



# THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations



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## British Gain New Ground in Mareth Line

### Nazis Mass Guns Along River Line

### Russians Meeting Tough Smolensk Opposition, Progress Slow

MOSCOW, Mar. 26 (UP)—Russian forces attempting to capture Smolensk, great German base southwest of Moscow, fought against powerful German defenses today and attacked another Nazi river-line running west of the Dnieper. Large concentrations of artillery protect the latest German line and fighting is extremely heavy. Latest reports from the battle-front do not indicate the extent of Russian progress.

Much of the territory in this sector was fortified by the Germans with forced Russian labor. The defenses extend in depth for a considerable distance and the area is studded with artillery positions.

As the Germans retreated from the Dnieper they destroyed the villages through which they passed in an attempt to delay the Russian advance. Soviet troops pressed their advance through burning villages and went into the attack straight from their march.

Counter-attacks by the German forces are reported already. The Nazis are supporting their infantry with tanks, planes and artillery.

Russian troops overtook 12,000 of their civilian fellow-countrymen whom the Germans were driving towards the west as they carried out a policy of creating a desolate "no-man's land" behind them.

Despite the Russian advance to the new German line, heavy fighting continued at some points on the west bank of the Dnieper, where the Soviet troops were attempting to clear out enemy units.

### Advance in Kuban

Fighting continued on the Chuguyev-Byelgorod sector, and Russian forces recaptured two inhabited localities in a violent night attack after superior German forces had compelled them to withdraw earlier.

Further Russian advances in the Kuban area are reported and several inhabited localities have been occupied.

One Russian unit surprised German forces after crossing a water barrier—possibly the Protok River—and forced the enemy to retreat. On another sector in the Kuban area a Russian force captured an inhabited locality and took four guns, seven heavy machine-guns, 20 lorries and other equipment.

### Germans Claim Successes

Russian attacks south of Lake Ladoga have become considerably weaker, Berlin radio said last night.

The communique claims German planes raided the harbor of Gelendzhik, about 14 miles southeast of Novorossiisk, in the Caucasus, and industrial works in Leningrad. It was claimed that a merchant vessel was sunk and ammunition trains destroyed.

### Bombing Cuts Nazi Output Of Planes, Coal and Steel

NEW YORK, Mar. 26 (UP)—A dispatch from Berne, Switzerland, printed in the New York Times today, said that German aircraft production had been cut by nearly one-third as a result of Allied air raids.

Coal and steel production are off one-half from the same cause, the correspondent said, while strikes are increasing in Ruhr factories—largely because of the strain the constant raids are imposing.

Four main reasons are advanced for the effects the bombing is having on German war production: (1) Bottlenecks in the delivery of raw materials, caused by transportation tieups; (2) dislocation of communications between factories; (3) direct hits on factories, and (4) sabotage of salvage work at damaged factories.

### Nazis Reported Sending Americans to Germany

BERNE, Switzerland, Mar. 26 (AP)—The American Legation here has been informed that the Germans are transporting to Germany a handful of American civilians under arrest since the fall of France.

Berne reports said the Germans explained the step as necessary to remove "trouble-making elements" from France in the event of "military operations," presumably a reference to an Allied second front invasion. The legation did not know the exact number of Americans involved but believed it to be relatively small.

### Subs Sink 2,000 Sacks Of Mail For Soldiers

WASHINGTON, Mar. 26—Two thousand sacks of mail for American soldiers overseas, addressed to Great Britain, Iceland, North Africa, Egypt and India, have been lost at sea, according to an announcement issued today by the War Department.

The loss occurred in recent weeks when United Nations ships were sunk by U-boats in the Atlantic, the War Department said.

### FDR Proposes Land Army Aid For U.S. Farms

### Broad Program to Relieve Labor Shortage Includes Furloughs for Many

WASHINGTON, Mar. 26—President Roosevelt announced today the government was considering several broad measures to alleviate the farm labor shortage and keep up the nation's food supply. They included (1) the probable release on furlough of a great many thousands of servicemen; (2) formation of a land army recruited largely from women and high school boys and girls; and (3) the general deferment of farm workers from the draft.

The President told his press conference that his new Food Administration under Chester Davis, operating virtually as an autonomous agency, would take up immediately the question of forming a land army. He cited Great Britain's success in increasing food production by about 60 per cent through the use of such a body.

More than 550,000 farm workers already have been deferred from military service, the President said, and the Selective Service Director, Maj. Gen. Lewis Hershey, estimated 3,000,000 more would be deferred this year.

The President also disclosed that steps had been taken to ensure a greater supply of farm machinery from manufacturers who had been engaged in war production.

### One Objective, Victory—Eden

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Mar. 26—British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, addressing a joint session of the Maryland State Assembly at Annapolis tonight, stressed the importance of personal conferences between those "upon whom the responsibility lies in each of the Allied belligerent states." He said that never in his experience had a visit to a foreign capital been more worth while.

"You will not expect, I trust, sudden and sensational developments, for there will be none. But there has been a meeting of minds," he said, "that will, we are sure, bear fruit."

Eden said the United States might well be proud of the vision and youthful vigor with which it acts. "You will not," he said, "find my countrymen bound by any narrower horizon."

Said he: "Our joint task will be hard, but for our part we are proud of the company with which we march. No one flag, no one government, no one language unite the people of our great alliance."

"We have one passport—freedom, one objective—victory, total and unmistakable, and one purpose—a just and lasting peace."

### Minesweepers of the Desert



With machine-gun fire of Rommel's Mareth Line defenders whizzing overhead, British mine sappers sweep the sands of the Tunisian desert, opening the way for Eighth Army armored assaults.

### Yanks Who Flew for France In World War I Meet Again

Five of the little band of Americans who flew for France in World War I as l'Escadrille Lafayette, sat down to a table at the Savoy in London. With them were five men in the blue of the Fighting French, airmen of France who had flown beside the Americans 25 years ago.

For a little while they went back, the "vieux pilotes," to an era of Nieuports and Spads, Sopwith Camels and tri-planed Fokkers; they talked of airplanes which fought at 100 mph instead of 400; of men who flew over the lines behind an 80 hp Gnome Rhone rotary and carried one machine-gun as armament.

The Americans, now serving here with the USAAF, and the five French pilots met Thursday night at the Savoy across a table decorated with crossed U.S. and French flags, toasted their respective countries and drank to another armistice day. Few of those present at the dinner had seen each other since the Armistice was signed Nov. 11, 1918.

"There was quite a fog in Paris then, as I remember, but I think it was a champagne fog," Gen. M. Valin, chief of the Fighting French Air Force, said.

"There will be another soon," one of the Americans answered.

Among guests at the dinner was Victor Sullivan, a London tailor, who gets a large share of the credit for bringing the group together.

"I outfitted them in the last war, so when they came over for this one they naturally came to me for uniforms. I told each one about the others," he said.

The "Escadrille" transferred to the American service after the U.S. declared war, and became the 103rd Pursuit.

The Americans, all former flyers but grounded now, were: Col. Bennett A. Moller, of New Orleans, La.; Lt. Col. Kenneth P. Littauer, of West Port, Conn.; Maj. Joseph C. Stehlin, of Miami Beach, Fla.; Capt. Herschel J. McKee, of Indianapolis, Ind.; and Capt. Clarence B. Shoninger, of Great Neck, N.Y.

### Army Chaplains See Archbishop

SOS HEADQUARTERS, Mar. 26—Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, of New York, inspected SOS installations yesterday with Brig. Gen. Lawrence H. Hedrick, who received Msgr. Spellman for Maj. Gen. John C. H. Lee, Commanding General, SOS.

He spent part of the day with Lt. Col. Curtis Tierman, SOS chaplain. Later, the Archbishop attended a round-table discussion, at which chaplains of all denominations were represented.

During the day Msgr. Spellman spoke to T/3 Thomas H. Greeley, of Arlington, M ss., whom he christened in the States.

### German Forecasts Allied Air Assault on Tokyo

A forecast of Allied air raids on Tokyo and other parts of Japan was made by Air Gen. Quade, over Berlin radio last night.

"The American air force in China is operating from two bases in southeast China. It may be their intention at some time in the future to start the same sort of terror raids on the Jap islands as the RAF is carrying out on Europe," he said.

### Gunner Has Date With the Luftwaffe

A 19-year-old American airman, now serving with the Polish forces, has a date with the Luftwaffe; and he hopes to keep it flying with the USAAF.

Sgt. Joseph R. Sawicki, of Detroit, is a rear gunner of a Wellington bomber in the Polish Air Corps. In the last month, two of his friends have been shot up, one is missing and the other in hospital, with both arms amputated.

"The soldier in hospital was my particular buddy," he said. (Sgt. B. Godlewski, of Chicago.) "He was just a kid, only 18, and we called him junior."

"I went to see him today, and the kid just looked at me and said, 'You'll get some for me, won't you, Joe?'—and, boy! Am I going to try!"

"The friend of mine who was posted missing was a great two hundred pounder, six-foot two-inches tall; we named him 'Tiny' (Sgt. Chester Zaleski, of Balti-

more). We used to kid him that he was too big to crawl into the cockpit; but he did and he was a swell pilot. I miss him a lot."

Sawicki, like the majority of the Americans serving with the Poles, comes from a Polish family. His mother and father were born in Poland. "So you can see I've got plenty of cause to get in and fight. That's the way we all feel about it. When I made the Essen trip this month I felt a delight when I saw the bombs swoop down on the Germans below."

"I admit I was a bit scared on my first trip when the flak began to come near, and we were flying low, but the cool, calm way in which the Polish bombardier gave his directions over the inter-com soon put a stop to that. They have even more reason than us for giving the Nazis hell, and they certainly do."

Sawicki hopes to be transferred over to the American service early this month, and there is just one thing that troubles him. He has been told that he will have to have elementary training all over again. He knows that it is necessary to learn USAAF methods, but he regrets the loss of time.

"I want to get on with the job I enlisted for," he says. "I could have been grounded while waiting for the transfer, but I wouldn't do it. There is something I've got to do."

He was one of the many Polish-Americans who crossed the border to Canada to get into the fight before the United States entered the war. Arrangements are now being made for the switch over to their own colors. The transfers commence April 7 for the first of 150 men from the Polish Army and 56 from the Air Corps.

### Yanks Hold Heights East Of Maknassy

### Location of New Gains Undisclosed; Rommel Attacks Dwindle

Battering down fierce enemy resistance, Gen. Montgomery's Eighth Army infantry has won new ground in the Battle of the Mareth Line, it was officially announced last night at Allied Force Headquarters.

The six-day struggle against the Axis defenses in the line apparently had not yet reached anything like a decision, but the ferocity of Rommel's midweek counter-attacks had fallen off, it was reported.

There has been no official information for two days concerning the desert column which passed around the southern extremity of the Mareth Line to reach a point eight miles from El Hamma, but this was not considered to be any sign of an Allied failure there. Correspondents were forbidden to speculate about the movements.

### Yanks Hold Firm

On the other side of the battle area American forces were holding their gains in the heights overlooking the coastal reaches east of Maknassy and, according to some unconfirmed reports, had made new though small advances.

The main part of the Tunisia battle still was ahead, it was apparent. Informed military observers in Lonon estimated the maximum strength of the Axis within the quadrilateral area bounded by Gabes, Mareth, Matmata and El Hamma at approximately 80,000 men. The German forces—including the 15th and 21st Panzer Divisions—were estimated at "40,000-plus" and the Italians around "40,000-minus."

Rommel has thrown into the battle of the Mareth Line almost the whole of his armor, Morocco radio said, while "Gen. Montgomery so far has engaged only a small portion, by comparison, of his armor."

### Drive Near Coast

The exact location of the new advance by the Eighth Army was not disclosed, but it was presumed to be in the area of the Wadi Zizou, near the Mediterranean coast, where the British troops established a bridgehead under fearful handicaps early in the drive, only to lose it again when Rommel's forces made their swift and concentrated counter-attack.

Whether the new advance took the Eighth Army across the wadi, or whether this natural defense still remains to be crossed, was not clear. In the fierce fighting there earlier in the week—fighting which brought British troops against the Germans and Italians in hand-to-hand, bayonet-to-bayonet combat—Rommel was reported by Algiers radio to have lost at least 40 of the 100 tanks which he hurled into the conflict.

Allied air forces yesterday were reported to be keeping up the intense offensive against Axis Mareth Line positions, and Hurricane "tank-busters"—armed with heavy-caliber guns—were credited with knocking out at least nine more panzer tanks.

The attack which American troops repulsed was on Djebel Berda, a mountain on the south side of El Guettar Pass, (Continued on page 4)

### Fifth Army in Action, Africa Reports Verify

The newly-formed U.S. Fifth Army, under command of Maj. Gen. Mark W. Clark, is in action in southern Tunisia, it became apparent yesterday following conflicting reports from the fighting front.

Earlier this week correspondents at the front mentioned the Fifth Army as having participated in the advances around El Guettar, but authorities in London refused confirmation and pointed out the Fifth Army had been reported heretofore as a training unit.

Edward Kennedy, Associated Press reporter, last night reported from Allied Force Headquarters in Africa that "the fighting spirit of the Fifth Army was unflagging after long days and nights of grueling struggle." Vichy radio also said the U.S. Fifth Army, driving towards Kairouan, had been strongly reinforced.

# Bone Yard for Battle-Worn Bombers

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## Credit and Results

It is good to be able to see such names as 1st Division, 34th Division and 1st Armored Division in print again after all these months of writing "Blank Division" when attempting to describe the achievements of three splendid outfits.

Now they have all seen action in North Africa and have given their best and taken the worst the enemy could hand back. For a time at least you will see them cited in general orders by their first names, shorn for a moment at least of the anonymity which is one move in the game of beating the Axis.

During the First World War, it was the 1st Division that fired the first shot against the Germans in the Battle of Soissons, and it was that division which came out of France with a record of no defeats and with a casualty list of nearly 24,000.

The 1st Armored Division is making its debut in this war. It is America's answer to the question of "Armor" in modern conflict. With a reputation to build, the 1st Armored Division is determined to provide the right answer to the question "Are American armored troops as good as Axis armored troops?"

The 34th Division in France earned for itself a proud record in battle and those of us who know the officers and men of the 34th need no confirmation from the front lines as to the efficiency or fighting ability of the boys from the State where the tall corn grows.

During the last war, an American Colonel received an order to retreat. "Retreat, hell," said this officer, "I just got here."

That is the kind of answer you can expect from officers and men of the three divisions named here. Trained to take the offensive, you can bet your last shilling that is just what they are doing today in North Africa.

## Swimming Lessons

The Tokio radio, still silent on the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, during which 15,000 Nipponese were drowned, has recently announced to the people of Japan that every Japanese soldier will be taught to swim.

Japanese athletes have excelled in swimming at all recent "International Olympics"; so the Japanese army should take to swimming like a duck takes to water.

The American Navy and Air Force will miss no opportunity to collaborate, and both services have expressed a keen desire to assist by providing new and unusual opportunities for the Japs to practise swimming under realistic conditions.

Surely the Tokio radio cannot complain of the assistance rendered in the Bismarck Sea. Other mass swimming parties will be conducted by our forces as often as we can provide encouragement with bombs dropped in the proper places.

## Majority Rule

Senator Pepper has proposed a constitutional amendment to abolish the two-thirds rule for the ratification of all treaties in favor of one designed on majority rule. With Anthony Eden in America to discuss post-war problems, and with the problem of peace machinery already under consideration by leading members of the Senate, representing both parties, this urgent reform should be a part of the basic law of the United States.

Discussing this point recently, the Washington Post said in part: "Only by extraordinary diligence and full cooperation of Congress and the State legislatures could such an amendment be adopted before the need for it is likely to arise in ratifying a major peace treaty."

"In our opinion, the two-thirds rule must be repudiated by anyone who hopes to see democracy become the building principle of the post-war world. For democracy means control of public affairs by a majority of the people. If we permit a minority of one-third plus one in the Senate to dominate our international relations, democracy will be frustrated even in our own country. We hope, therefore, that Congress will give immediate thought to the resolution to be sponsored by Mr. Pepper. It is an issue that will require a good deal of deliberation, in spite of the clear case for discarding the requirement that treaties must be approved by two-thirds of the Senate before they can become effective."

## Hush Marks

HOW TO WIN THE WAR SUGGESTION 928,800,000,000: Writes a woman in Arkansas: "The only fool-proof way to test a gas mask is to try it in the vicinity of an enraged Arkansas skunk."

There was once an English family who didn't let their daughter go out without a chaperon unless the escort were a long-



time friend. Recently they let dear daughter go out with an American officer, sans chaperon, because they thought—by his insignia—that he was a chaplain. It didn't take daughter long to find out that those castles on the guy's blouse weren't churches.

To give his men a little incentive, the CO of a unit fighting it out in Northern Africa promised his men a shilling for each prisoner taken. One day, one of the men disappeared. Several days later, the unit saw great clouds of dust swirling up in the west. They prepared for an attack, but it was only their missing GI coming in with several thousand Italians. The CO paid off and the GIs cheered. Later a close buddy of our hero got him off in a corner. "Say, did you really capture all those guys?" With wild gesticulation our hero whispered, "Nix, I bought them off the Australians for five bob a thousand."

Germany has so many foreign workers who cannot read German that "verboten" warnings have to be printed in seven languages—German, Italian, Polish, Czech, French, English and Russian—which falls considerably short of the number of languages Hitler gets cussed in.

We couldn't find out his name, but a certain big-talkin' Joe barged into a Glasgow club recently. The girl at the



counter was busy, but Joe thought he was entitled to immediate service; so he shouted across the desk, "Hurry up, sister, who do you think's winning this war for you?" The wee Scotch lass turned, smiled sweetly, and said, "Oh, pardon me, sir, I didn't catch your Russian accent."

J. C. W.

## Parts from Battered Aircraft Rebuild Other Ships

By Andrew A. Rooney

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

A USAAF RECLAMATION DEPOT, England, Mar. 26—This place is a bone yard for bombers. The cigar shaped skeletons of big U.S. ships which have carried crews of ten over Germany and France countless times are scattered through the shed. They will never get into the air again except as their parts are grafted onto other ships which return damaged.

There aren't many bones in the bone yard yet, because not many Forts and Libs are old enough for retirement.

Remember The Thumper? The Thumper was the B17 which brought its crew back to England after a shell exploded in its bomb bay, and two engines were knocked out.

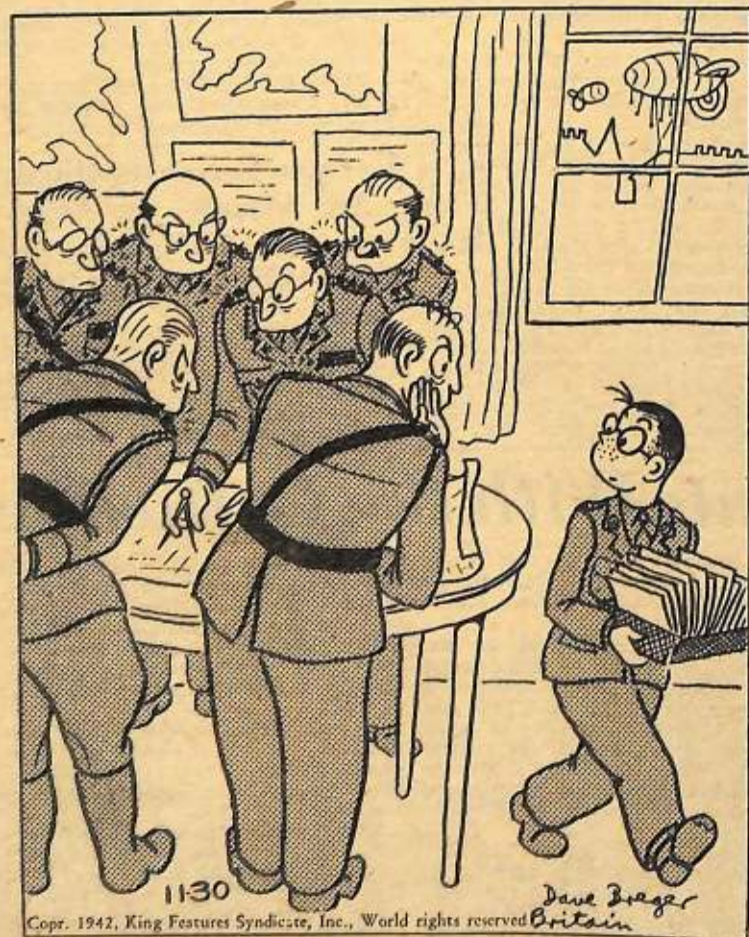
Now 1/Lt. John A. Castle, of Seattle, Wash., and the crew are bombing U-boat installations from another Fort which they have named The Thumper Again. Forts aren't turned out to graze when their work is done; if they were The Thumper would be in clover. Instead the old bomber is being torn down for parts.

### Here's What Happens

When a bomber or a fighter comes back from a raid badly shot up and crash lands one of three things happen to it.

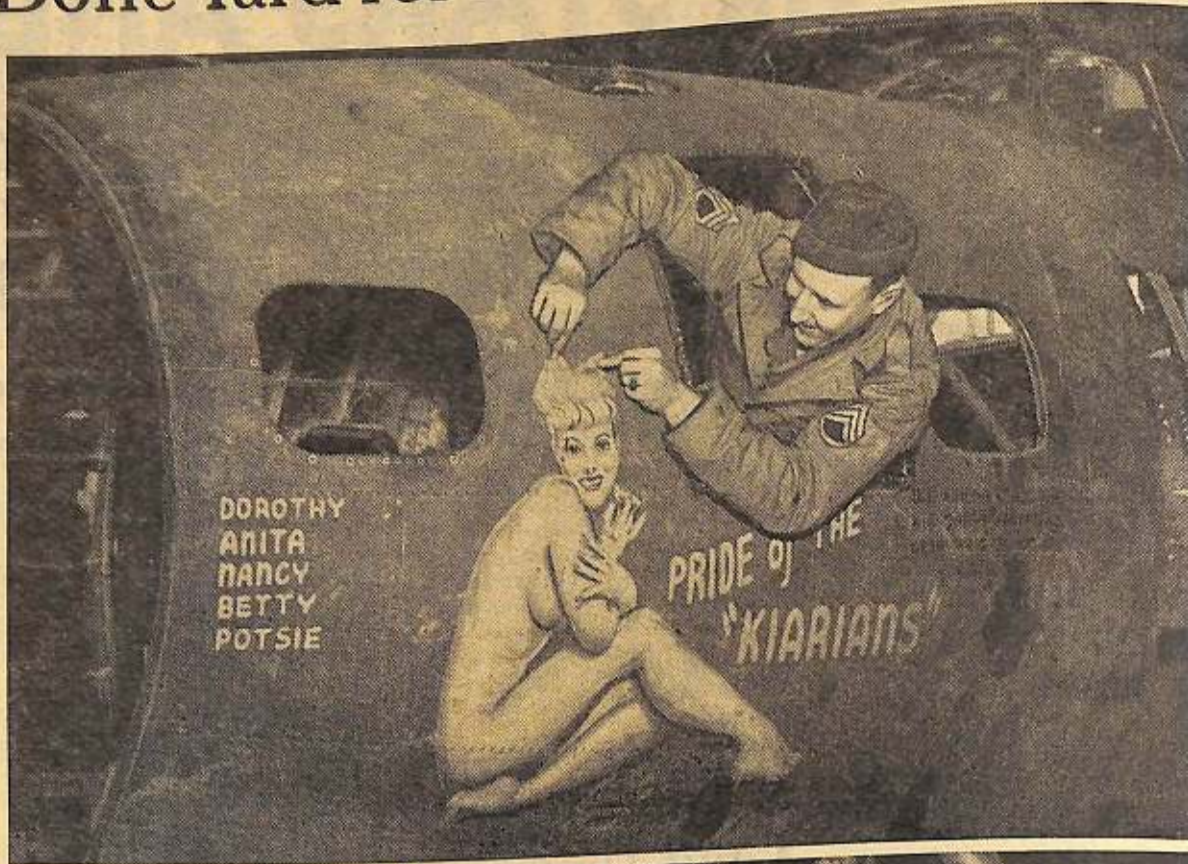
1. It is repaired and sent back over the channel on the next raid a couple of days later.
2. It is taken to the station it came from and used as a hangar queen. (That's what happened to the original Wahoo.)
3. It is piled on a "Queen Mary"

## PRIVATE BREGER



1130  
Copr. 1942, King Features Syndicate, Inc., World rights reserved Dave Breger Britain

"I wish you wouldn't call me 'Butch' when other Generals are present!"



At a USAAF reclamation depot in England, Sgt. Person L. Wright, of Ft. Gibson, Miss. (top), works on a worn-out Fortress—"Pride of the Kiarians." Saving the best parts of a wing section at this bone yard for bombers (bottom) are T/Sgt. Rodney Miller, of White Haven, Pa., and Cpl. Leo Birke, Riverside, Iowa.

truck trailer and brought to this depot for salvage.

That is where Joe Bechtel comes in. Joe is a master sergeant from New Orleans who probably knows more about the parts that come out of American planes than any man in England.

A mechanic on the line is a "doctor." Joe's a "mortician" and every corpse he gets is an "autopsy job." With a crew of about 30 men, he takes apart the planes that come to him whether they are Forts, Libs or fighter planes. He classifies the thousands of parts out of the ships and hands them over to a supply depot, where they are checked and reissued as class B material.

### They're All Experts

Taking a plane apart is not a job for a fire axe. The men who work under Sgt. Bechtel are experts.

There are no specialists for most of the jobs. Hundreds of feet of tubing and miles of wire have to be torn out and separated. The rigid surface has to be torn off the skeleton of a bomber, the wings must be taken apart, the gas tanks salvaged and the instruments removed from the panel board.

There are specialists for the instrument work. T/Sgt. William Fields, Surrency, Ga., and Sgt. Thomas Purdy, Cranden, Wis., are the instrument experts.

"There are about 105 instruments in the average fighter plane, and there must be 125 on a Fort," Sgt. Fields says.

Joe has one complaint. He has to dismantle completely the planes no matter what shape they are in.

"Look at that wing section over there," Joe says, pointing to a giant piece of plane hanging from a heavy crane, where the men can get at it. "It's in good shape, but the supply depots won't take the whole thing, we have to take it apart and ship it to them in pieces."

Despite the complaint Joe knows the reason. The large wing section might wait months before it was needed, while the smaller parts are used every day.

The men under Bechtel have had various experiences before they came in

the army, but they all hope that their work on dismantling planes will help them get better jobs when they get back.

Some of them worked for airlines as civilians. Cpl. Frank P. Krofinger, of New York, was with the fleet service section of the American Airlines. It amounted to being a glorified gas station attendant, but with what he knows about planes now he doesn't plan to go back to his old work.

### Ready for Better Job

Similarly with Cpl. William L. E. Smith, of Denver. He used to work with the Air Craft Painter Co. at home. Now he knows what goes on inside a plane, and will be ready for a better job.

Not all the men were working with planes before they came in the army. S/Sgt. Person L. Wright, of Ft. Gibson, Miss., was a grocery clerk.

When bigger and better American planes are taken apart for salvage, Joe Bechtel and his crew will take them apart. But for the time being at least pickings are slim enough, so that there is no need for a moving disassembly line.

The boys who tear the planes apart say they can't afford to have much sentiment about the ships they are working on, but it would break the crew's hearts if they could see the old plane that brought them home safely so many times, including the last, being torn wing from wing.

There are often vestiges of sentiment left on the planes when they come in on the "Queen Marys." Several of the planes that have come in have had the "battle stripes" carved out by their crews as mementos. A bomber's "hush marks" are the number of bombs and swastikas painted on its side. The bombs represent each raid the ship has been on, and the swastikas represent the number of German fighter planes the crew has destroyed.

Occasionally, when one comes in that hasn't been stripped of its markings, one of the reclamation men cuts them out and hangs them on the wall over his own bunk, which sort of belies the claim of no sentimentality.

# Seven Diamond Loops Planned For Servicemen

## Teams Will Play 30 Games With London 'Series' In September

Big-time baseball composed of seven leagues among U.S. servicemen in the British Isles is the newest wrinkle in the expanding athletic program of the Special Service Section, ETO. This follows by two weeks the announcement of the formation of a London baseball league to consist of four American, three Canadian teams and a nine from the de Havilland Aircraft Corporation.

Present plans, according to Capt. Stanley Bach, athletic officer of the ETO, call for six diamond leagues in England and one in Ireland. Each team will play 30 games with the season starting on May 15.

The league contests will culminate in a "World Series" in London sometime during September.

Most of the contests will be played on soccer grounds made available to the Americans by English teams.

Capt. Bach expects the games to be well attended by the English public. He points out that at Glasgow last Fall, 45,000 interested Scots watched two teams in an exhibition at Hampden Stadium. And at Wembley Stadium last September, 8,000 turned out when a London team went up against a Canadian nine.

# Red Wings Stem Toronto Rally

TORONTO, Mar. 26—A full house of over 13,000 fans watched the Detroit Red Wings stave off the Toronto Maple Leafs in a desperate last-minute rally to win 4-2 and take a 2-1 lead in their National Hockey League Series A playoffs.

Mud Bruneteau slammed home the first Detroit goal before the game was two minutes old on passes from Syd Howe and Jack Stewart. Carl Liscombe raced the entire length making it 2-0 for the Wings, then handed out an assist to Sid Abel, who tallied the third goal. Bud Wares scored Detroit's third consecutive goal in the third period.

Toronto was unable to solve Detroit's hit-and-run style of hockey until the closing minutes, when Poile and Taylor scored. Jack Stewart, of Detroit, engaged in two fist fights and drew major penalties along with the Leafs' Davidson and Hamilton.

### NEWS FROM HOME

# New Steel Cartridge Cases Save Brass For Other Needs

WASHINGTON, Mar. 26—The War Department announced today that a newly perfected method of using steel for cartridge cases, instead of brass, had been adopted and that all .45 caliber pistol cartridges would be manufactured from that material, starting at once.

Rifle and caliber .30 machine-gun ammunition will follow.

The method was devised, the War Department said, by the Evansville Ordnance plant and the Government's Frankford arsenal.

The new steel cartridge cases will result in a saving of 1,774 pounds of brass for each 100,000 rounds of ammunition, the War Department announcement said.

### 'Most Perfect WAAC'

MINNEAPOLIS, Mar. 26 (AP)—"It just isn't so, the 'most perfect WAAC' is right here in Minneapolis," Col. J. M. Madison on duty here said, replying to a Dallas claim that the "most perfect WAAC" is Jane A. Whiteman, 21, who weighs 143 pounds, is 5 feet 7 inches tall, has a bust measurement of 36, and "doesn't have a blemish on her body."

Col. Madison's candidate is Lt. Vera Joy Hooven, who also doesn't have a blemish on her body, weighs only 140, but is 5 feet 8 inches and has a bust measurement of 35.

And the colonel added, gallantly, "I am glad records in our office bear out what must be apparent to the eye."

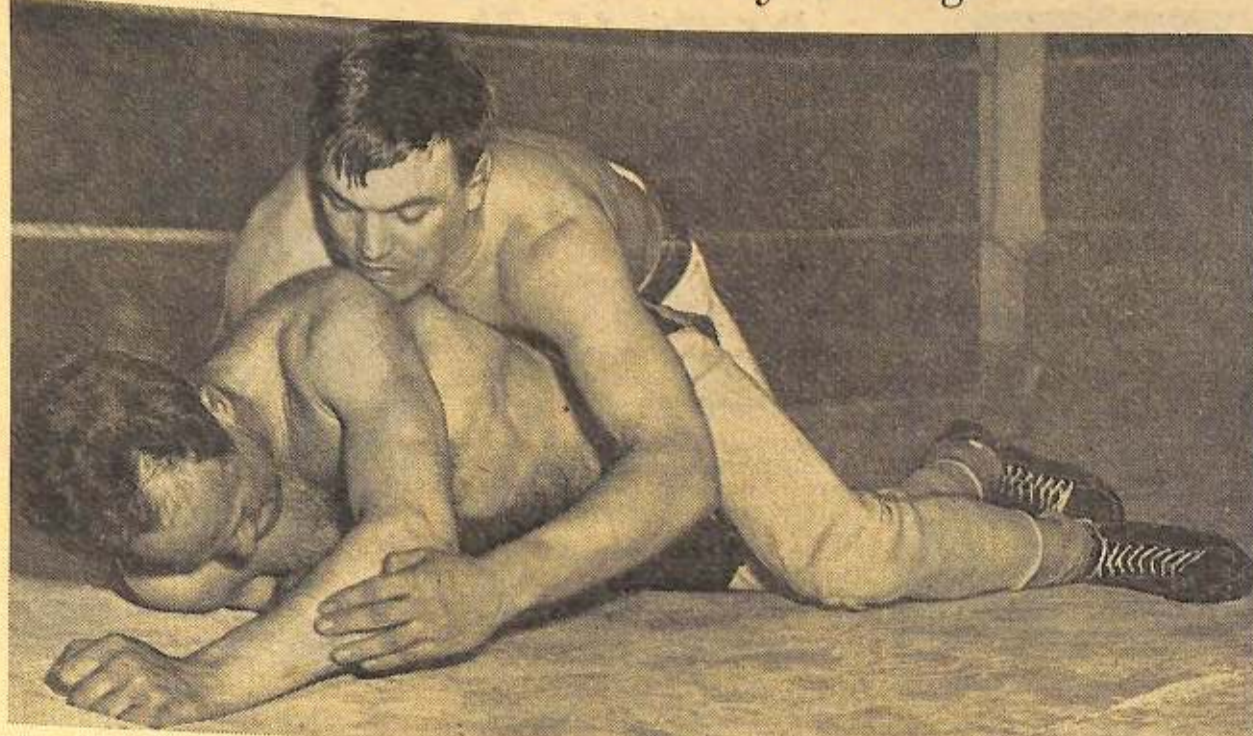
### New Underwater Blasting Trick

NORRIS CITY, Ill., Mar. 26—Pipeline men, working on "The Big Inch" east of here, have developed a new method of blasting where rivers must be crossed. Drill barges are anchored across the river, holes are drilled in the rock bottom and charges of water-proof blasting gelatin are loaded. The whole string is wired together and set off as one blast. When the water-curtain and debris have fallen, the big pipe is lowered into the ditch which has been blasted in the river bottom. Silt covers the pipe automatically.

### Texas Stock Show Sets Record

AMARILLO, Tex., Mar. 26—Officials of the Amarillo Fat Stock Show have announced that baby beaves, fat lambs and swine entered had set all-time records in number and quality. Wayland Green, of Coleman County, won first prize in

# On Top All the Way Through



The man on top is Pvt. William Graham, of Clearfield, Pa., who, although he pinned Cpl. Harold Bernstein, of New York, in the second round of their match at the Rainbow Corner Thursday night, had to rely on points to win the match.

# Open Title Won By Cruickshank

## Richmond Pro Cards 292 In North-South Event; Kirkwood Second

PINEHURST, N.C., Mar. 26—Scottish-born Bobby Cruickshank, 48-year-old Richmond, Va., professional and veteran of two decades of tournament play, won the 41st annual North-South open golf championship with a 72-hole four over par total of 292.

Leading in the first two rounds with one under par 143, Bobby added 75 to his morning round 74 to nose out Joe Kirkwood, veteran Philadelphia trick shot artist, by one stroke. Cruickshank garnered \$450 in war bonds, while Kirkwood netted \$350.

Joe Turnesa shot 295 to win the \$250 war bond third prize and Gene Sarazen took \$150 fourth prize with 296. Pfc Les Kennedy, of Camp Campbell, Ky., led the soldier entries with a total of 318 for \$75.

# McLemore to Give Forth On Louis vs. Dempsey

Some weeks ago, in a column written for The Stars and Stripes, New York World-Telegram sports writer Joe Williams gave forth with the opinion that he thought Jack Dempsey was a better fighter than Joe Louis.

This column has brought so many letters—both of agreement and disagreement—that The Stars and Stripes has asked Henry McLemore, well-known sports writer for the McNaught Syndicate, to give his opinion on the subject. McLemore's answer will appear in Monday's paper.

# Plan 3 Game 'Series' For Yanks, Dodgers, Giants

NEW YORK, Mar. 26—Mayor LaGuardia and Grover Whalen, chairman of the Civilian Defense Volunteer Office, and officials of the three New York baseball clubs, are completing plans for a triangular "series" among the Yankees, Dodgers and Giants scheduled for April 14 at the Yankee Stadium.

It is expected to net \$100,000, and the proceeds will go to the CDVO. The opening double header will be between the Yanks and Dodgers, with the Giants playing the victor. If rained out, the game will be played on April 16.

# Poll of Servicemen Finds They Favor Duration Ball

SPOKANE, Mar. 26—The Spokane Athletic Round Table has polled 130,000 servicemen and reports that nearly 95 per cent favor the continuance of professional baseball for the duration.

The 38,000 sailors polled were almost unanimous in this opinion. Prizes totalling nearly \$2,000 in war bonds and stamps were sent to the authors of 50 letters from servicemen concerning the continuance of baseball.

# Hoyas Edge DePaul, 53-49, In Eastern Collegiate Finals

NEW YORK, Mar. 26—A never-say-die Georgetown five came from behind to down favored DePaul University of Chicago, 53-49, to win the Eastern National Collegiate AA basketball championship at Madison Square last night. Earlier Dartmouth took NYU in the consolation game for third place, 51-49.

Georgetown will meet the winner of the Western NCAA tournament on the 30th at the Garden. The Western tournament is being held at Kansas City with Oklahoma meeting Wyoming and Washington facing Texas in the semi-finals today with the finals tomorrow.

Elongated Center John Mahnken led Georgetown's assault and was high-scorer

# Bruins Near Playoff Finals

## Victory Over Canadiens Gives Them 3-0 Lead

MONTREAL, Mar. 26—Veteran Harvey Jackson rammed home a "sudden death" goal after three minutes and 20 seconds of an overtime period to give the Boston Bruins a 3-2 triumph over the Montreal Canadiens, giving the Bruins a 3-0 lead in their Series B best-out-of-seven Stanley Cup hockey playoffs. This second overtime triumph put the Bruins within a single victory of a finals berth in the Stanley Cup games.

The game started slowly and it wasn't until late in the first period that Montreal's Elmer Lach scored with Joe Benoit and Toe Blake assisting. Then Goalie Johnny Brimek tightened up and matched Canadiens' Goalie Paul Bibault's scoreless net-minding until the second period, when Gordon Drillon gave the Canadiens a two-goal edge on a pass from Bud O'Connor.

Herb Cain put the Bruins back in the game in the second session on passes from Bill Cowley and Flash Hollett. With less than a minute to play in the third period, Boston's Dit Clapper tied the score, sending the game into overtime.

# London Command Nine Has First Game Tomorrow

The London Base Command baseball team goes into action for the first time tomorrow afternoon at 2.30 at the Hyde Park diamond against the — Engineers.

Here is the Base Command lineup: Pvt. Edward Ludera, Chicago, first; Sgt. Stanley Senko, Buffalo, N.Y., short; Pvt. Frank Goring, Detroit, center; Pfc. Allen Parr, Mesia, Wis., first; Sgt. Pete Pavich, South Amboy, N.J., second; Cpl. Frank Sedmack, Detroit, left; Pvt. John Venezia, Detroit, right; Sgt. Pete Galuska, Arcadia, Wis., catcher; Pvt. James Wright, Los Angeles, pitcher; S/Sgt. Harold Heath, Arcadia, coach; and Cpl. Red Shapiro, New York, manager.

# Engineer, SOS, Flier Quintets Enter Tourney

## Cavaliers Were Edged Out By AGs in SOS Playoffs

The Cavaliers, an SOS headquarters quintet, a team from the Eighth Air Force Fighter Command, and the — Engineers added their names to the almost completed list of hoop squads entered in The Stars and Stripes basketball championships starting Tuesday at the Albert Hall, London.

The SOS five shapes up as the best of the trio, having gone up to the finals of the SOS eliminations where they were defeated 26-23 by the AGs, another entry in the Albert Hall playoffs. They are almost all from New Jersey high schools, with seven of them men former players from schools in that State.

The Engineers have won their reputation in intra-mural games and victories over a — Corps team and a — Engineers' squad. The Fighter Command hoopsters are paced by T/Sgt. Jack Longshore, of Glasgow, Ky., T/Sgt. Evert Manchester, of North Loup, Neb., and Pfc. Leon Kotman, of Cleveland.

### Ulster Title to GIs

BELFAST, Mar. 26—Paced by T/4 Owen Poucher, of Ridgeville, Ind., who scored 17 points, the GIs defeated the Playboys, 37-27, to win the basketball championship of the U.S. forces in Northern Ireland on the Red Cross club court here. The Ameritex, technician quintet, who now hold the All-North Ireland title, may be challenged by the GIs at a later date.

The GIs, SOS champions, and the Playboys, kings of the Eighth Air Force Composite Command, are entered in The Stars and Stripes championships at the Albert Hall.

Although the GIs led all the way, the Playboys were never far behind. Sgt. Hugh Smith, of Shaw, Miss., was top scorer for the Playboys with 12 points.

# Repair Fives In Overtime Tilt

### By Wade Barton

Stars and Stripes Unit Correspondent

AN AIR DEPOT STATION, Mar. 26—M/Sgt. Dave Robey, of Van Wert, Ohio, was the big gun in the attack for Team A, Repair, as they took an overtime game from Team E, Repair, 55-51, in one of the most interesting games seen in the — Air Depot Group basketball league. The game ended 46-46 as Team E came from behind twice in the last quarter to tie the score, but M/Sgt. John Diehr, of Columbus, Ohio, and Sgt. James English, of Flint, Mich., teamed with Robey in the extra period to drop in the game clinching baskets.

Cpl. Joe Larkin, of St. Marys, Ohio, almost led Team C, Headquarters, to an upset victory over Team A, Supply, as he dropped shots from all sections of the floor. However, Sgt. Harry Karpis, of Chicago, and Pfc Sam Rozenman, of Tiffin, Ohio, combined their scoring power in the late stage of the game to give the Supply team a 50-37 victory.

Team A, Headquarters, clung to their league lead as Pfc Donald Samsal, of Lima, Ohio, hit the wicker from all angles for 20 points to spark the attack that finally buried Team D, Supply, 40-20. Pvt. Hubert Van Horn, of Canton, Ohio, played a masterful floor game for the losers and contributed some nice shooting in the late stages of the game.

After an 8-8 tie at half-time and only a three-point advantage at the third rest period, Sgt. Glen Floyd, of Pittsburg, Mo., and Pvt. Joe Finch, of Amlin, Ohio, scored almost at will to widen the gap to a final score of 32-16 as Team D, Repair, took the measure of Team H, Repair.

### Mize Inducted Into Navy

ST. LOUIS, Mar. 26—Johnny Mize, New York Giants' heavy-hitting first baseman who was the National League's runs-batted-in leader last season, has been inducted into the Navy. It is a severe blow to the pennant hopes of the Giants as Mize never hit below .300 during the seven years he has been in the National League.

### Lazzari May Head Utica

UTICA, N.Y., Mar. 26—Former New York Yankee star Tony Lazzari is among the candidates for the managership of the Utica Braves of the Eastern League.



# U.S. Getting Set For New Blows On Jap Bases

## Present Lull in Pacific May Mean Allies Building Power

By John Hightowers  
Associated Press Staff Correspondent

WASHINGTON, Mar. 26 (AP)—The present lull in the Pacific fighting, broken only by air attacks against Japanese outposts in the Solomons and the Aleutians, was regarded in informed circles as indicating that the American commanders were strengthening and deploying their forces for powerful new blows against the enemy.

It was predicted in circles well qualified to judge that the objectives of the new offensives would be to win new strategic positions for the U.S. forces, and further to reduce Japan's waning sea power before the enemy had an opportunity to recover from past losses.

It was known that shipping was one of Japan's most vulnerable points. In seeking to keep their grip on Guadalcanal the Japanese expended ships and planes desperately, even after it became apparent that they must eventually lose the island.

### U.S. Conquest Profitable

Another island conquest which would cost the Japanese comparably serious losses would be a highly profitable undertaking for the U.S., even though the territory actually gained might not be of major strategic importance.

It was believed that, in order to launch such an enterprise the U.S. Navy might strike deeper into the Solomons Archipelago by invading either the Munda area immediately beyond Guadalcanal or by attacking Bougainville, a big island at the northwestern end of the chain.

Another possible target is Wake Island.

### Rabaul Hammered

ALLIED HQ, Southwest Pacific, Mar. 26 (UP)—Rabaul, the biggest Japanese base in New Britain, was smashed yesterday morning by Allied bombers carrying 2,000-pound bombs in a two-hour attack. Large fires and explosions were started and smoke and flames rose in a column to 3,000 feet.

Two Japanese ships, one of 8,000 tons and the other of 6,000 tons were directly hit by bombs from Allied planes in an attack on the harbor at Ambon. Large fires in the building and wharf areas were started.

### Myitnge Bridge Attacked Again

NEW DELHI, Mar. 26 (UP)—U.S. heavy and medium bombers have carried out another attack on the Myitnge bridge, south of Mandalay, and direct hits on the bridge approaches will probably render this vital link in the Japanese communications system useless for a further period.

The Myitnge bridge, which connects Mandalay and Rangoon by road and rail, has been a constant target for Allied bombers for some time.

### Germans Evacuating French Coastal Town

La Rochelle, French town on the Bay of Biscay, has been ordered to be evacuated by all civilians except those whose presence is considered essential, the Paris radio reported last night.

The same order had previously been enforced in Lorient, St. Nazaire and other often-bombed towns facing the Atlantic.

Many small coastal towns in Holland and Belgium, between Flushing and Antwerp, have been evacuated and placed in a state of emergency, it was reported in Zurich.

### Million and Half Russians Lost In Winter, Nazis Say

German radio claimed last night that Russian losses during their winter offensive exceeded a million and a half men. This figure, together with the total prisoners and wounded, has led to the discontinuance of the Russian drive, Berlin radio concluded.

The announcement stated that 12,000 Russian tanks and 3,763 planes had been destroyed since the beginning of the winter battles. In December alone, the German radio claimed, 949 Russian planes were shot down.

### Nazis Miss Ship 71 Times During 14 Days' Bombing

German pilots bombed his ship 71 times in 14 days as she lay at Murmansk, Russia, Lt. (jg) Walter R. Daley, USNR, said yesterday in London, without registering a single hit.

A native of Roxbury, Mass., Lt. Daley commands the armed guard on a merchantman. The convoy of which the ship was a member dodged torpedo-plane attacks on the way to the Russian port. Lt. Daley said, and was bombed and attacked by submarines on the return trip.

### Vichy Embassy Staffs Quit

MADRID, Mar. 26 (UP)—Many French diplomats in Spain, hitherto loyal to Vichy, including the Madrid Embassy Counsellor, the First Secretary and the entire staffs of the Consulates at Bilbao, Barcelona, Valencia and Malaga, have resigned.

## He'll Marry a Churchill



Lt. Edwin F. Russell

## Yank Will Wed Lady Churchill

### American in Royal Navy Engaged to Prime Minister's Cousin

An American in the Royal Navy is going to marry 22-year-old Lady Sarah Consuelo Churchill, daughter of the Duchess of Marlborough, and distant cousin of the Prime Minister.

He is Lt. Edwin F. Russell, 28, of Newark, N.J., who has been in the Royal Navy Volunteer Reserve since 1941, and now has applied for a transfer to the U.S. Navy.

Lady Sarah, who used to work on the 8 AM shift at a war factory, is now doing another war job.

Lt. Russell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lucius T. Russell, of Beverly Hills, Cal. Russell formerly was associate editor of the Newark Star-Ledger.

"The date of the wedding depends on service considerations," the Duchess of Marlborough said.

Lt. Russell is the third American to marry into the Churchill family. Lady Sarah's grandmother was Consuelo, the daughter of William Kissam Vanderbilt. The Prime Minister's mother was Jennie Jerome, of New York.

## Bullet-Raked Highway to Hell Lifeline of Mareth Bridgehead

By Don Whitehead  
Associated Press War Correspondent

WITH THE EIGHTH ARMY, Mareth Line, Mar. 26—The Highway to Hell was not more than 100 yards long—just a crude strip of rocks and brush flung over the marshy land—but for three tortured days it was a vital lifeline, splashed with the blood of glorious achievement and of sheer courage.

For this crude road, built and used under enemy fire, was a thin line of communication across the Wadi Zigzaou for British troops fighting firmly to hold the bridgehead they had driven into the Mareth defenses.

For three days and nights the road was raked by machine-gun and shell fire at point-blank range from German guns. Everything that moved across it ran the gauntlet of flying steel. Every time a shell ripped out a chunk of the road there were men braving death to repair it.

### Sole Supply Line

During those three days and nights when the Mareth Line was cracked, and then broken, the Highway to Hell was the only road over which guns and tanks and supplies could pass.

Then the Germans counter-attacked and poured tanks and infantry against the bridgehead in such numbers that they closed the breach in the Mareth Line. British troops, who had broken the line, came back across Wadi Zigzaou in the first setback they had received in their 1,700-mile advance across Africa.

The British did manage to send some tanks across the shell-swept road to support their infantry, but a wave of 30 German tanks, sent in to support the counter-attacking Nazi infantry made the Highway to Hell a bottleneck for British tanks and guns.

There were amazing tales of courage

## Mediterranean Air Veteran Of RCAF Transfers to USN

### Fought U-Boats, Enemy Convoys; Survived Ten Flak Hits

Veteran of 32 operations with the RCAF in Coastal Command, for whom he tossed torpedoes from his Wellington bomber at Axis shipping in the Mediterranean, F/O John N. Ritter, of Seattle, Wash., was sworn into the U.S. Navy at London headquarters as a lieutenant (jg).

Anti-U-boat sweeps, convoy patrols and attacks on enemy shipping occupied Ritter's 32 operational flights, which were enlivened by air-sea combats with Italian fleet units.

Ritter sank an Italian freighter in the Mediterranean.

"We came in at about 60 feet and cut the torpedo loose at 1,000 yards. It was a good hit," he said.

Supply lines between Sicily and Tobruk and Sicily and Tunis were often his targets. Sicily destroyers and cruisers hurling flak at his "Wimpy" once hit it in ten places.

"A cannon shell exploded in our starboard tanks and set the plane afire. The crew managed to extinguish the flames when we were 40 miles north of Tobruk. Later one engine went out so we jettisoned our equipment and hoped to make it home."

Ritter crash-landed on his own field. "We tangled with enemy planes five



U.S. Navy Photo

Lt. (jg) John N. Ritter

times off Sicily," he said. "And we shot down one Ju88 north of Tobruk."

Ritter, his crew and some passengers spent 14 hours in a dinghy when engine trouble developed en route to Malta from Egypt. They were picked up by an air-sea rescue launch from Malta.

Ritter will return to the U.S. for a refresher course before going on operational duty for the Navy.

## Judge Lindsey Dead at 73

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 26 (UP)—Judge Ben Lindsey, 73, whose support for companionate marriage made him the center of a great public controversy in the U.S. a decade and a half ago, died in Los Angeles today.

Judge Lindsey was the man who gave America its juvenile court system but, often accused of tilting at windmills he was much better known for his support of companionate marriage. He was the object of many personal attacks over it by people who charged that he was advocating "free love" which he denied heatedly.

Lindsey was ousted from the legal profession in Colorado at the height of the public controversy over his views on marriage. They were that young people should live together and get acquainted before being married.

## Czech Lectures For Americans

American servicemen in the London area have been invited to attend a series of lectures on Czechoslovakia at the London School of Hygiene, Keppel Street, London, WC1, starting next Wednesday evening.

From five to ten men may be accommodated at the classes, which will be held mornings and afternoons the following four days.

Free to all ranks, the lectures are part of a United Nations series which will include lectures on Poland, France and Canada. They are meant for soldiers on leave or stationed in London who have time to attend one or more of the classes.

Further details may be had from the education officer, Special Services, ETOUSA.

## English Firm Making Web Equipment for U.S.

Bag, canvas, field, with carrying strap; and belt, pistol, revolver, cartridge, or magazine—webbing equipment previously manufactured solely in the United States for the army, is now being turned out by a British firm, somewhere in England.

But the firm has a background as American as the equipment it now manufactures. It is an off-shoot of a Worcester, Mass., concern which elaborated the invention of the late Brig. Gen. Anson Mills back in 1880. The General designed the web equipment as a substitute for leather and the American idea was adopted in Europe 19 years later. In 1908 the invention was taken up by the British Army.

Today the British company is turning out approximately 2,000 full web equipment units a week, from the haversack down to the first-aid pouch.

## Rainbow Plans Movies, Dances Over Week-End

Soldiers are invited to bring dates to the American Red Cross Rainbow Corner over the weekend for the entertainment schedule of movies and dancing.

Continuous movies today, 2.30 PM to 10, include two features and two shorts. The features are "You Were Never Lovelier," with Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth, and "Gold Rush," with Charlie Chaplin. Juke-box dancing from 3 to 5.30 PM is part of an open house program.

"Blues in the Night," with Priscilla Lane, is the motion picture feature on Sunday's movie bill, 2.30 to 5. Dancing starts at 7 PM with music by Cpl. Bernard's orchestra.

## Compromise in Inflation Battle

WASHINGTON, Mar. 26 (AP)—The Senate took a compromise course in the battle over inflation controls today and sent to the White House one measure opposed by the administration to boost farmers' incomes but returned to the Senate committee another which would increase parity price ceilings.

## Blondie

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

by Chic Young



## British Make New Advance In Mareth Line

### Yanks Hold Their Gains On Southern Front; Violent Fighting

(Continued from page 1)

where U.S. units have held firm for days against furious attacks by Axis tank and infantry assaults.

American forces in the Maknassy area were in contact with the enemy in two rugged passes of the Orbatra range some five miles southeast of Maknassy and ten miles southeast of Sened station.

Until the entrenched enemy was driven completely from the Orbatra range and his continuous pressure against El Guettar Pass near the southwest edge of these hills was broken, it appeared that the American forces would be engaged in a series of small stubborn engagements.

Allied headquarters gave scant information about the fighting in this area as well, but from Axis sources there were indications that the Americans were assembling a huge force to drive through to the coast from Maknassy and El Guettar, cutting off Rommel's troops in the south from von Arnim's in the north. It was apparent that the new U.S. Fifth Army was in action.

German radio quoted the "International Information Bureau" (German) as saying the United States forces in southern Tunisia had been strongly reinforced. Vichy radio said American armored patrols penetrated Italian positions east of Maknassy, only 38 miles from the coast, and threatened to encircle the Italians, but "the position was restored after a strong counter-attack."

### Report Broad U.S. Attack

"According to Berlin reports," Vichy radio said, "American troops have attacked on a broad front in the Maknassy region and managed to penetrate the German positions temporarily. They later, were repulsed by German reserves and German-Italian forces remained in possession of their defense positions. A great deal of war material either captured or destroyed by Axis forces."

Allied headquarters announced the Germans had twice bombed Maknassy early Thursday.

Algiers radio said American troops continued to advance southeast of El Guettar. The radio added that the Americans also had made local gains in the Maknassy sector.

Gen. Montgomery, it was revealed yesterday, sent the following message to the Eighth Army on the eve of the battle:

"Rommel addressed his troops in the mountains overlooking our positions and said if they did not take Medenine and did not force the Eighth Army to withdraw, then the days of the Axis forces in North Africa would be numbered.

"We will now show Rommel he was right in the statement he made to his troops. The days of the Axis forces in North Africa are indeed numbered.

"In the battle that is now to start, the Eighth Army will destroy the enemy now facing us in the Mareth positions, will burst through the Gabes gap, will then drive northwards on to Sfax and Sousse and finally to Tunis.

### No Stop or Let-up

"We will not stop or let up until Tunis has been captured and the enemy has either given up the struggle or been pushed into the sea.

"The operations now about to begin will mark the close of the campaign in North Africa.

"Once the battle starts, the eyes of the whole world will be on the Eighth Army and millions of people will listen to wireless every day—hoping anxiously for good news.

"We must not let them be anxious. Let us see that they get good news and plenty of it each day. If each one of us does his duty and pulls his full weight, then nothing can stop the Eighth Army. And nothing will stop it.

"With faith in God and the justice of our cause, let us go forward to victory. Forward to Tunis. Drive the enemy into the sea."

### Mareth Fight in Three Parts

Summing up the situation in the Mareth Line battles, Algiers radio said the Allied offensive may be divided into three principal operations—a frontal attack and two encircling maneuvers.

"The frontal attack was on a narrow sector, between the villages of Mareth and Zarat (near the coast)," the radio said. "On Monday the British forces succeeded in driving a wedge into the German positions, Tuesday Rommel counter-attacked and was able to reduce the Allied bridgehead.

"This morning it was learned that the Afrika Korps had lost 40 tanks in the counter-attack, in which more than 100 tanks were employed.

"Rommel's resistance was costing him a very high price. On the sixth day of the battle the fighting was raging on all sectors. Artillery duels were violent.

"Of the two encircling maneuvers, one was a wide sweep around the Shott el Djerid, the second was around the Matmata Mountains.

"The left flank of the Eighth Army was less than eight miles from El Hamma."

### 210 Billion Debt Limit

WASHINGTON, Mar. 26 (AP)—The Senate passed and sent to the White House today legislation lifting the ceiling on the national debt to \$210,000,000,000.