

In den tal
In dane tahl
Into the valley

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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in the European Theater of Operations
THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1945

Pretez-les nous
Pray-tay lay noo
Lend them to us

Tanks Cut Deeper Into Reich

But You Shoulda Seen the One That Tried to Get Away



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photos

It's no tall one, if Lt. Gen. Patton is describing to the boss the catch he expected to make beyond the Rhine. This bull session got in swing when Gen. Eisenhower visited the bridgehead at Remagen. Next to Patton in the 14-star photo is Lt. Gen. Bradley, 12th Army Group commander, with Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges, 1st Army CG, at far right.

1st, 3rd Armor Nears Link-Up; Fight For Frankfurt, Mannheim

Tanks of the slashing 1st and 3rd Armies were reported last night to be only seven miles apart at a point southeast of Giessen, industrial town on the Lahn River 50 miles east of Coblenz, after the 4th Armored Division, cited yesterday by President Roosevelt for its spectacular recent operations, gained 27 miles in 10 hours. Other units of the 4th entered Aldenstadt, ten miles north of Hanau. Three Main River towns—Hanau, Offenbach and Aschaffenburg—have been cleared.

Reports of great but unspecified gains all along the Western Front continued to pour in yesterday, but many sectors were hidden by a security blackout which covered the extent of advances into Germany. While advance elements were knifing ahead and dispatches telling of their progress were admittedly outdated—other units well to the rear cleared half of Frankfurt-on-Main and fought through the streets of Mannheim.

In Washington, according to Reuter, an observer described as a high-ranking U.S. officer said he thought no effective German resistance could be

expected in the West after Apr. 1 and that all organized enemy resistance would end by Apr. 15. He added, however, that fighting would continue for some weeks after those dates. Governing the end of the war in the Reich, he said, would be the disappearance of any German opportunity to set up a cohesive and even partially effective line.

900 Heavies Hit Berlin, Hanover Plants

The 8th Air Force aimed twin blows yesterday at Germany's inner circle of war industry and what may be its last remaining industrial trump card when over 400 Fortresses bombed war plants in suburban Berlin and more than 500 ranged over Hanover to hit factories and railroad marshalling yards.

Significantly, ack-ack gunners in Berlin and Hanover yesterday threw up a stiff umbrella of flak, indicating that the Nazis, in expectation of savage attacks yet to come, may not yet have stripped their vital industries in central Germany.

Some fliers over Berlin, where tank, armored vehicle and weapons factories were attacked, reported particularly heavy barrages of ack-ack fire, besides thick clouds, which made bombing by instrument necessary in most cases. Clouds also covered Hanover, where the targets included plants making half-tracks and other armored vehicles.

Some 350 Mustangs shielded the bombers yesterday, but ran into no enemy fighters, a further gauge of the effectiveness of the 8th's and the 15th Air Force's recent saturation assaults on German airfields and plane factories.

Attacks on oil objectives were carried on yesterday by medium bombers of the 9th Air Force, which flew deep into the Reich to strike oil stores southeast of Paderborn and east of Wurzburg. Fighter-bomber pilots reported a general eastward movement of German transport.

See Argentina 'Friendly' Now

WASHINGTON, Mar. 28 (ANS)—Early termination of the "diplomatic quarantine" of Argentina by the U.S. and other nations was forecast today following Argentina's declaration of war on the Axis yesterday.

Argentina's entry into the war, which was received fairly calmly in that country, was regarded here as a prelude to her joining the United Nations.

Argentina was excluded from the Mexico City conference in February, which was reserved exclusively for American republics belonging to the United Nations. However, it developed that sentiment among the majority of the American republics favored restoration of friendly relations with Argentina.

President Gen. Edelmiro Farrell's proclamation yesterday that Argentina should respond to the call of her American neighbors to present a united front against the Axis was "welcomed" by a State Department statement here.



Ships, Planes Hit Ryukyus

PACIFIC FLEET HQ, Guam, Mar. 28 (ANS)—Battleships and carrier planes bombarded islands of the Ryukyus chain southwest of Japan for the fourth time in five days Tuesday, but there was still a gap in official communiques to account for the activities of the U.S. naval task force on Sunday—the day a Japanese announcement first reported American landings on these small island stepping stones to Japan, 335 miles away.

Conflicting enemy broadcasts have since reported that "savage battles are raging," and that "active fighting on land has not yet started" in the Okinawa group of the Ryukyus.

Pacific Fleet HQ announced only that on Tuesday "aircraft of the U.S. Pacific Fleet continued to attack enemy forces and defense installations in the Ryukyus and surface units attacked coastal objectives with naval gunfire."

Meanwhile, a Tokyo broadcast said that about 90 American carrier planes raided Kyushu, southernmost Japanese home island, on Wednesday (Pacific time), within 24 hours of two raids on the same island by Marianas-based Superforts, only one of which, a daylight assault, has been reported by the Americans.

Demonstrate in Vienna

STOCKHOLM, Mar. 28 (AP)—Organized demonstrations against buildings housing Nazi party officials have broken out in Vienna and Steiermark, the newspaper Stockholms Tidningen said today. Russian agents who parachuted into these areas assisted in plundering supplies and ammunition stores, the report said.

Vignettes of War

Mopping Up Operations

Stars and Stripes Staff Writers
WITH 102ND INF. DIV., Mar. 28—Pfc Ernest V. Montana, of Belton, N.M., skidded to a stop while searching for a house during the 406th Reg.'s Rhine campaign. He kicked open a door. He blushed slightly.

There was a comely young fraulein taking a bath.

"What did you say?" his buddies demanded eagerly.

"Hell," said Montana, "I just let her soak in the suds. That was a problem for the military government."

WITH 84TH INF. DIV., Mar. 28—The reddest face in all Germany belonged to Sgt. J. D. Medders, of Groesbeck, Tex. Medders' company was mopping up in Krefeld when he charged into a house and found a woman who didn't have a stitch of clothing on.

She screamed, as unclothed ladies will do.

"What could I do?" asked the sergeant. "I just turned around and walked out."

Russians Take Gdynia; Only 12 Mi. from Austria

Capture of Gdynia, important Baltic port and naval base 14 miles from Danzig, and of Csorna, 12 miles from the Austrian frontier, were announced by Marshal Stalin last night, while the Germans admitted the loss of Lebus, on the western bank of the Oder, less than 30 miles from Berlin.

In an Order of the Day, Stalin said troops of Marshal Rokossovsky's 2nd White Russian Army took Gdynia, pre-war terminus of the Polish Corridor, by assault, seizing about 9,000 prisoners and large quantities of material.

Complete liberation of Danzig, where street fighting was reported in progress, was expected within 24 hours, cabled a United Press correspondent from Moscow.

In northwestern Hungary, Marshal Tolbukhin's 3rd Ukrainian forces crossed the Raba River—last remaining water barrier before Austria—taking the towns of Csorna and Sarvar, "important railroad junctions and powerful German strongpoints covering the approaches to the Austrian frontier," Stalin said.

In a third Order of the Day, Stalin announced capture of the Danubian towns of Komarom and Győr in Marshal Malinovsky's drive toward Vienna.

Meanwhile, German broadcasts admitted the loss of Lebus, seven miles north of Frankfurt-on-Oder, on the Berlin front, and said the Russians had "completely cut off the German garrison in the fortress of Kustrin," north of Lebus.

Between the Berlin and Hungarian sectors the combined army groups of Marshal Koniev and Gen. Petrov are maneuvering along a 100-mile front from southwestern Poland deep into Silesia. Unconfirmed German reports said the Reds had mustered powerful tank, infantry and air forces in a bid to break through the Moravian gap to the Czechoslovak town of Moravska-Ostrava, but that so far the Wehrmacht defenses held.

With good flying weather over most of the front and the Luftwaffe weakened by lack of reserves, Russian pilots rained attacks yesterday on targets ranging from front-line batteries to evacuation ships.

Report Kesselring Said No

NEW YORK, Mar. 28 (Reuter)—The New York Times published today a Stockholm dispatch quoting underground sources as saying that Field Marshal Albert Kesselring and Gen. Blaskowitz had declined to succeed Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt as commander of German forces on the Western Front and had been dismissed from the Wehrmacht. "Blaskowitz," the dispatch reported, "is said to have been placed in a concentration camp and Col. Gen. Paul Hauser is rumored to be the new Western Front commander."

Hauser, an SS officer, was reported almost two weeks ago to have succeeded Blaskowitz as commander of the southern group of armies on the Western Front. Reports a week ago quoted a captured German officer as saying Blaskowitz had been dismissed. Last week the 21st Army Group quoted prisoners' statements that Rundstedt had been removed and replaced by Kesselring, last officially described as German commander in Italy.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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NOTE: B-Bag is receiving many unsigned letters. We require your signature as evidence of good faith only.

GI Constituent's Views

To the B-Bag: Reading about Rep. LaFollette's nausea in the Mar. 14 issue seems to bear out the fear of many GIs that there are people at home suffering from the illusion that the soldiers will always be in uniform.

Here's just what the Congressman had to say: "It seems we cannot discuss a single issue without someone gaggling in the boys on the fighting front, either as an opponent or supporter of the question or issue, and this kind of talk makes me retch."

Rep. LaFollette apparently fails to realize that GI Joe will be a civilian some day and that he will be affected by decisions made in Congress on any issue.

Since the GI represents a cross-section of all trades and economic groups in the U.S., any issue will affect him directly or indirectly upon his return.

However, this case also shows that there are some Congressmen who are making their decisions with GIs in mind.

'Winged' Hindrance

To the B-Bag: The film "Winged Victory," produced in association with USAAF, has the very evident intent of portraying the life of a Liberator crew but deserves some sharp criticism.

We believe all combat crews are trained solely to plant more bombs on the target. Our crew finds it necessary to carry THREE navigators and a bombardier (besides the pilot) in order to do this.

When gunners are put on a crew at OTU (minus navigator and bombardier), when not a single navigator and bombardier appear in a picture about crew training and when a crew takes off on an operational over-water flight minus bombardier and navigator, we think it high time to protest.

Eager Seabees

To the B-Bag: We read an article in the British newspapers yesterday that civilians were being sent to the Continent to drive trucks hauling supplies for which they are to be paid £8 per week, plus £2 5s. for subsistence.

We are in the Seabees and we are browned off to think that the Allied governments have to hire civilians to do work which we can do and which we would be happy to do.

We came over here to do our part toward putting an early end to this war—that's what we enlisted for.

For almost 19 months we've been playing nursemaids to the officers. Now how about giving us a chance to haul those supplies? We know we can do it better, faster and a hell of a lot cheaper.

Hash Marks

Mark Senigo defines the Nazis as Europeans who hate "Patton" medicine.

Comment by a member of the War Writers Board: "The only good Pan-German is a dead-Pan-German."

Oldest Gag of the Week. "You can't trust that guy. Even the wool he pulls over your eyes is half cotton."

Our spy on the Home Front reports this one. The railroad station was packed with GIs. At one end of a line stood a quiet little private, fidgeting about, trying to hide himself in the crowd.



Another unsigned verse left in our typewriter—by a girl this time: Just give me a man With a million or two Or one that is handsome Would happily do.

Sgt. Kenneth King saw this happen. At a busy railway station a small English lad stood watching passing Yanks. Instead of the usual "gum chum" cry, the lad—in appreciation of past generosity—held out a pack of fags and said to every Joe, "Have a cigarette, buddy?"

Old Version: "Hello Joe, whatdaya know?" New Version: "Hello, Joe, whendaya go?"

Daffynition. Bar-gument. Heated discussion with one foot on a brass rail.

Cannibal Philosophy: "One man's meat is another man's person."



Bu-rrp! A mess sergeant in Newfoundland was returned to the States suffering from stomach ulcers. "Too much of my own cooking," he remarked upon arrival.

Outboxes the Switchbox B29 Gadgets Go Haywire, Pilot Socks Them Sane

By Ernie Pyle

IN THE MARIANAS ISLANDS—The funniest man in our hut of B29 pilots is Capt. Bill Gifford, of Beaufort, S.C.

He's a drawing Southerner, lean, profane and witty. He has a long neck and blond hair and a wide mouth.

Gifford holds the record for being the skinniest man in the base. The other boys call him the 97-pound Wonder. He is an old-timer in aviation, much older than his fellow pilots here.



ERNE PYLE

He says he gets so scared over Japan he can hardly think. But I noticed he volunteered to go on a certain specially tough mission when it came up.

Bill has been around in this world of aviation. He flew the early night airmail. He flew for Pan American in South America. He was in the Royal Canadian Air Force and made seven trips across the Atlantic ferrying bombers to England.

It seems that everything always goes wrong when Giff is on a mission. He had an experience to prove it while I was here. It was just a half hour before supper when Giff got an emergency order to beat it to the airstrip right quick and take a ship up on a half hour's test hop.

He made the flight all right, but when he got ready to land the wheels wouldn't come down.

Giff radioed the field and then began working on those wheels. Of course these big B29s are so complicatedly automatic that you do everything by little electrical switches and levers and not by hand.

"Some guy must have spent all day crossing up wires on that airplane," Giff said. "Instead of the wheels coming down the bomb bay doors opened. When I tried to shut them the upper turret gun started shooting. I hit the light switch by mistake and the tail skid came down. Just for the hell of it I tried to lower the flaps and instead the bomb bay doors went shut."

"By that time I'd turned it over to the co-pilot and was back in the bomb bay trying to make some sense out of the switchbox and get things working again. "But I couldn't make head nor tail out of it. I worked on the damn thing for half an hour and was getting madder every minute."

"Finally I just got so disgusted I hauled off and gave the switchbox a good smack with the screwdriver and started to walk out. And just like that the wheels came down and everything was all right."

Looks More Like Cowboy

Giff looks more like a Texas cowboy than a bomber pilot. He is a conscientious objector to all forms of exercise. All the pilots sleep all night and half the day, but Giff sleeps more than any of them.

He is probably the most un-military man in the outfit. He is just an old-shoe Southerner, and generous as can be. On his wall are a map of the Pacific and a picture of his wife. He goes around most

of the time in nothing but white drawers. The first two fingers of Giff's right hand are off, clear up to the hand. No, he didn't lose them from flak or Jap fighters. He shot them off with a shot-gun when he was hunting quail many years ago. He writes a beautiful hand by holding the pen between thumb and last two fingers. He holds a beer can the same way.

Manpower Bill Gives Byrnes A Big Stick

By William R. Spear

NEW YORK, Mar. 28—The May bill, called by at least one Army spokesman the Must bill, is now a musty bill—so musty it's dead.

Instead, Congress expects to pass finally this week a manpower bill which leaves Selective Service out of the picture and places in the strong hands of "Assistant President" Jimmy Byrnes drastic powers over American workers.

Whether the bill does or does not do what the President and Administrationists demanded is a question on which proponents and opponents still differ.

Early in January, Mr. Roosevelt, with the backing of the Army and Navy, urgently demanded national compulsory service legislation to provide the 700,000 workers he said were needed for critical war production in the first half of 1945.

At length the House passed the May bill (after Chairman Andrew J. May—D-Ky.—of the Military Affairs Committee). It provided controls to be administered by Selective Service over all men 18 to 45; it would have drafted, jailed or fined those refusing to get in or stay in essential industry. The bill went to the Senate and that was the end of it.

After four weeks of hearings the Senate's Military Affairs Committee came out with a measure of its own, passed on Mar. 7, the O'Mahoney-Kilgore bill. It provided no penalty for workers refusing war jobs; it merely gave the War Manpower Commission authority to control employment in all industry by fixing employment "ceilings."

But the O'Mahoney-Kilgore bill, like the May bill, is dead. Neither of these bills was finally adopted by Congress.

When Senate and House disagree on a bill the versions passed by each are sent to a conference committee to iron out the differences. The conference committee on the manpower bill virtually wrote a new measure. It is this conference measure which the House approved yesterday, 167 to 160, and sent to the Senate. And this is what the bill in its final form provides—this is what Byrnes would be able to do:

1—Freeze employment. He could order workers in any industry to stay at their present jobs until their service is no longer needed for the war.

2—Fix employment ceilings. He could set the maximum number of workers which may be employed in a particular area, particular activity or particular place of business; and prohibit the employment of workers beyond such a maximum.

3—Regulate hiring and rehiring. He could prohibit or regulate hiring, rehiring, solicitation or recruitment of new workers by employers and acceptance of employment by workers.

Byrnes could use any government agencies to enforce the act. Employers or employees violating his orders would be liable to a year's imprisonment and a \$10,000 fine.

Dorothy Thompson Says They Did

Did U.S., Britain Err By Ignoring Exiles in Plans to Run Germany?

By Peter Lisagor

Dorothy Thompson, who knows a good controversy when she sees one and can keep it agitated with a fiery phrase, believes the U.S. and Britain fumbled in failing to utilize competent German exiles in their program for the administration of occupied Germany.

Convinced there are some good Germans, the famous American columnist would go even further. "We should have made a thorough systematic search of German prisoners of war to find those who aren't Nazis and would cooperate," she said.

"I can tell a Nazi," she added, neglecting to explain, however, just how one makes the distinction.

In London with her artist-husband, Maxim Kopf, Miss Thompson intends to report on Britain's post-war problems and make a trip to the continent and eventually to Germany. She admitted the war correspondent's uniform she wore made her uncomfortable and self-conscious, but she was assured one gets used to uniforms after a while.

Miss Thompson is no amateur in the "What to Do With Germany?" debate. She long has tilted with author Rex Stout and Britain's Lord Vansittart—advocates of a hard peace—over the question.

"With our policy of unconditional surrender, we've taken on the job of administering every inch of Germany.

And the country will be desolated," she said.

"We have to get someone to administer Germany," she continued, rising to her feet and warming to her subject. "And the cream of the German exiles are in Britain and the U.S. At home we have one of the world's great agronomists, a German exile, and there's the former police commissioner of Magdeburg, an authority on police administration, who helped Chiang Kai-shek organize his police force. Yet they and others have been snubbed."

With "boring repetitiousness," she declared, she has praised the Soviets' establishment of the Free German Committee, composed of captured German officers. "At least, the Russians have a plan, and while they may be more ruthless, I'm sure they'll do their job much better."

Miss Thompson was steered off her favorite theme long enough to state that, in her opinion, the soldier will find the plans made for him after the war more definite than they were after World War I.

Asked to comment on the report that people at home don't know there's a war on, she scoffed. "Of course they do. Too many homes have been hit for them not to. A lot depends on your viewpoint, however. I was sickened, for example, by the furor over the curfew and felt almost as though I had to get away. America has a conscience about the war and feels that it ought to suffer more."

She also revealed that she had been the object of some vicious enemy propaganda. "During the Aleutian campaign," she explained, "Jap broadcasts said that I had recommended that American soldiers be deprived of their citizenship because of their brutality. Many soldiers wrote home to ask about it, and I got a lot of letters from their parents, wives and relatives. The same report reached soldiers in the Philippines, and now I understand the Germans have been using it."

"Please say that I never wrote or uttered anything like that. I wouldn't dream of saying anything but good about the American soldier."

HUBERT by SGT. DICK WINGERT



"Remember—No Fraternizing."

American Forces Network

- Thursday, Mar. 29
1200—World News.
1205—Duffie Bag.
1300—Headlines—This is the Story.
1330—Rudy Vallee.
1400—World News.
1410—AEF Extra.
1430—Let's Go to Town.
1500—Headlines—Strike up the Band.
1530—On the Record.
1630—Amos 'n' Andy.
1700—Headlines—Melody Roundup.
1715—Canada Swing Show.
1745—Music by Jan Garber.
1800—World News.
1805—Mark up the Map.
1810—American Sports Roundup.
1815—GI Supper Club.
1900—Headlines—Hollywood Music Hall.
1930—American Dance Band.
2000—Headlines—Combat Diary.
2015—Johnny Mercer's Music Shop.
2030—Burns and Allen.
2100—World News.
2105—Soldier and a Song.
2115—Harry James.
2130—Mystery Playhouse.
2200—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A.
2205—Navy Date.
2215—Merely Music.
2300—News.
1105—Duffie Bag.
1200—World News.
1205—Duffie Bag.
1300—Headlines—Dancing Through.
1400—World News.
1410—Good Friday Message.
1415—Freddie Martin.
1430—Globe Theater.
1500—Headlines—Good Friday Service.
1530—On the Record.
1630—Cavalcade.
1700—Headlines—Yank Bandstand.
1715—Rhythm Musicale.
1730—Fred Waring.
1800—World News.
1805—Mark up the Map.
1810—American Sports Roundup.
1815—GI Supper Club.
1900—Headlines—Command Performance.
1930—Kate Smith.
2000—Headlines—Combat Diary.
2015—Johnny Mercer's Music Shop.
2030—American Band of the AEF.
2100—World News.
2105—Canada Sing Show.
2115—U.S. Army Band.
2135—Fibber McGee and Molly.
2200—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A.
2205—Mildred Bailey.
2215—Merely Music.
2300—News.
Friday, Mar. 30
0800—Headlines—Combat Diary.
0815—Personal Album, with Martha Mears.
0830—Music by Jan Garber.
0900—World News.
0905—Spotlight on Teddy Powell.
0925—AEF Ranch House.
1000—Headlines—Morning After.
1030—Strike up the Band.
1100—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A.
Saturday, Mar. 31
0800—Headlines—Combat Diary.
0815—Personal Album.
0830—Music from America.
0900—World News.
0905—Spotlight Band.
0910—Canada Dance Orchestra.
1000—Headlines—Morning After.
1030—Army Talks.
1100—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A.
1105—Duffie Bag.

Slow Murder By a Sadist

Wounded Doughs Starved In Filthy Nazi Hospital

By Ed Lawrence

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH 7TH ARMY EAST OF THE RHINE, Mar. 27 (delayed)—Grotesque living skeletons of American soldiers lying in filthy beds where their infected wounds leaked into the sheets were discovered today in a German prisoner of war hospital in Heppenheim.

Although more recently captured ones still had flesh on their bones, and a few of the old inmates had somehow healed their wounds, all 250 Americans here were being slowly murdered by a sadistic Wehrmacht surgeon.

According to them he "hated Americans' guts." Serbian, Polish, Italian, French and Moroccan prisoners at the hospital were excellently fed and cared for. They regularly received Red Cross packages. But Americans got nothing. "The Germans just left us here to rot," said a man who was captured in December in the Ardennes breakthrough.

The Americans' blankets were crusted with dried blood and mucus. The faces of the men were bearded, cadaverous and old. But their bodies looked childishly small. Their legs and arms were like pipestems.

Their old bullet and shrapnel wounds were half covered by bandages as dirty as old handkerchiefs, and their legs were marked with ugly red sores.

A storehouse in the basement of the house was broken into when the Germans fled. Inside, the Americans found stocks of clean bandages. The boxes were marked "American Red Cross, c/o Detroit, Michigan." But the Americans had to beg for clean dressings for their wounds, and sometimes weeks went by without their dressings being changed.

The men in this room had lain on the soiled rags since early January. During the bitter cold of winter the room was heated for only four hours daily. They shivered under one or two thin blankets. Many of them were naked in bed because they had traded their clothes for bread and cigarettes.

Lack of Food Worse Than Cold

They said they wouldn't have minded the cold if they had had enough to eat. Their regular daily fare consisted of one loaf of bread for ten men and a bowl of potato peeling soup at dinner and supper. Once a week cheese or boiled carrots was served.

"The men in this hospital have a different slant on how to treat German prisoners," remarked a skinny 2nd lieutenant with a new brown glass eye in a scarred socket. "The guards here used to laugh at them and tell how much food the German prisoners were sending to their families from mess halls in the States."

A soldier with long, matted hair spoke up from a grimy pillow. "We dreamed of K and C rations. All we ever talked about was food. Some of the guys used to write up menus of all the things they'd like to eat—things like strawberry shortcake with whipped cream."

They were always hungry for news, too, and here rumors were their only satisfaction. The Serbs claimed the Russians had surrounded Berlin. The Germans spread word that Patton was dead. Prisoners from the 3rd Army's 94th Div. were proud to hear that Old Blood and Guts is alive and still giving the Germans nightmares.

This morning someone looked through a window and saw a platoon of doughboys coming down the road. They all tried

to sit up and see, but some were too weak. One man hobbled over on crutches to shoot through the open window. They wept when the doughboys came inside and talked to them.

At this point their story was interrupted. An apathetic youngster who hadn't joined in the conversation yelled weakly, "Look, chocolate." And they saw a soldier come through the door with a box of Hersheys. An olive-skinned prisoner took a half-hearted bite, laid the chocolate bar on the blanket and wept, staring at the ceiling.

A cheerful soldier in the next bed was being fed chocolate by a one-legged tanker. Someone across the room whispered that the cheerful soldier had no hands nor feet.

They got over their excitement and started to talk some more. Someone said not to stand too close to the beds because they were crawling with lice. Someone else said "Tell him how the mice nest in our mattresses and run across our faces at night."

Of all different nationalities here, they like Italian prisoners best. "When we lay in bed and bled and bled and festered and drained they found wrapping paper somewhere and put it around our wounds," said a tow-headed 19-year old with fever-scabbed lips. "They're okay with us. As soon as the doughboys gave us American cigarettes we pooled them and sent them over to the Italian wing of the room."

They reserve a special reverence for an American major and a lieutenant in the Medical Corps, who, though starving too, drove their emaciated bodies day and night to try to keep 250 American soldiers alive.

Wouldn't Have Survived

"We wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them," the Americans all say. "They used to give up morphine and they would visit us every night and try to cheer us up."

The soldier with the long, matted hair said "Once I saw a movie about a Dr. Wassell. Did you see that movie? Well, this major is our Dr. Wassell."

The apathetic youngster spoke up after a while and others agreed with him that the German front line hospitals had treated them well. "Sometimes they were just barns with mattresses," he said, "but they fed me until I couldn't eat any more. They treated me like one of their own soldiers."

They all felt that the commandant was the reason for their starvation and neglect. Someone said, "He's my idea of a war criminal. He's downstairs now. I hope they hang him, that fat son-of-a-bitch."

Oklahoma Aags Cop NCAA Title

Kurland Stars for Victors In 49-45 Nod Over NYU

By Jay Barnes

Special to The Stars and Stripes

NEW YORK, Mar. 28—With seven-foot Bob Kurland controlling all the rebounds, setting up a myriad of plays and scoring 22 points, Oklahoma A and M withstood a last-five-minute rally by New York University to annex the NCAA national basketball title, 49-45, last night before 18,000 in the Garden.

The show was all Kurland, and big Bob was the key man on every Aggie play, feeding his mates and controlling the ball when NYU started its late spurt. Unlike Ohio State, whom the Violets whipped in the last minute of the Eastern finale, the Aggies refused to become nettled and stuck to their own slow-breaking, short-passing game to control the ball through the final minutes when possession meant everything.

Kurland kept the Aggies in the game throughout the first half, in which the lead changed hands no less than ten times, and pushed through 15 points as his teammates got hot in the last four minutes to take a 26-21 margin at the intermission.

The Aggie center netted only three baskets and a foul in the second half, but he directed play so skillfully that the Violets never were able to threaten.

Violets Rally at Close

With five minutes to go and lagging 43-33, the Violets started a rush of the type that gave them the Eastern title. Don Forman registered a push, Al Grenert hit a set and Adolph Schayes and Frank Mangiapane sank fouls to cut the Aggie margin to 43-39, but the Aags didn't bat an eye. Kurland set up two quick lay-ups for Cecil Hankins and the game belonged to Oklahoma with a minute and a half remaining. Adolph Schayes, Violet center whom Kurland had blanked from the floor until then, got through for two tip-ins as Kurland just let him go.

The powerful Oklahoma quintet will meet DePaul at the Garden tomorrow night in a Red Cross game for the national championship, with the major interest centered on the battle between centers Kurland and George Milkan. Bowling Green will meet NYU for third place nationally.

Galan, Owen to Join Dodgers; Hart Lost

BEAR MOUNTAIN, N.Y., Mar. 28—Good news came mixed with the bad for the Brooklyn Dodgers yesterday. Branch Rickey, club president, announced that Augie Galan had agreed to terms and would leave San Francisco shortly, and Mickey Owen, regular catcher, gave the Bums a shot in the arm when he said he would arrive here shortly because his draft board had told him it would be several months before they called him.

The draft board people also confirmed the 4-F classification of Morris Aderholt, outfielder and first-base candidate, but Leo Durocher winced when told that Bill Hart, selected as the club's regular third baseman, had been ordered to report for a pre-induction physical at Asheville, N.C. Hart, who left a New Orleans war plant job to return to the Dodgers, has been in 4-F because of a punctured eardrum and a bad knee.

Leafs Subdue Canucks, 4-3; Bruins Lose

TORONTO, Mar. 28—The Toronto Maple Leafs took their third game against one loss in the playoff series with the Montreal Canadiens here last night, moving a step closer to the Stanley Cup finals with a 4-3 overtime victory on a solo dash by Gus Bodnar.

Elmer Lach and Maurice Richard connected within three minutes to give the

Stanley Cup Playoffs

First-Third Series					Second-Fourth Series				
	W	L	T	P		W	L	T	P
Toronto	3	1	0	6	Boston	2	2	0	4
Montreal	1	3	0	2	Detroit	2	2	0	4

Canadiens a 2-0 lead in the first period, but the Leafs turned on a tight defense from then on and in the second period tied the battle up on goals by Bill Durnan and Dave Schirner.

Pete Fillion tallied for Montreal and Babe Pratt came back for Toronto in the third chapter to send the game into an extra heat and it looked as though the battle was going to end in a tie when Bodnar busted in on a Montreal formation, stole the puck and was off.

Red Wings' Surge Nips Boston, 3-2

BOSTON, Mar. 28—The Detroit Red Wings came from behind twice here last night to nip the Boston Bruins, 3-2, on two goals in the last period and tie up their semi-final Stanley Cup playoff series at two games and four points apiece. Credit for the winning goal went to Murray Armstrong, who with the assistance of Hal Jackson jammed the puck and Goalie Paul Bibeault into the Boston nets at 17:15 of the final period.

Kenny Smith drew first blood for Boston when he fooled Harry Lumley with a sizzling 30-foot shot in the first chapter but Earl Siebert muscled through to tie it up for Detroit late in the same canto.

Herbie Cain gave the Bruins the lead in the second period when he lofted a backhand shot over Lumley's stick and Detroit tied it again in the first five minutes of the third frame when Joe Carveth got loose.

Bears Gain Finals In Minor Series

HERSHEY, Pa., Mar. 28—The Hershey Bears won their way into the Governor's Cup finals for the American Hockey League championship last night by defeating Indianapolis, 3-2, for their

American League Playoffs

Cleveland				Hershey				Buffalo				Indianapolis			
W	L	T	P	W	L	T	P	W	L	T	P	W	L	T	P
3	2	0	6	4	1	0	8	2	3	0	4	1	4	0	2

fourth win in their best-of-seven series. At Cleveland, the Buffalo Bisons moved back into the thick of the race with a 5-3 victory over the Cleveland Barons in the fifth game of their series. It was the second triumph for Buffalo against three for the locals.

Diamond Preview

Bosox Roster One Big Headache for Cronin

By Charlie Slocum

Special to The Stars and Stripes

PLEASANTVILLE, N.J., Mar. 28—Cronin is looking forward to the '45 baseball season with a recurrence of the headaches that seized him when he lost

Pitcher Tex Hughson and Second Baseman Bobby Doerr to the armed forces last year. Besides these two stars the Red Sox gave to Uncle Sam their whole catching staff during the off-season.

Cronin remarked before coming down here that he might have to play himself. A glance at the Sox' roster confirms this beyond doubt. Presently available infielders are Veteran Jimmy Bucher, Eddie Lake, Nick Polly, Bob Steiner and Cronin. Skeeter Newsome will be in service.

Polly and Steiner came up from Louisville where they both played good ball in '44. Steiner played second, hitting .316 in 149 games, and looks like a successor to Doerr. Polly, a third baseman, is only 22 and Bucher admits to 33, although he's been around quite a while. Bucher

has slowed down considerably and probably will take over third while Polly succeeds Newsome at short.

Cronin and George Metkovich divided first base duties after the Sox succeeded in waiving Tony Lupien to the Phillies in mid-season, and it'll probably be just that again this year.

Eddie Lake, who played 57 games last year, will be around for infield reserve.

Pete Fox and Bob Johnson, who were among the league's leading hitters all last season, will hold down regular outfield berths with Leon Culbertson, Tommy McBride and Steve Barath from Louisville fighting for the other spot. Barath hit .329 in 111 games in '44.

Another Louisville rookie is Jimmy

Wilson, a right-hander whose 147 strikeouts and 237 innings pitched led the American Association last season. He won 19 and lost 8, and Cronin is putting a great deal of faith in him. The Bosox have three southpaws on the roster, the outstanding one being Clem Dreisweiser who came up from the Coast League late last year. Oscar Judd, up for another trial, and Victor Johnson are the other lefties.

In addition the Sox'll have Joe Bowman, Mike Ryba, Yank Terry and Emmett O'Neill, back from last year along with Rex Cecil, who won 19 at San Diego. For relief purposes Cronin will count on George Woods, Frank Barrett and Clem Hausman. Smokey Joe Wood Jr. is back from Louisville for another trial.

Bob Garbark, brother of the Yankees' Mike, and Fred Walters from Louisville are the only catchers in camp, but Cronin hopes that Billy Holm, drafted from Los Angeles last season, will reconsider his decision to stick to his war job. Holm had a previous trial with the Cubs, but was sent down for failure to hit.

German Mayor of Aachen Shot; Crashed Nazi Airmen Suspected

U.S. 1ST ARMY HQ, Mar. 28 (AP)—Franz Oppenhof, 41-year-old Burgomaster of Aachen, first mayor appointed by Allied Military Government in a major German town, was killed on the back porch of his home at 11.30 PM Sunday by three uniformed men, who shot him through the temple, when, according to a neighbor's account, he rejected their demand for food, shelter and protection as German airmen whose plane had crashed.

Help Wanted —AND GIVEN

Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, The Stars and Stripes, 20, Cavendish Sq., London, W1, or APO 413, U.S. Army. Telephone U.K. Base HQ, Ext. 2131.

APOs Wanted

L. T. Marvin S. ATHEY, Wauwata, Neb.; Lt. Anna APPLETON, Me.; WAC Lois BLOOMER, Fayette, Idaho; Dave BRICK, Brooklyn; Pvt. Douglas W. BOONE, ASN 34839662; Lt. Marjorie BRADEL, ANC, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Lt. Margaret F. BURKE, San Antonio, Texas; Henry A. CARLSON, Lehigh, Ore.; M/1st. Lloyd W. CAMPBELL, Thomas; Anthony CONTE, Chester, Pa.; Lt. Leona and Anthony CONTE, Chester, Pa.; Pfc Sam A. CHESNA, ANC, Gilberton, Pa.; Pfc Sam A. DEWEY, Brooks, Ga.; Col. "Jiggs" DONAHUE, Washington.

Reunions

FOLLOWING towns and districts will hold reunions at the ARC Mostyn Club, Edgware Rd., London, W., 7.15 PM: Wed., Apr. 4—Taunton, Fall River, Plymouth, New Bedford, Mass.; Thurs., Apr. 5—Reading, Lebanon, Allentown, Bethlehem—Pa.; Fri., Apr. 6—Woonsocket, Central Falls, Pawtucket—R.I.

Found

IDENTIFICATION bracelet belonging to Arthur A. Smith, 33504518.

By Courtesy of United Features

LPI Abner

LET'S GET ON WITH THIS (PART OF PART!) HONEYMOON DOLLAR WEDDING!

I'VE DEPOSITED MR. PEARLE'S \$1000.000.00 CHECK THIS MORNING! (IT'S RIGHT AGAIN!)

WE'LL HONEYMOON AT MY OWN LITTLE SKI LODGE! FOR SIX DELICIOUS MONTHS! YOU AND I—AND FOUR WALLS!

BE SHURE AN' TELL (GULP!) DASHY HAD HOW (GUSH) HAPPY AN IS! THEY'LL DO SHOW HERE!

A HEM! WE NOW COMPLETES THE HOSPITALS!

ISST. A GENTLEMAN AT THE DOOR INSIST ON COMING IN — BUT HE HAS NO INVITATIONS!

THERE'S A WEDDING GOING ON! — I CAN'T TALK TO YOU NOW!

YOU'LL TALK TO ME FROM THE HOMICIDE SQUAD!

By Al Capp

COLLEGE PARK, Md.—Nate Andrews, Al Javery and Rookie Charlie Cozart gave up only five hits and the Boston Braves scored six runs in the eighth inning to defeat the Washington Senators, 8-3. . . . CURTIS BAY, Md.—The New York Giants collected 12 hits off three Coast Guard hurlers, one of them Ernie Lombardi's third homer of the spring season, for an 8-5 victory. On the mound for New York were Bob Barthelom, Don King and Mel Heiman.

CAPE GIRARDEAU, Mo.—The St. Louis Browns rapped three Toledo Mud-hen hurlers for 12 hits, while Sig Jakucki and Earl Jones yielded an only five in a

COLUMBUS, Ga.—Elmer Riddle, Cincinnati's sore-armed pitcher who won three and lost two last year after winning 21 games in '43, will remain here on his recreation job this summer. He has notified Manager Bill McKechnie. . . . ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—First Baseman Nick Etten has notified the Yanks that he is "on the way" and Oscar Grimes, third sacker, returned from New York with the news that his induction center

Policeman's Lot Is Not a Happy One As the Beat Pounds Him



A German civil policeman, appointed to the job by Allied Military Government in Bonn, made at least two mistakes in his career. The first was long before Allied steel cracked the Nazi frontier, when he took a lush job as an overseer in a forced labor factory, where some of the hands were Russians "imported" from the East. The second was when he cycled down a Bonn street where four of these Russians—who never forget a face—were pounding the pavements. The pictures above show how long these forced laborers continued to pound pavements.

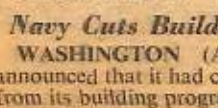
Around the 48 Yesterday

Miners Take Strike Vote As Ickes Pleads Peace

WASHINGTON (ANS)—While 400,000 soft coal miners balloted on whether to strike for union leader John L. Lewis' contract demands, including a \$60,000,000-a-year medical service royalty, Frances Perkins, Secretary of Labor, said after conferring with Lewis and the coal operators that she expected a new contract to be signed before the present one expires Saturday night.

As the miners voted on their own time at mines or other central places, the Government sought to avert the looming mine shutdown. Solid Fuels Administrator Harold L. Ickes appealed to the National Bituminous Coal Joint Wage Conference, now discussing renewal of the miners' contract, to settle their dispute.

"By April 1 the nation's coal stockpiles will be at the lowest level since Pearl Harbor," he said. "All means of increasing coal production except that of taking men away from our military forces and the war industries has been about exhausted."



FRANCES PERKINS

Navy Cuts Building Program

WASHINGTON (ANS)—The Navy announced that it had cut 72 combat ships from its building program. Plans for constructing 84 combat ships—to insure against possible losses in the Pacific—were abandoned and only 12 combat ships, all escort carriers, will be built.

When the program was begun, Navy chiefs decided that if after six months it was evident additional ships would not be needed, the program could be abandoned at a cost of not more than \$30,000,000—less than the cost of a light cruiser. Original plans were estimated to have entailed a cost of \$1,000,000,000.

They Found a Home

NEW YORK—Variety, show business publication, charging that imprisoned high-ranking German officers enjoyed as much power in PW camps as they did in Germany, said that no publication or film could reach the PWs without permission of the Nazi brass.

Byrnes Insists the Curfew Stays

NEW YORK (ANS)—War Mobilizer James F. Byrnes pledged himself to withdraw or modify the midnight entertainment curfew "as soon as war progress permits," but refused to conduct a hearing on New York's nitery owners' appeal for an extension of their closing time. Byrnes wrote lawyer Arthur Garfield Hays, counsel for the Allied Food and Entertainment Industries of New York.

The New York Post disclosed that the Police Department had a new and "un-anticipated problem" on its hands as a direct outgrowth of the curfew—a sudden and large increase in prostitution. Midnight Cinderellas of the curfew are making Times Square their mecca since, as The Post, quoting police, said, "Servicemen have no place to go."

As a result, police were ordered into Navy uniforms to break up the expanding vice traffic. One cop alone disguised as a gob, arrested seven harpies.

Quints Born, Die

WASHINGTON (ANS)—Quintuplets—all girls—were born here to a Negro woman, Mrs. Ada Turner, 36. One was stillborn and four others died several hours after birth. Mrs. Turner already has ten children including a set of twins.

French Get U.S. Cargo Ships

HOUSTON, Tex. (ANS)—The first of a series of cargo ships was turned over to the French government here, while bands played the anthems of the two countries and the Tricolor was run up in place of Old Glory.

FDR Urges Senate to Approve Manpower Bill

WASHINGTON, Mar. 28—President Roosevelt sent a message to the senate today urging it to pass the bill (already approved by the House of Representatives) imposing penalties on people who leave war jobs and on employers who hoard labor.

Failure to approve the bill, he said, would hamper the successful conduct of the war.

He added: "In the days ahead of us there will be a great temptation for workers to leave war plants."

Feed 'Em, They'll Fight

WASHINGTON (ANS)—Given a regular and adequate diet, a great number of men rejected for military service would make "passable" soldiers, Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service Director, said. Estimating that about 40 per cent of the approximately 4,500,000 men rejected by the draft suffered from malnutrition, Hershey said the area with the best physical record was the Midwest.

British Officials Talk Food

WASHINGTON (AP)—Col. J. J. Llewellyn, British Food Minister, and Capt. Oliver Lyttelton, Production Minister, arrived for food discussions with American officials.

At the same time, the House decided to look into the food situation on its own, appointing a committee of seven to report by May 1 on production and distribution of foodstuffs. The committee also will investigate black markets.

The U.S. under Lend-Lease in February sent Allied nations 736,035,539 pounds of food, of which 393,509,576 pounds went to the U.K., the Department of Agriculture announced—an overall increase of 152,615,409 pounds over January.

Sub Albacore Lost

WASHINGTON (ANS)—The U.S. submarine Albacore is overdue from patrol and is presumed lost, the Navy announced. The sub was the 41st lost since the start of the war.

Arms 58% of Lend-Lease

WASHINGTON (AP)—Planes, tanks, guns and other finished munitions constitute 58 per cent of all Lend-Lease goods sent to the Allies, Foreign Economic Administrator Leo T. Crowley said. This was about 14 per cent of American munitions production, he added.

Death Rattle

GOODING, Ida. (ANS)—The local ration board considered a plea for extra gas from a man who said he wanted to take his wife to the doctor and added: "If you don't send it you'll have to send the undertaker."

Coyote Hunt Raises Howl

WASHINGTON (AP)—American war workers "who have to beg for their gas rations" were "plenty irritated" by the use of 11 airplanes in an Oklahoma coyote hunt in which Lord Halifax, the British Ambassador, recently participated. Rep. Max Schwabe (R.-Mo.) told the House. "How will it sound when Lord Halifax's action is reported to the men in the armed forces overseas?" Schwabe asked.

Two of a Kind



OSKALOOSA, Ia.—Pvts. Verle (left) and Virgil Lubberden, 20-year-old twins, joined the Army together Dec. 15, 1942. They trained together at three Army camps before being shipped to the ETO last September. Both infantry doughboys, they shared the same foxholes. On Nov. 15 Verle was hit. On Nov. 16 Virgil was hit. They were shipped back to the States together in January.

Mississippi Flood Is Held

MEMPHIS, Mar. 28 (ANS)—Mississippi River floodwaters spread slowly over western Tennessee bottomlands today, although southern Missouri and Arkansas levees continued to hold.

With more than 70,000 acres already inundated in Dyer and Lake counties, Tenn., flood fighters concentrated their efforts on preventing the spread of waters that poured through breaks in a main roadway levee Monday.

Engineers said there was still danger that a heavy rain would tax "inadequate" private levees along the St. Francis River in southeastern Missouri. The situation along the lower White River in Arkansas, where troops have been battling to hold levees for weeks, was described as "satisfactory."

The Mississippi is due to crest at 39ft.—five above the flood stage—at Memphis today.

House to Probe Vet Hospitals

WASHINGTON, Mar. 28 (ANS)—The House today passed a resolution authorizing its Committee on Veterans' Affairs to investigate charges of "intolerable conditions" in hospitals under control of the Veterans' Administration headed by Brig. Gen. Frank T. Hines. However, efforts to obtain a probe into all veterans' affairs failed.

The House move followed publication of an editorial in The Journal of the American Medical Association urging appointment by the President of an independent committee to investigate whether discharged servicemen were being treated poorly in veterans' hospitals.

Terry and the Pirates



Correction, Please—Not Yet Snafu Sends Home Front Cheering 'War Is Over'

NEW YORK, Mar. 28 (ANS)—People grabbed their papers this morning and it was not only to see how far Patton, Hodges and Montgomery had gone. They wanted to find out how they'd got that phoney peace rumor yesterday that sent millions of them out for a drink or calling newspapers or on their knees in premature thanksgiving.

West Fronts --

(Continued from page 1)

troops mopping up in Aschaffenburg. On the Rhine itself, doughboys were fighting street battles in Mannheim, south of the 7th's river crossing. More than 225 square miles of Germany east of the Rhine have been overrun in this sector.

U.S. 9th Army—Four towns fell to the 9th, which was meeting resistance in the northern sector. One German counter-attack used 20 tanks, but it was beaten back. There were indications that the 9th would soon be operating along lines similar to the 1st and 3rd armies to the south. Some units were only three miles from Duisburg, which has been outflanked by other troops moving on Essen. Doughboys of the 35th Division have joined the 30th and 79th Infantry Divisions east of the Rhine.

British 2nd Army—Allied fighter pilots said a general German retreat was under way opposite the British front between Dorsten and Bocholt. British armor was driving ahead, meeting little resistance. Security blacked out advanced operations on this front. Troops of the U.S. 17th Airborne Division, riding on tanks of the Scots Guards, were in Dorsten, 12 miles north of Essen. In the north, British forces were within sight of Emmerich, downstream from Wesel. Tactical bombers had their bomblines moved ahead at 20-minute intervals, so fast was the advance going, reports said.

United Nations Jurists To Plan a World Court

WASHINGTON, Mar. 28 (AP)—United Nations jurists will meet in Washington prior to the San Francisco conference to draft preliminary plans for an International Court of Justice, the State Department announced today.

The Department said that invitations had been sent on behalf of the U.S., Britain, Russia and China setting April 9 as the date for the court discussions.

U.S. officials expected that the jurists would decide to make some changes in the Permanent Court of International Justice established at The Hague after the last war instead of establishing an entirely new court.

Arnold Says All Hands Needed Against Japan

WASHINGTON, Mar. 28 (Reuter)—Once the European phase of the global war is over, Gen. H. H. Arnold, chief of the AAF, said today, "we are going to need all our Air Force men to bring the war against Japan to a rapid close. We are going to use every plane we can effectively employ, even if it means every plane we are now using in Europe."

What actually happened was that there was a White House disclosure that the President had asked his Cabinet members and diplomats to stand by their posts and, in Paris, Gen. Eisenhower had said that the German armies in the West were "whipped."

As things will when they go through channels, the reports got snafued en route and by the time they reached Blue Network Station KJH in Los Angeles, Eisenhower's statement read, "Eisenhower says Germans quit." Two minutes later, the report was corrected, but by that time the Los Angeles City Council had solemnly celebrated the European peace and the Council and an audience had recited the oath of allegiance. By the time the subsequent applause died down the flash was revised and the exuberance ceased.

Chicago courts in the Criminal Courts Building adjourned after Judge Gibson E. Gorman informed his auditors that he had just heard that "the war in Europe is over." Everybody filed excitedly out into the streets, only to return sheepishly 20 minutes later.

In New York, of course, things really did get steamed up. Times Square was crowded and Rockefeller Plaza was filled with excited people. In the bars, people were telling each other they had heard the President announce over the radio that the Germans had thrown in the towel.

Eisenhower was reported to be conferring with Hitler at Berchtesgaden. Police Commissioner Lewis Valentine directed all commanding officers in his department to stand by their radios.

The final letdown was the White House explanation that the President's exhortation for Cabinet members and diplomats to stay at their posts was in order to keep them away from crowded San Francisco at the United Nations conference next month.

Expect Stiff German Fight for the Ruhr

WASHINGTON, Mar. 28 (ANS)—Military observers here today expressed belief the Germans would put up a stiff fight for the Ruhr despite the apparent demoralization and confusion elsewhere on the Western Front. The enemy appears to have committed an important part of his forces to defend the industrial area, where Allied gains have been smallest. Observers said they thought the German forces in the Ruhr could maintain cohesion and resistance even if the rest of the front fell to pieces.

However, Allied advances on either side of the Ruhr will eventually make the German position there untenable, it was said.

Nazis Flee Berlin

BERN, Mar. 28 (Reuter)—Political quarters here said today the German government had officially left Berlin and withdrawn to an unspecified place where the ministries have already been installed for some weeks. Gestapo Hq. it was added, have moved to Constance, on the Swiss frontier.

By Milton Caniff

