia - - -

(Continued from page 1)

held since first breaking out from Faid Pass.

There were indications that Rommel planned to withdraw one line from Gafsa northward through Sened and up the secondary eastern Tunisian dorsals through Faid, leaving the vast plateau between the two ranges of mountains as a giant No-Man's-Land patrolled by tanks.

It is believed that the enemy has evacuated the town of Kasserine itself on the plain south of Kasserine Pass as part of his preparations to meet the threat from the Eighth Army, United Press reports. There is no official confirmation for this, but official reports were that the Allies now held the high ground behind the pass. Allied troops continued yesterday in close contact with the enemy.

Rumors that Rommel was no longer in Tunisia were dispelled by an announcement today that a German tank had been captured containing a letter by a private stating that during the past week Rommel visited his unit twice. The letter was dated Feb. 22. It also disclosed that the 15th Panzer Unit, as well as the 21st, and parts of the 10th Panzer Unit participated in the recent attack.

Kasserine Pass was cleared at 3 PM yesterday after the British and American infantry had taken Jebel Gambia on the south side and Jebel Semmama on the north side of the pass.

Hurri-bomber raids on transports in the Gabes and Gafsa area were taken as an indication that the Germans were making a full-scale withdrawal.

Flying Fortresses resumed their attacks, raiding Bizerta under cover of a large force of American Lightnings and RAF Spitfires. The pilots reported that German fighters, maneuvering to attack the bombers, fled when the Spitfires arrived. The Fortresses pounded the harbor area with high explosives.

## Russia - - -

(Continued from page 1)

few fortified points in the past 24 hours, but in the northwestern corner of the basin the Germans are making a determined bid to break through.

The Russians are maintaining their positions, but against the heaviest attacks launched with big reinforcements of tanks and motorized infantry.

The Germans are attacking incessantly in the hope of breaking through to the Russian rear. The scale of battle is indicated by the fact that at one point alone the Russians knocked out 26 tanks in one day. Russian planes pounded the Luftwaffe bases yesterday, destroying 27 German planes at one point.

West of Kharkov the Germans are putting more and more strength into their attacks, and the weight of their fresh reserves of men and material is beginning to be felt.

## Yanks, Tommies Beat Arabs in Souvenir Race

WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES, Tunisia, Feb. 23 (delayed) (AP)—As the last Allied tanks edged cautiously over a ridge two miles south of Thala, in pursuit of the retreating enemy, British and American soldiers engaged in a foot race with Arabs to see who could get first to the cluster of damaged Allied and Axis vehicles in the bottom valley in order to collect souvenirs.

The Arabs were a poor third as their legs are apparently undeveloped from years of riding on donkeys.

The first soldier to arrive tried to ride a fire-blackened German motor-bike. It wouldn't go.

## Liverpool Club For U.S. Seamen

### Ceremonies Monday Open Third American Hostel In British Isles

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 26—American merchant seamen will be welcomed Monday at opening of their new club here under auspices of the U.S. War Shipping Administration.

It will be "the place where an American sailor can get a cup of real coffee"—as well as hot meals, clean beds and other comforts.

Seamen present at Monday's ceremony will include survivors of torpedoes who were hospitalized in Liverpool.

The club, third in Britain, is in the former American Red Cross building at 97 Islington. Glasgow and Gourock already have merchant marine clubs, and a fourth will be opened soon in Cardiff.

The Lord Mayor of Liverpool and Alexander Kerr, of the American Embassy, London, European representative of the WSA, will take part in ceremonies beginning at 3.15 PM Monday. Charles Hogan, United Kingdom representative of WSA, will preside.

The Liverpool club will sleep 40 men and can accommodate more if necessary. Chief feature of the club is an enormous lounge with comfortable sofas and chairs. In the spring a courtyard adjoining the club will be converted into an open-air dining hall.

### Add Signs of Spring

Double Daylight Time, called "Summer Time" in England, will go into effect Apr. 4 and end Aug. 15, it was announced yesterday.

## Air Force - - -

(Continued from page 1)

Germany's armed forces were estimated at 9,835,000, or ten per cent of the population, plus 1,350,000 military auxiliaries.

Maj. Gen. W. D. Styer, chief of staff for Army Service of Supply, estimated that it would require one man for every 13 persons in the United States to get an army of the size planned. He said the Germans and the British had a ratio of ten to one.

Vice-Adm. F. J. Horne, vice-chief of Naval Operations, expressed his belief the United States could maintain about 5,000,000 men overseas at the end of 1944. He said the capacity of pooled transport would be sufficient to move 133,000 men monthly to the various theaters of war.

## British, U.S. Authorities Confer on Venereal Disease

Desire of the U.S. forces to cooperate with British authorities in combating venereal disease was expressed at a conference in London yesterday by Maj. Paul Padgett, of the ETO medical staff.

The conference, attended by medical representatives from all parts of Britain had been called to ventilate the growing problem expressed in terms of a 70 per cent increase in venereal disease since the outbreak of war. There are 70,000 new victims each year among civilians alone, it was stated.

An example of the help being given had been told earlier by the British Minister of Health, who said that "a full length feature film produced in America will be showing in 300 theaters in this country from about the middle of March."

### Blondie

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



by Chic Young

## Air Awards in North Africa



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

At an American air base at Oran, Algeria, Maj. Gen. James H. Doolittle awards a citation to S/Sgt. George Koehler, of Upper Sandusky, Ohio, for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial combat with the Axis.

## Round Trip to Wilhelmshaven, As Seen from Nose of a Fort

(Continued from page 1)

be seen swinging open, and not far above us the yawning bomb bay of a Fort revealed more bombs, hanging by some mechanical hairpin, waiting for the bombardier to push the tiny button that sends them to the target.

Lt. Owens was having trouble with his oxygen and Lt. Phillips' fingers were nearly frozen. I was healthy but helpless. Finally the valve of the navigator's air intake froze completely and the next thing his head had dropped to the top of his caliber .50, and his face was an unlovely greyish purple. Both of them had work to do in the nose. I was strictly cargo. The oxygen on my side was okay. We fitted the mask to Lt. Owens' face, revived him and I started back for the pilot's cockpit.

By the time I struggled back without oxygen, with a backlog of equipment that would make Santa Claus look sick, I was almost out. Lt. Casey almost yawned at what I was sure was a major crisis in my life.

He fixed me up with oxygen and the remainder of my brief first glimpse at the war was from the pit behind the pilot.

As we started the bombing run I was up in the nose of the ship, standing over to the right trying to keep out of the way of the navigator and bombardier. I had a camera, and that was probably the greatest underestimation, or something or other, of the Germans anyone ever made. I definitely did not feel like taking pictures. I made an effort once or twice and I got a couple of pictures of a small bunch of six little ships down on the water, but it's elementary that you have to be able to hold a camera still to take pictures.

We were well into the run and the flak was puffing to the right and left. The boys said it was not nearly as intensive as over St. Nazaire, but there was more of it, spread out in different places, they said.

Fighter planes were always there while we were making our run. They come in so fast it's hard to tell where they're coming from, but frequently you could see a vapor trail start to form, like a

cloud standing on end. You knew that was a fighter starting a run.

As the bombardier crouched low over his sight, I was just in back of him, trying to take a picture of the bombs falling from the plane ahead. They dropped theirs, and I guess we must have the next second, but I couldn't feel it.

Behind the tail gunner, T/Sgt. Parley D. Small, of Packwood, Iowa, reported that he had seen a Liberator go down with one engine flaming. Although on fire he said it was under control for a crash landing. Small himself picked off one German plane as it tried to tie a stream of machine-gun bullets on our tail. He described the end of another German fighter.

### Jerry Stopped Cold

"It looked like a piece of cardboard that had been thrown out of a plane," he said. "It came up under the belly of a B24 and someone let him have it right on the nose. He stopped dead and fell away. The plane didn't seem to be burning. It must have killed the pilot."

As Nazi planes kept nipping at the formation, far away from the coast of Germany, they probably picked us up from the French coast. It is improbable that German-based fighters followed the USAAF bombers that far, even though many of them seemed to be twin-engined planes.

Almost half way home, three Ju88s could be seen diving at a B24 that had fallen out of formation and was in distress.

After 20 minutes without sign of Jerry, things began to look more pleasant.

### Song of Triumph

Lt. Casey and the crew began to sing over the intercom. Casey had the bends and was squirming in his seat—but smiling and singing. Next to him, Lt. Ross had to do most of the flying on the way home. Finally England was sighted and believe me, whatever you think, it is one of the most beautiful little islands in all the world.

As Lt. Casey says, "I'm an Irishman, southern Ireland, but that is still the best looking damned little island I ever saw."

After a roof-lifting "buzz" (hedge-hopping) over the field, not orthodox, Lt. Casey brought the ship in smoothly.

Looking over the Banshee, we found that it had been hit in about ten places. The biggest hole was a gaping wound in her metal near the tail-gunner. The chip of flak tore a hole through an English penny that Sgt. Small had left on the floor behind him.

With the exception of one frozen finger—Lt. Phillips—the Banshee had had what the crew called "a quiet trip."

I don't want to go on a noisy one.

## Investigation Opened Into Dockman's Death

An investigation into the death of a dock worker at a British port Thursday night was begun yesterday under orders of the Commanding General, U.S. Army, Western Base Command.

First reports said the docker attacked an armed U.S. Army guard and that a fight followed. A board of officers was appointed to hear evidence, and the General began his investigation.

## FDR Thanks MacArthur for Pacific Successes

### Another Raid on Rabaul Goes On as President Lauds Air Attacks

By the United Press

President Roosevelt has sent a message of congratulation and thanks to Gen. Douglas MacArthur, Allied commander in the southwest Pacific, on the successes achieved by forces under his command in the southwest Pacific area during the past few weeks.

The President's message read in part: "The bombardments launched by your air forces during the past few weeks and especially during the last few days, in support of the situation in the Solomons and to the furtherance of your own operations, command our admiration."

"The arduous land campaign along the Papuan coast which has decimated the enemy and now threatens him at Salamaua has made a great impression on our people and must have had a demoralizing effect on the Japanese confidence in the fighting efficiency of their ground troops."

"My thanks go to you and your leaders and to the officers and men of the Australian and United States forces who carried the fight to the enemy on all levels, over great distances and even greater difficulties."

### Another Rabaul Raid

Another aerial success against Jap ships in Rabaul harbor was announced in today's official communique from the southwest Pacific stating that four direct hits and near misses were scored on enemy vessels by Flying Fortresses attacking the Jap's New Britain naval base for the fourth night in succession.

An 8,000-ton ship believed to be an aircraft tender, was the main target during the attack, which lasted for more than two hours. The vessel was hit by four bombs, and when last seen was making towards the shore and settling astern.

Other targets attacked by Allied aircraft were at Cape Gloucester, Alexishafen and Gasmata.

A further 60 enemy soldiers have been killed in mopping up operations by Allied patrols in the Kumusi area.

Aerial attacks against the Japs by American planes in the Solomon Islands and in the Aleutians were also announced in the communique.

## Raids - - -

(Continued from page 1)

flak than has been encountered on other raids, particularly over the Nazi sub bases in France, one veteran of European bombing, Capt. A. V. Martini, of San Francisco, Cal., who flies the "Dry Martini," was emphatic about "a rough trip."

"My O my! Rough, rough, rough!" was his resume.

2nd Lt. William J. Reed, of Siloam Springs, Ark., co-pilot of the Fortress "Doom Town," said his formation was engaged by "the most persistent fighters we have ever met."

The formation was led by Maj. J. J. Preston, of Elgin, Minn., a veteran of the battle of Java.

2nd Lt. T. Logan, of La Crescenta, Cal., co-pilot of the Fortress "Available Jones," said the fight was the roughest he had seen.

"We were met by enemy aircraft on the way over," Lt. Logan said. "They stayed right with us over the target and followed us back over the North Sea."

The leading bombardier of one formation, 1st Lt. Emmett W. Ford, of Siloam Springs, Ark., thought bombing results were good.

"Our bombs started with the target and walked on through the town," he described it.

### Raids Instead of Leave

Another gunner, T/Sgt. Michael Ruffkovich, of Fayette City, Pa., took the first day of his two-day pass to go on the mission because he did not want to miss it. Otherwise he would have been in London today.

The RAF's attack the night before continued the pattern of striking at the U-boats before they are built. Nuremberg, second largest city of Bavaria, is the prime industrial target of that region, turning out Diesel engines for submarines, as well as tanks, armored cars (all at the M.A.N. plant) and motorcycles and electric machinery.

The city is a main railroad junction for lines running from Germany to Italy.

At Furth, a small town near Nuremberg, a Messerschmitt factory turns out war planes.

Nuremberg's chief position, however, is as the center of the Nazi party's faith. Most of the National Socialist rallies and ceremonies are held there.

The four-engined RAF bombers dropped their first flares over Nuremberg at 11.15 PM, and then poured down tons of 4,000 and 8,000 pound block-busters as well as bombs of other sizes and incendiaries. Crews reported big explosions among the fires started in the target area. The main load of bombs was cascaded within 20 minutes.

None of the objectives attacked in western Germany were specified by the Air Ministry.

One enemy plane was shot down over the Channel yesterday by RAF fighters.