

Bombs Rain on Europe at Rate of 5 Tons a Minute



THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces

in the European Theater of Operations



Vol. 4 No. 177

New York, N.Y.—London, England

Monday, May 29, 1944

Key to Nazi Front Below Rome Periled

40 Hrs. See Blitz Reach Record Pace

1,200 U.S. Fighters Escort 1,000 Bombers Over Reich, France

The air offensive which for 40 weekend hours saw five tons of bombs a minute dumped on Hitler's Atlantic Wall and the defense points behind it last night echoed the thunder of pre-invasion intensity as Allied air fleets rounded out their biggest day-and-night attacks of the war.

One thousand American heavy bombers, covered by more than 1,200 U.S. fighters—the biggest escort force of the war—yesterday carried the fair-weather blitz through its second day with a cascade of explosives and incendiaries on targets in central and southwestern Germany, bringing to approximately 11,500 the RAF and U.S. bomb tonnage for the 40 hours from dawn Saturday.

While more than 1,000 U.S. and Allied medium and light bombers, fighter- and dive-bombers were carrying out more attacks on the concrete fortifications guarding Europe's northwestern perimeter, the heavy bombers and their escorts were sweeping far inland on their second day in a row of 1,000-bomber strength. From Saturday morning, a survey showed, at least 7,500 sorties had been flown by Allied warplanes based in Britain.

Explosions Rock British Towns

As wave after wave of bombers and fighters—among them the secret rocket-firing fighters of the RAF—rolled out from England to blast away at the gun-studded edges of the Continent, Britain's Channel coast towns were rocked and shaken by explosions from enemy-held territory. All Saturday and from first light yesterday, as sunny, clear weather came to the Straits and the land to the south, the bombers and fighters went out, and late yesterday evening they still were shaking coast towns with their roar as the big push neared two full days and nights.

Fitted precisely into the massed daylight blows was the RAF's second heaviest bombing operation in history—a 4,500-ton attack by more than 1,000 planes against Nazi defense points in France, Belgium and Germany.

As the RAF night bombers came back, Allied light craft crossed the Channel to hit installations behind the coast. By mid-morning, three big forces of Ninth Air Force Thunderbolt fighter-bombers were heading for oil tanks in a northern France railroad yards, and two more in the series of railway bridges smashed in.

(Continued on page 2)

The War Today

Italy—Americans take Ardena and drive for Valmontone, last block on Highway 6 to Rome; German use of road cut by artillery; other Fifth Army troops drive for Rome near coast; Eighth Army takes Ceperano.

Air War—Biggest day and night air attacks of the war see bombs hurled onto Western Europe at the rate of five tons a minute; 1,000 American heavy bombers, escorted by record force of more than 1,200 fighters, hit targets in Germany as other huge forces of medium and light bombers smash at Atlantic Wall; great blows follow huge Saturday day assaults by U.S. heavies and near-record attack by RAF.

Pacific—U.S. troops land on Biak in Schouten Islands, advancing front 350 miles in the west; now within 900 miles of southern tip of Philippines and land-bomber range; troops invade less than hour after first ship guns start roaring; Jap bases in Kuriles, 1,000 miles from Tokyo, hit by U.S. Liberators.

Asia—Japs open new drive in China to take Hankow-Canton railroad; Chinese counter-attack in Loyang sector and retake lost ground on Salween front.

Russia—Soviet bombers sink two enemy transports in Barents Sea mass attack; front remains quiet, with Red Army seizing height southeast of Vitebsk at cost of 600 Germans.

With 16-oz. Pillows, So No One Goes to Sleep

Joe Louis Invites Mills to Mix It In a 3-Round Exhibition Bout

An invitation to lace on the 16-ounce leather pillows for a three-round exhibition with S/Sgt. Joe Louis, world heavyweight champion, has been sent to RAF Sgt. Freddie Mills, popular British light-heavy ruler, Capt. Fred Maly, officer in charge of Louis and his cohorts in the ETO, announced late yesterday.

"We haven't received the invitation as yet," Ted Broadribb, Mills' manager, said when informed of the "challenge" by The Stars and Stripes, "but we're certainly in favor of the opportunity. Perhaps Louis will be permitted to reciprocate at a future date for British troops."

Although a brief exhibition bout with bulky training gloves hardly is comparable to a regulation fight, Broadribb said he would welcome the meeting as a test of Freddie's ability, frequently ridiculed because of a famine of formidable British opposition.

"Freddie isn't afraid of anybody, although he respects Joe's ring wisdom and powerful punches," Broadribb said. "After the bout, Joe will be able to give us a conclusive opinion of my boy's ability. If Freddie looks good, perhaps the skeptics will change their minds."

The proposed exhibition is merely in the tentative stage until Broadribb and Maly get together to discuss arrangements. Freddie will have to clear permission through the RAF.

Because the Louis barnstorming entourage is scheduled to depart from the ETO in the near future for other overseas bases, the proposed duel with Mills probably would be staged this week. Freddie has charity exhibition obligations tonight and Thursday, traveling with Jack London, veteran British heavyweight, but could keep the appointment either Wednesday or Friday.

The Bomber said yesterday that he would enter the ring minus a headgear

Mills vs. Louis? See Page 4 for an account of Freddie Mills' fight with Al Delaney Thursday night and a comparison of the two champs.

but that Mills might wear one if he desired.

"Mills is free to do as he pleases in the ring," Louis declared. "He can use his own judgment. That goes for me, too."

Denying a report in a London daily that the Louis troupe may make its first civilian appearance at Teddington Thursday, Maly specifically stipulated that only members of the Allied fighting forces may attend the affair.

"The War Department has instructed Joe to entertain Allied soldiers and we plan to carry out that order unless otherwise notified by the proper authorities," Maly said.

Landing Puts Philippines Within Bomber Range

U.S. troops have shot the Pacific front 350 miles farther west and within land-based-bomber range of the Philippines with a landing on Biak, one of the Schouten Islands in Geelvink Bay on the northern coast of New Guinea.

The move placed the Allies less than 900 miles from the southern tip of the Philippines. And, "for strategic purposes, it also marks the practical end of the New Guinea campaign," Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communique said yesterday.

"Capture of the stronghold (Biak) will give us command and domination of New Guinea, except for some isolated enemy positions," the general said. MacArthur added that the results of the offensive started 11 months ago "more than have fulfilled my most optimistic expectations."

The invasion of Biak, carried out Saturday in the face of violent opposition, followed a month's intensive bombing of the island, during which more than 700 tons of explosives were dropped. The Americans late yesterday were reported only seven miles from Mokmer, one of the island's three vital airfields.

Japanese resistance was not considered heavy enough to slow the Americans' advance, the United Press said. American landing losses were reported to be slight, although a headquarters spokesman said that the Navy, which supported the operation, suffered some damage.

The invasion of Biak was one of the speediest landings yet by the Allies in the Pacific. American and Australian cruisers opened up at 5:41 AM, shelling and firing Japanese installations on the beach at Bosnek.

Nineteen minutes later their task was

(Continued on page 2)

Mother's Letter to FDR Brings Arnold Order Reuniting Twins

A MARAUDER BASE, May 28—A mother's letter asking for White House intervention, executive action by President Roosevelt, and an order issued by Gen. Henry H. Arnold, commanding general of the USAAF, resulted recently in the reuniting of Pvt. Harold Zimmerman and S/Sgt. Emanuel Zimmerman, 21-year-old twins from Corpus Christi, Tex.

Identical twins, Manny, now a radio gunner on the B26 Lethal Lady, and Harold, a safety engineer in the group, enlisted "so we could stay together through the war, just as we were always together as civilians," according to Harold, who is eight minutes older than his brother.

But soon after their enlistment Manny was sent to Fort Myers, Fla., to gunnery school, while Harold was ordered to

Enemy Escape Road Shelled; New Drive For Capital Opened

Yanks Attack Valmontone After Seizing Ardena; Germans Are Rushing Their '2nd Front' Troops Into Action

By Noland Norgaard

Associated Press Correspondent

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, May 28—American Fifth Army troops captured Ardena yesterday after bitter street fighting and fought their way today to within striking distance of Valmontone—the keystone of the whole German defense system south of Rome, astride the all-important Via Casilina, or Highway 6.

(Meanwhile, other Fifth Army troops, striking out from the Rome flank of the former beachhead, opened an offensive through Aprilia, between Velletri and the coast in the direction of Lake Albano, 12 miles south of Rome and directly toward the capital, Reuter reported. Farther south in the beachhead, American troops captured Sezze, a town of 20,000 and the largest

yet taken in the offensive, and drove on to take Norma, 7½ miles northwest of there in the Lipini Mountains.)

Driven to desperation by the sledge-hammer blows which threatened to cut the

already under the fire of Allied artillery, the Nazi command has rushed the Hermann Goering parachute panzer division from the Florence area into the line near Valmontone.

(A Reuter dispatch from Stockholm quoted Danish refugees as saying that a German division of anti-invasion troops left Denmark last night for Italy.)

Previously, the 278th Infantry Division had been brought down to the Adriatic

Allies Jam Nazi Traffic, Then Planes Pulverize It

NAPLES, May 28 (Reuter)—Allied fighter-bombers found German motor and rail movement north and south of Rome greatly reduced yesterday following the destruction of more than 2,200 vehicles in the last three days.

Allied strategy has carefully produced huge traffic jams, giving the planes plenty of scope. Bombing of carefully selected road junctions shunted the flow of German traffic into the most favorable areas for attack.

It is officially stated that every request from the Army has been met by the air forces. Several times, dive-bombers called out of the "cab rank" have broken up incipient local counter-attacks before they could be launched.

U.S. Reduces Air Defenses

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Reuter)—The War Department announced tonight it had ordered substantial reductions of the country's air defense installations. It warned, however, that this did not mean the danger of enemy bombing attacks had passed.

zone from Istria, where it had been guarding communications routes menaced by Marshal Tito's partisans.

Reporting the arrival of the Goering Division, an official source said, "When this division, or rather its remnants, left the southern front two months ago to be reconstructed for the third time after its complete destruction in Tunisia and its rough handling in Sicily and southern Italy, the troops were told they were destined for France to meet the Second Front. Whatever truth there is in this, there is no doubt that only the most pressing need would have impelled Field Marshal Albert Kesselring to commit

(Continued on page 2)

After Leave, Don Gentile Will Return to England

PIQUA, Ohio, May 28—Capt. Don S. Gentile will return to Britain at the end of his 30-day leave, it was announced here today after the fighter ace attended a mass rally and was presented a gold wrist watch at Roosevelt Stadium.

10 Army Fliers Killed

NEW YORK, May 28 (Reuter)—Ten U.S. Army fliers were killed when their four-engine bomber crashed at midnight last night on the side of Mt. Holyoke, South Hadley, Mass., First Air Force announced.

Dock With Tale Of a Battered, Grim Germany

Yanks on Gripsholm Hail Bombings; British Quit Ship at Belfast

BELFAST, N.I., May 28—Fifty repatriated Americans left here today on the Gripsholm for the U.S. on the last lap of their long journey home from German prison camps after painting a picture of a grim and defeated Reich, its cities devastated by Allied bombings and its civilian morale rapidly crumbling.

Latin-American diplomats on board predicted that Germany would collapse early next year.

As the ship embarked for the U.S. with the American soldiers, 48 Canadians and 48 Latin-American civilians, a number of the 632 British repatriates echoed from their rooms in a Northern Ireland hospital the Americans' tale of a beaten Germany. The British, some of whom agreed that:

- 1—German civilian morale has dropped to a low ebb in the last six months.
- 2—More than 70 per cent of Berlin has been "bombed out."
- 3—British and U.S. prisoners generally received good treatment, but for the Russians it was tougher.

Testimony to the efficiency of U.S. daylight bombings was given by Albert Carson, of the Irish Guards, who was captured in Boulogne, France, in 1940. Carson was in a Polish prison camp near Posen with 500 other British prisoners when the American heavies soared over last Easter Sunday.

Cleaned Up Debris

"There seemed to be hundreds of them," he said, "and we heard the bombs fall. The following day the Germans placed myself and 50 other British prisoners on a detail to clear up debris. We found that the main portion of the FW plant at Posen had been hit and the largest railroad station in the city blasted to the ground."

Carson called it a "perfect job." As the ship docked here yesterday, the repatriates, some of them on crutches, tossed oranges, cigarettes, candy, picture postcards of the Gripsholm and even a few bottles of liquor to the cheering crowd lining the pier.

Pvt. H. L. Frye, of Sturgis, Mich., a member of the First Armored Division who was wounded and captured at Faid Pass, in Africa, told of the active social program organized by the American community at Stalag 11B.

Life there, he said, centered around a Speaker's Bureau, whose star lecturer was a Chinese paratrooper who told tales of the Orient to a full house. Frye claimed that even the Nazi guards tapped time with their feet when the American swing band began to play. The band was organized by Johnny Scrague, who used to play the trumpet for Tommy Reynolds in Boston, Frye said, and one of the best boogie woogie artists in it was Vernon Lutton, who used to play with Ina Ray Hutton.

College Behind Barbed Wire

Practically every man in the camp, Frye said, had enrolled in the education program run by the prisoners and were studying foreign languages, mathematics, engineering and countless other subjects. A YMCA gift of 600 books had made the courses possible, he said.

The daily ration of three eggs per man given every repatriate on the Gripsholm was welcomed by Cpl. Frank S. Emeterio, of Rome, N.Y., who said he was fed up with prison menus built mainly around turnip soup and black bread.

Marion Wheatley, of Chicago, when Italy surrendered, was released from an Italian prison hospital and put in a private home. When the Germans took over complete control, Wheatley was given an Italian name to mask his identity, but local Fascists reported him to the Nazis and he was arrested again.

Pvt. Mike L. Hellman, of Dickenson, N.D., on landing just wanted to phone his girl, Grace Hough, in Chichester, England. He said they had been writing to each other regularly while he was imprisoned.

At a reception for the repatriates, a message from Gen. Eisenhower was read by Col. George S. Andrews, chief of staff of North Ireland Base Section.

Pacific - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

completed and Liberators roared in to finish "softening up" the beach. A quarter of an hour after the last naval gun had stopped the first wave of troops went ashore under fire from Jap mortars and automatic weapons.

Meanwhile, in Washington it was announced that Jap bases on Shumushu and Matsuwa Islands in the Kuriles, a little over a 1,000 miles from Tokyo, were bombed by Liberators of the Eleventh Air Force Thursday without opposition.

Thomas Stakes UAW Job On a No-Strike Pledge

DETROIT, May 28—Asserting that a no-strike policy was necessary to win the war, R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers (CIO), told his union that he would not serve another term unless the UAW renewed its no-strike pledge.

Stairway to Safety



U.S. Army Air Force Photo
1/Lt. Charles F. Piche (left), of Hollis, La., and 1/Sgt. John Castro, of Key West, Fla., lower one of their ladders—designed to lessen the time spent escaping from a "ditched" Flying Fortress—into the open escape hatch above a Fort's radio room. Light and compact, the ladder can be swung into place for use within a few seconds.

RAF Fighters Carry Rockets

RAF fighters have been firing rockets at the Germans on land and sea since last June with considerable success, British officials disclosed over the weekend.

The well kept secret came to light on the heels of a U.S. Navy announcement from Washington that American planes hunting Nazi submarines are now equipped with long-range rocket guns.

The RAF has been employing the lethal weapon against U-boats, shipping and land targets such as bridges, gun emplacements, wireless stations and military buildings.

Four types of aircraft, Beaufighters, Hurricanes, Typhoons and Swordfish, fitted with rocket projectiles carrying eight rockets, four under each wing, may be fired along the guide rails separately or in salvos.

The RAF was mum about its rockets before and long after the Nazis had brought theirs out on Me110s and Ju88s to harass American bomber formations. The British weapon is understood to be bigger and more accurate than the German variety.

Red Bombers Sink 2 Vessels

Sinking of two German transports totaling 15,000 tons in a mass bombing attack by Russian planes in the Barents Sea was reported yesterday in the Soviet communique. There was only local fighting on the Eastern Front.

The Russians said their bombers also sank a torpedo vessel and an escort ship and seriously damaged another transport and several escort ships. In the Gulf of Finland they reported they shot down 11 bombers and nine fighters which attempted to raid "a naval target."

On the front, the Russians reported the recapture of a height southeast of Vitebsk at a loss to the Germans of 600 dead.

Italy - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

these reserves in the battle now in progress." In addition to bringing in fresh troops, the enemy has shifted units into the danger area from the west coast sector, including two battalions of the Fourth Parachute division.

Thirty-five miles southeast, the Eighth Army men are driving back the enemy rearwards from the Liri Valley, where the last vestiges of the Hitler Line already have been wiped out.

Finding the bridges blown up to check their advance, the infantry swam the Liri River or crossed in boats near Ceprano. Then patrols penetrated into the town itself which is on Highway 6 some 15 miles up from Cassino.

(Allied Headquarters officially announced the capture of Ceprano tonight, Reuter reported. The fall of two other points in that area, Belmonte and Villa San Stefano, also was announced.)

In this area three German Mark V Panther tanks, the first to be encountered in Italy, were knocked out by two American Sherman tanks. The Panthers mount a long-barreled 75-mm. gun, nearly as large as the Mark VI and modeled after the Russian T34. The Nazis consider it their best tank.

A number of new Panther tanks have been encountered by the Americans in their drive north of Cisterna toward Valmontone, where the enemy continued his counter-attacks from the Velletri area.

The 40 German tanks or self-propelled guns knocked out and captured in the Eighth Army's official reports gave ample indication that the enemy had abandoned all hope of defending any line in the Liri area and merely was trying to disengage his forces and retreat without sacrificing too many men, guns and tanks.

Hour by hour long processions of prisoners are streaming back to join over 13,000 already counted.

The Fifth Army alone has taken over 10,000, of whom at least 3,800 were caught in the beachhead. Six hundred were captured in Cisterna.

Memorial Rites Staged at U.S. Graves in U.K.

Ceremonies at Brookwood See Dead of Two Wars Honored

AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY, Brookwood, May 28—At the flagstaff here, amid graves of men who fell in the last war, and near a field of simple crosses marking the graves of men who have died in this, a small group of Americans celebrated a Memorial Day service today in a prelude to other observances scheduled for Memorial Day, Tuesday.

Representatives of the services, American and Allied, laid wreaths. Four members of the American Legion formed the color guard. Howard Bucknell, the U.S. Embassy minister-counselor, represented Ambassador John G. Winant, and there were delegates from the DAR, American women's clubs and other civilian organizations.

The service was non-denominational. Chaplains L. Curtis Tiernan, Judah Nadich and Arthur B. Dogdson presided. Nadich, in a prayer for the fallen, prayed

GIs at One Station Buy 3P51s (\$175,000)

AN AIR SERVICE COMMAND STATION, May 28—Three sleek new P51s, bought and paid for by the mechanics at this station in a recent war bond drive, will officially join the air armada at a Memorial Day ceremony Tuesday.

Originally the goal in the campaign was \$114,000 to buy two Mustangs. When the drive ended the soldier workers at the ASC had bought \$175,000 worth of war bonds, enough for three ships.

that "we shall build that new world where the sacrifice of young life be not necessary."

Apart from the wreath-laying performed officially for the two services by Rear Adm. George B. Wilson, naval attaché, and Brig. Gen. Pleas B. Rogers, CBS commanding general, three wreaths were laid by Americans who were in this war before their country entered the war. They were RCAF Flt. Lt. Edward Gimbel, of Chicago; RAF Sgt. Alex W. Boase, of Baltimore, and a USAAF sergeant, John J. Stanley, of Englewood, N.J., who transferred from the RCAF. They came as representatives of the Original Eagles, U.S. personnel who served with Allied armies before Pearl Harbor, and came to do honor to the Americans who fell while fighting under another flag.

And there was a delegate from another organization here before Pearl Harbor, the Civilian Technicians' Corps, Robert Wiltz, who came along with the Eagle Club servicemen.

Sole representative of the Marines was Cpl. Jack C. Witherington, of Covington, Tex.

Eggs Thrown at Altar Of St. Patrick's Cathedral

NEW YORK, May 28 (Reuter)—Two eggs were thrown at the altar in St. Patrick's cathedral today while Archbishop Francis J. Spellman was celebrating mass.

They smashed against the forepart of the altar. No one was hit. Members of the congregation seized the thrower, who identified himself as Frank Hannl, a Czech and Roman Catholic.

"I just felt that way," he explained at police headquarters before police took him to Bellevue hospital for observation.

China - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

Chinese spokesman admitted on Friday has "probably" fallen.

A Chungking communique also disclosed that the Chinese troops driving westward toward northern Burma from the Salween River front had lost some of the strategic heights in the border mountains in the area of the Mamien Pass early last week, but said that they now had recaptured all the lost ground and "are advancing after inflicting heavy casualties."

Most Powerful Fighter Engine Is Now in Production in U.S.

INDIANAPOLIS, May 28 (AP)—A new liquid-cooled 24-cylinder engine, claimed to be the most powerful in the world, is now available for USAAF fighter planes.

"The new engine will increase the power of the majority of single-engine fighters by several hundred horsepower," according to E. B. Newell, general manager of General Motors' Allison Division, which is producing it.

"The installation of this engine in fighters still on the secret list will give U.S. fighters the greatest striking power

New Gadget Makes It a 'Jeepulance'



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo
A jeep equipped with racks for carrying three litter cases is driven by Pvt. Lee A. Bilyeu, of Pawhuska, Okla., over a muddy road in Northern Ireland.

A U.S. ARMY HOSPITAL, Northern Ireland, May 28—The mighty jeep, most versatile of the U.S. Army's vehicles, has become an efficient litter-bearer through the latest improvisation of a Medical Department mechanic here.

Jeeps were used successfully in transporting casualties from the front to aid stations in the North African campaign, but the old attachments required removal of the top and lowering of the windshield.

The newer model, by Sgt. Melvin G. Connor, of Chicago, eliminated this.

To convert the jeep into a miniature ambulance, it was necessary to build racks which were attached to the frame at the front and rear. Sgt. Connor studied pictures of North African models and discovered that by making an adjustable hing-type apparatus on the left front rack, the litter could be removed without

Bombs Rain on Europe at Rate Of 5 Tons a Minute in Big Blitz

(Continued from page 1)
the last week—one in northern France and one at Hasselt, Belgium.

Havocs began to get the attack back to the five-ton-a-minute pace with sorties against more French coastal targets and at Liege, Belgium, Marauders attacked two more rail bridges, while other medium bombers struck at two bridges identified officially only as "in northern France." Crews reported direct hits on one of the Liege bridges, a blanket pattern on an approach to the other. For the second day in a row, the Nazis threw up a furious flak barrage and five B26s were reported missing, making, by noon, a total of 16 Ninth AAF bombers lost in 24 hours.

Meanwhile, the big punch of the day was getting under way, and shortly after noon about 1,000 Fortresses and Liberators split into task forces over the Continent and started their runs over targets in the area of Cologne and in southwestern Germany. First reports said that synthetic oil plants at Merseburg Zeitz and Lutzendorf—part of Germany's dwindling source of fuel for its mechanized forces defending the west—were among the targets.

Opposition over the Continent was varied, with a veteran Fortress division meeting bitter fighter and flak opposition, while in contrast a Liberator division saw practically no fighters.

Pilots of the record fighter force of considerably more than 1,200 aircraft—plus RAF Mustangs which flew diversionary cover—likewise reported varying opposition; some met only a few Nazi fighters, others ran into hour-long battles and one flight of four Mustangs destroyed five of seven Nazi planes deep in Germany.

The weekend's battering of German communications, airfields and front-line coastal defenses began with Friday night's Mosquito blows at the Ludwigshafen and Aachen railroad yards, both junctions on routes leading from interior Europe to the northwestern coast, and almost before the Mosquitoes' drone had died away, the American daylight forces were rallying out in nearly 4,000-plane strength from Britain and Italy.

Seven railroad yards and two aircraft engine repair centers in southwestern

Precision Bombing Holds Death Toll to 2 at Belfort

BERNE, May 28 (UP)—Only two people were killed, so precise was the bombing in Thursday's raid by U.S. heavy bombers on Belfort, France, according to the Swiss paper Gazette de Lausanne.

The material damage was very extensive. Rail yards were completely razed, all the huge gasoline containers blown up, and fires were still burning there last night.

Numerous inhabitants of the Belfort and Delle regions, according to the same paper, attempted to escape into Switzerland, but were frustrated by German frontier guards.

Routes of ATC, Now 3 Years Old, Run 125,000 Mi. 100,000 Officers and Men In Transport Command All Over Globe

The Air Transport Command of the U.S. Army Air Forces, established three years ago today, now is operating regularly over a world-wide network of air routes that stretch more than 125,000 miles. Air Transport Command headquarters announced yesterday. Equivalent in distance to five times around the world at the equator, the routes tie in every continent, criss-cross the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and sample in each 24 hours every climatic zone of the globe.

The Army Explains Why 35-mm. Films Are Older in ETO

An explanation of why films shown in Army camp-theaters using 35-mm. film are older than those shown on 16-mm. projection equipment was given Friday by Capt. Joseph G. Dixon, of the Special Services cinema branch. "Sixteen-millimeter film is supplied directly from the States as a gift from the film industry to overseas forces," he said. "Prints are made directly for the War Department as feature pictures are completed and then rushed overseas."

U.S. Production Is Still Not at Peak, Briton Says

CHICAGO, May 28—After 2 1/2 years of war the U.S. has not yet reached the peak of its immense potential output, Sir Gerald Campbell, director-general of British information services in the U.S., told a Rotary convention here. "If the struggle is prolonged," he said, "her reserve will prove decisive, since she alone now has great reserves of manpower and economic resources."

Canadian General Retires OTTAWA, May 28—Lt. Gen. E. W. Sansom, who went overseas with the First Canadian Division in 1939 and later commanded a corps overseas, is retiring because of illness, Acting Prime Minister J. L. Ralston has announced.

- AFN Radio Program On Your Dial 1375 kc. 1402 kc. 1411 kc. 1420 kc. 1447 kc. 218.1m. 213.9m. 212.6m. 211.3m. 207.3m. Monday, May 29 1100—Spotlight on Sean Kenton. 1115—Personal Album with Anita. 1130—Novatime. 1145—Songs by Powers. 1200—Noon Edition. 1205—Sea Breeze. 1300—World News (BBC). 1310—Melody Roundup. 1330—Dinah Shore (Return Engagement). 1400—News Headlines—BBC Northern Orchestra. 1430—Visiting Hour. 1500—Music While You Work (BBC). 1530—Off the Record. 1630—Family Hour—with Gladys Swarthout and Al Goodman's Orchestra. 1700—Rainbow Rhythm—"The Yanks" with Vocalist T/Sgt. Jack Maxwell (Chicago). 1725—Quiet Moments. 1730—Lyon Murray Chorus and Program Resume. 1800—World News (BBC). 1815—GI Supper Club. 1900—Seven O'Clock Sports. 1905—Duffy's Tavern. 1950—Command Performance. 2000—News from Home. 2010—Fred Waring Program. 2025—Calling APOs. 2030—Contented Hour. 2100—World News (BBC). 2115—Front Line Theater—"You Belong to Me," with Don Ameche and Mary Astor. 2145—Ranch House. 2200—Village Store—with Joan Davis and Jack Haley. 2225—One Night Stand with Joe Reichman. 2255—Final Edition. 2300—Sign off until Tuesday, May 30, at 1100 hours.

School Teaches the Nazi Gun to GIs

Yanks Learn to Use Enemy's Weapons On Their Owners

By Jules Grad Stars and Stripes Staff Writer A U.S. INFANTRY DIVISION, N.I., May 28—A school to make infantrymen here enemy weapon-wise has taught GI Joe how to fire a German machine-gun as well as a Nazi non-com, according to the school's director, 1/Lt. Alphons Hackl, of Washington, whose assistants are two German-born infantry sergeants, M/Sgt. Kurt Klein, of Buffalo, N.Y., and S/Sgt. Bert Butcher, of Maysville, N.C., intelligence branch non-commissioned officers, are in charge of the school's training program, in which every man in this outfit has learned to fire the enemy's weapons. Weapons include Luger pistols, 31-caliber machine-guns, Mauser rifles and anti-tank guns. Division headquarters send men to the



school weekly in small detachment groups. There they learn the principles of the weapons, how to assemble, disassemble, clean and fire the guns and rifles. "Our men not only can fire Nazi weapons but after they complete the school they are able to distinguish—by sound—a German gun from those of the Allies," Hackl said. "This is very important in night combat and its knowledge has often led to brilliant action," he continued. Weapons used in the school were captured in Africa and Sicily and sent

U.S. Army Signal Corps Photos (Top) M/Sgt. Kurt Klein, of Buffalo, N.Y., a member of a Northern Ireland infantry unit, demonstrates firing of an MG 34 German machine-gun from the shoulder of S/Sgt. Bert Butcher, of Maysville, N.C. (Bottom) S/Sgt. Butcher demonstrates removal of a bolt from an MG 42, a Nazi machine-gun captured in Sicily. Uniforms were shipped to the ETO for training purposes.

back to the ETO for training purposes. With the rifles came several German uniforms worn by late Nazi NCOs. It's no strange sight to see a dozen infantrymen, each armed with a Mauser, crawling on their bellies through an Ulster field, while Klein or Butcher barks out commands in German. The American infantryman is learning his enemy's language as well as the enemy's weapons. Pfc Stanley Pszczola, of Chicago, a recent "graduate," said "the German machine guns are as easy to fire as one of ours."

'Our Town' Play By GI Cast Ends

Gen. Rogers Lauds Soldier Actors for Production On Own Time

"Our Town," Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize winning play of small town American life, which has been presented to Allied Service audiences in London by an American soldier cast with Red Cross and civilian actresses, closed two weeks' run Saturday night at the Playhouse Theater, London. Brig. Gen. Pleas B. Rogers, commanding general of Central Base Section, expressed his appreciation to those participating in the production. The general wrote to the cast that while he appreciated from the first the outstanding qualities of the play, he had not fully realized the real merit of the production until it had been brought to his attention by numerous authorities. In announcing the decision to close, Gen. Rogers stated that the decision had been made by the proper authority after due consideration of all factors. Gen. Rogers said one of the outstanding aspects of the production was that members of the cast rehearsed and staged the play on their own time in addition to their regular duties.

Two-Bit Reward Makes Donor Feel Just Like That

CHICAGO, May 28—Rosemary Karler, an 18-year-old clerk, found \$1,488 in a wallet on the floor of a shop and returned it to the owner. The latter rewarded her with a quarter, but apparently his conscience bothered him, so he later looked up Miss Karler and gave her a dollar bill.

Tear Up Brenner Pass Rails CHIASSO, May 28 (Reuter)—Italian partisans have torn up the rails on the Brenner Pass line at a number of points, considerably aggravating the German supply problem, the Italian National Committee of Resistance said in a communique.

Col. Lay, 8th AF Pioneer And Lib Chief, Is Missing

A LIBERATOR BASE, May 28—Lt. Col. Beirne Lay Jr., of Washington, one of the small group of officers who accompanied Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker to set up the Eighth Air Force in the ETO, has been reported missing in action. Commander of a Liberator group, Lay was on his sixth mission over Europe when his bomber, riddled by flak, was seen going down. Lay was a well-known magazine writer as well as airman. His story of the first Regensburg mission, which appeared in the Saturday Evening Post, was acclaimed as one of the finest jobs of descriptive writing to come out of the European air war.

Berlin to Paris in 7 Days

BERNE, May 28 (AP)—It now takes seven days to travel from Berlin to Paris because of Allied bombing of railways, a letter from Paris to a neutral business man revealed.

2 States Instruct For Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, May 28—Democratic national convention delegates from Connecticut and Utah were instructed yesterday for President Roosevelt, who already has far more than enough pledged and claimed votes to win renomination on the first ballot. Connecticut added 18 votes to his column and Utah ten. The President laughed off reporters' latest efforts to learn his intentions regarding a fourth term, declaring at his Friday press conference that only time will tell. Some thought they saw an indication that he expected to be still in office next year when he said that he expected to see Prime Minister Churchill again in the summer, fall, or late spring, naming the seasons in that order—but others recalled that this spring will last officially until June 21.

Hilarity in Crash of the Skippy Becomes Tragedy in Skippy II

A FORTRESS BASE, May 28—Some Fortress men, who parachuted down over England from their flaming ship Skippy into some cockeyed experiences several weeks ago, ran into tragedy in their new plane, Skippy II, over Germany. After bailing out of the original Skippy, the tail gunner had been kissed back to consciousness by a Land Army girl and the co-pilot ended up dining with an RAF air vice marshal. In the Skippy II the pilot died after being severely wounded twice, and the top turret gunner lost one foot. The pilot, 1/Lt. Thomas J. Sutters, of Astoria, L.I., N.Y., was wounded in the thigh by a flak burst while flying the Skippy II over Germany. Then, as the top turret gunner, S/Sgt. Otto B. Fugett, of Orange, Tex., was giving him first aid, another flak burst laid open his stomach and almost tore off Fugett's left foot, which later was amputated. The ship's oxygen was almost gone, and

for nearly an hour, until the bomber reached the Channel and could descend from high altitude, the eight uninjured men virtually went without oxygen so that Sutters and Fugett could have what was left. The landing itself was a close call, another ship bearing wounded cutting in on the approach. Sutters died just before the landing. In the bail-out from the original Skippy he had distinguished himself by staying at the controls long after his crew had jumped. He flew the blazing ship to the Channel coast, so the crash wouldn't injure anyone, before parachuting himself. Other members of the Skippy II's crew included: 2/Lt. Paul R. Cooper, Emporium, Pa., co-pilot; 2/Lt. Alfred M. Gertler, Brooklyn, navigator; S/Sgt. Albert J. Sevidio, Norwich, Conn., radio operator-gunner; S/Sgt. Joseph M. Collector, Norfolk, Va., ball turret gunner; S/Sgt. Bernard J. Jensen, N. Hollywood, tail gunner; S/Sgt. Charles J. Ell, Rockville Center, N.Y., gunner-bombardier; S/Sgt. Harry L. Altham, Sharon, Pa., waist gunner, and Sgt. Joseph M. Malone, Lawrence, Mass., waist gunner.

Briton Missing From Fortress Raid Honored

Adopted Nation in Tribute To Native of Coventry at Ceremonies There

COVENTRY, England, May 28—A native son of this city, an Eighth Air Force Fortress gunner missing in action, was honored by his adopted country at the opening of Salute the Soldier Week here. Thousands lined both sides of Coventry's main street to watch the parade that ushered in the bond-selling campaign and saw Brig. Gen. Robert B. Williams, of Albany, Tex., commanding general of the Eighth Air Force's oldest Fortress division, come down from the reviewing stand to present to the family of S/Sgt. Gilbert Simkiss the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters, which had been awarded the gunner for "meritorious achievement" in combat with the enemy. Simkiss, who was living with an aunt in Boston when America entered the war, enlisted in the U.S. army. He has been listed as missing in action since April, 1943, when his bomber was shot down in an attack on the U-boat pens along the coast of France.

USSTAF HQ, May 28—Five Air Force officers were decorated here yesterday by Lt. Gen. Carl A. Spaatz, USSTAF commander. Brig. Gen. Malcolm C. Grow, of Annapolis, Md., surgeon for USSTAF Air Service Command, received the Distinguished Service Medal for his work as surgeon of the Eighth Air Force. Col. William H. Stovall, of Stovall, Miss., USSTAF assistant chief of staff, was awarded the Legion of Merit for his work as assistant chief of staff of Eighth Fighter Command. Maj. James A. Goodson, commander of a P51 squadron, received the DSC for attacking and destroying superior enemy fighter forces on Mar. 16 and Mar. 23. Lt. Edwin R. Herron, of Chicago, Fortress pilot, received the DSC for rescuing six of his crew from the North Sea after a forced landing. Lt. John H. Truluck Jr., of Lynchburg, S.C., was awarded the DSC for driving off enemy planes attacking another P47 pilot.

Sgt. Erling Berg, of Watford City, N.D., member of an engineer general service regiment, has been awarded the Soldier's Medal for saving a fellow soldier from serious injury or death. When Berg and a squad were repairing the roof of a hangar one rainy day a large section of metal roofing, lifted by a gust of wind, struck the men and knocked two of them off the roof. Berg crawled to the slippery edge where Pvt. Guatheme S. Sales, San Antonio, Tex., had broken his fall temporarily by grasping at a truss, and lifted him bodily back onto the roof.

Memo to Welden: Neighbor Stapleton IS Striping House

Memo to 2/Lt. Robert D. Welden: "Your Lewiston, Mont., neighbor, hard-pressed to keep pace with you, has his can of blue paint and a ladder in a handy place in his yard ready for instant use when word arrives that you have shot down another German plane. Confirmation that Maynard Stapleton is keeping his promise to paint a blue stripe around his home for every kill you score is given by an ETO captain, Henry E. Cottam, whose sister in Lewiston has seen the gaily-striped home. "When you see a photo of Stapleton's home in Life magazine, however, the home will be two and three-quarters stripes shy. Life rushed a photographer to Lewiston after The Stars and Stripes published the story of the stripe promise made months ago, but you've done a bit more shooting since then."

Lew Ayres, in N. Guinea, Reveals Ministerial Plans

ALLIED HQ, New Guinea, May 28—Sgt. Lew Ayres, a chaplain's aide in Hollandia, has announced his intention to enter a Congregational seminary after the war in preparation for the ministry. In 1942, Ayres, the Dr. Kildare of the screen, declared he was a conscientious objector and refused to bear arms. He was placed in a camp for conscientious objectors and later was accepted for the non-combatant medical duty for which he previously had volunteered.

Remember, the Colonel Said This, Not the S & S

WASHINGTON, May 28—For ex-soldiers, WACs will make better wives than other girls, Lt. Col. Walter H. E. Jaegger, of the U.S. Army Industrial College, told a conference on war and post-war employment Wednesday. His reason: "Throughout their lives, ex-soldier husbands will have something of the military about them. The added appreciation that a former member of the WAC will bring to the household should be an invaluable asset."

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Printed at The Times Publishing Company, Ltd., for U.S. Armed Forces, under auspices of The Special Service Division ETOUSA.

Contents passed by the U.S. Army and Navy censors; subscription 26 shillings per year plus postage.

ETO edition. Entered as second class matter Mar. 15, 1943, at the post office, New York, N.Y., under the Act of Mar. 3, 1879.

All material appearing in this publication has been written and edited by uniformed members of the Army and Navy except where stated that a civilian or other outside source is being quoted.

Editorial office—The Times, Printing House Sq., London, E.C.4 (Tel. Cen. 2000). Business and circulation offices—37 Upper Brook St., London, W.1 (Tel. ETOUSA 2133).

Vol. 4, No. 177, May 29, 1944

Bataan Calling

ON April 9, 1942, American soldiers raised the white flag of surrender on Bataan.

General MacArthur, under orders, left Corregidor, which fell soon after, and went to Australia.

Step by step, island by island, our Allied armies and navies have fought their way back, through roaring surf breaking on coral reefs under a thundering umbrella of covering naval fire.

Now we stand on Biak Island, one-time Japanese base in the Schouten Islands group, just 900 miles from the Philippines.

But down there in the Pacific, with its vast stretches, 900 miles is nearby. Airmen will know what it means to get bomber bases that close.

When MacArthur reached Australia, his face lined with fatigue but his voice steady, he promised to return to the Philippines and swore "to keep the soldiers' faith."

And after the Biak landings he confidently declared: "We now have secured bases of departure for advances to vital areas in the Philippines and the Dutch East Indies."

Civil Affairs

DESTINED for a supreme test in coming operations is SHAEF's new division, G-5—Civil Affairs.

Combat officers long have recognized the necessity and importance of controlling the life and activities of civilians behind the lines.

Under Lt. Gen. A. E. Grasset, a Canadian-born British officer, with his American deputy, Brig. Gen. J. C. Holmes, and his American chief of operations, Brig. Gen. F. J. McSherry, Civil Affairs will assist the governments of liberated nations to reorganize civil functions in the wake of Allied armies in the field.

This new organization is outstanding for two features: all of its personnel were hand-picked for posts requiring the highest degree of technical skill.

As every GI knows, many a blacksmith has been made mess sergeant. But in Civil Affairs it must be done differently.

It is easy enough, too, to learn the difference between British and American commands "right wheel" and "column right," but it is something else again for British and American officers and soldiers to learn everything in both armies from how to get an issue of C rations or bully beef to methods of command and general staff.

And now, after months of back-breaking and brain-wracking training, Civil Affairs stands ready to take the field in the greatest and most difficult operation ever envisaged by man.

Cow Cow Boogie

COLONIAL Products Research Council in a white paper reports that preliminary results of laboratory research indicate the possibility that timber can be changed into a carbohydrate substance and fed to cattle.

That reminds us of another experiment made with mules. It seems that sawdust was mixed with the mules' food in small quantities. Each day a larger quantity of sawdust was put in the food.

This time, with cows, it probably will be different. When ordering a plank steak you can have your choice of oak, elm or spruce.

Hash Marks

America at War. A lieutenant who was lucky enough to get away from the ETO long enough to have a brief stay in New York stopped in at a famous ice cream parlor he used to visit frequently.

The usual small boy asked the usual question of an American soldier in Ilford—"Got any gum, mister?"



The Yank searched his pockets—"Sorry, son, I haven't any."

A Pfc who looked like a real-life version of the Sad Sack left a pub the other night and went wandering off into the darkness.

A chaplain came to town with some of his fellow officers and they decided to take in a show. Approaching the ticket booth, a lieutenant said, "Let's match to see who buys the tickets."

Today's Old Gag. A young girl often turned up late for work at a German factory. The Black Guard chief scolded



her and asked her why she was tardy. She said that she just couldn't wake up in the morning without a cup of coffee.

Strictly GI (with apologies to T/5 Euclid): A jeep is the shortest distance between two points.

P47s' 4 Styles of Bombing Ravaging the Continent

Ninth Air Force Thunderbolt fighter-bombers—which are ransacking the Continent daily in great force for German railroads, gun posts, bridges and other objectives—are bouncing, sliding, dropping and hurling their bombs in at every angle up to 90 degrees.

The four fighter-bombing techniques were described yesterday by a flier who is an expert in all of them—Col. Gilbert E. Meyers, of Milford, Ia., 27-year-old commander of a Thunderbolt group which has never lost a plane to enemy action.

Meyers said his favorite way of letting his explosives ride into the target was "buzz" bombing, which he described as "an accurate, deadly technique that can certainly raise hell with railway bridges and similar targets."

Buzz-bombing, also called strafe-bombing, is point-blank firing at a target from a point level with it or below it. The buzz-bombing plane comes in along a river bed or valley at a terrific rate of speed and flips bombs into the target horizontally.

"Some people may call it strafe-bombing," Meyers said, "but to our young pilots, who used to get a kick out of buzzing their home towns back in the States, it's buzz bombing. And they love it."

When they are not buzz-bombing, Thunderbolt pilots are either skip, glide or dive-bombing.

In skip-bombing they bounce the bombs into the target as if they were skipping a flat rock across a lake. This technique takes an instinctive sense of the bounce-angle and is best for tunnels or canal locks.

Dive-bombing is as accurate as the path of your plane," Meyers said. "At our speed we have to pull out between 3,000 and 4,000 feet, and if the nose of the plane points straight at the target, we get good hits."

Thunderbolts diving in a perpendicular line descend so fast they never give the enemy a chance to aim his ack-ack guns. The trajectory of the bomb is vertical and it rips into the top of the target with blistering force.

The dive in glide-bombing is more shallow. Slanting in at 20 to 60 degrees, Meyers said, "affects the speed of the plane, the accuracy of the bombs and the trajectory."

Before coming to the ETO Meyers commanded a First Air Force base and helped train eight fighter groups, six of which are in operation in Britain today.

Although his own group has been operational only slightly more than 60 days Meyers has recently received the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. He has flown more than 35 combat missions.

ings shook and clods of dirt sailed up into the sky . . . but no one was hurt. The field lectures were punctuated with the bursting of high explosives ranging from the pinhead charge of a percussion cap to half-pound blocks of TNT.

Traveling in a command car and a 2½-ton truck, the troupe's equipment is more like that of a road show than an Army training unit.

It boasts an actual stage setting of a corner of a house, complete with door, doorstep, windows and furniture. The feminine touch isn't lacking either. Suspended from its walls, in lush gold frames, are two samples of "pin-up girl" photography that would make any barracks-wall decoration seem prudish.

Following the showmanship pattern, the demonstrations require the technique and planning of an elaborate circus stunt. While the students spend the morning in a classroom where they are introduced to the subject, other members of the unit are busy setting the stage for field exhibitions in the afternoon.

Booby traps in the form of harmless percussion caps are hidden all through the command car and truck, the stage prop house and its furniture.

Criss-crossed in the earth before the house, trip-wires are set to explode percussion caps or half-pound charges of TNT planted a safe distance from the area. In a roped-off space, a simulated minefield is sown with empty German and Allied mine cases with harmless exploding devices attached.

When the students arrive they are set loose to inspect the unit's vehicles for any dynamite release mechanisms that might have been installed that morning . . . and usually there are plenty. Before the hunt is over at least six are either exploded or removed intact from hidden crannies of the vehicles.

Instructions in the methods used to booby-trap a house are handled by Sgt. Harold Scott, of Fremont, Mich.

Leading the students to the pasteboard "bungalow," he demonstrates how the shocking power of "pin-up" pictures can be considerably increased with the aid of a charge of dynamite.

The blast of a charge of TNT accents Scott's words of caution as the class leaves his demonstration. It is set off by the first student to kick the trip-wire lying across the path, as they walk to another part of the field for the next lesson, a demonstration of mine detection and neutralization under the direction of Pfc Eugene Roderer, of Dayton, Ohio.

"Mines themselves may be booby-trapped," Roderer warned. "Don't lift a mine or move it in any way as soon as its primer is removed. Inspect it carefully for any detonating mechanisms or wires."

As an epilogue to the day's instruction, Vanston sums up with the gist of the school's message: "Don't guess . . . don't take chances. Don't become a casualty through your own carelessness!"

This Is The Army

THREE armies—Polish, Free French and United States—have claimed the services of Private Steve T. Surman, 25, of Chicago, now serving as a butcher in a large replacement center in England.

Pvt. Surman, while visiting his father in Poland in 1939, joined the Polish army and served as an artilleryman in campaigns through Rumania, Hungary, Norway and France. A transfer in 1941 placed him in the tank corps, fighting with the Free French. Before joining the U.S. forces in England he had rejoined the Polish army.

APO came through with another victory when it delivered Lt. Adam Schlanser a V-mail carrying no address, only his name.

What irritated the lieutenant was the fact that his sister, who wrote the letter, formerly was a post office employe.

It happened while Gen. Eisenhower, Lt.-Gen. Carl Spaatz and Jimmy Doolittle, and Maj.-Gen. Hugh J. Knerr were inspecting Air Service Command's largest depot.

As the high-rankers were strolling through a hangar, Cpl. Louis J. Cocchi, engine mechanic, of Springfield, Mass., stepped up to Gen. Eisenhower, saluted, and said: "May I shake your hand, sir?"

Smiling broadly, the general returned the salute and gave the corporal a hearty handshake.

As the brass hats moved away, Cocchi was surrounded by fellow mechanics, all trying to be the first to shake the hand of the man who shook the hand of Gen. Eisenhower.

A week later Cocchi broke down and washed his right hand.

Capt. Edward Kotab, of Nebraska City, Neb., has been converting discarded automobile tools into dentistry instruments to offset a shortage of dental equipment at his clinic.

Screwdriver handles and shanks were transformed by Kotab into elevators for extracting teeth and converted bridge spikes into spatulas for waxing false teeth.

ANGLO-AMERICAN relations jumped a notch recently when Florifruit, a British florist association, contributed 120 carnations to 120 homesick GIs, to be worn on Mother's Day.

GIs stationed at an SOS depot in England should be in good shape to take over the occupation of post-war Germany after they finish lessons in elementary German given by Cpl. Heinz Schwarze, of West Reading, Pa.

Schwarze came to the U.S. from Germany in 1929.

TOGETHER on 18 missions in the South Pacific, a pilot and a tail gunner have completed their 25th together in a B26 here in England.

Maj. Franklin S. Allen Jr., of Los Angeles, and S/Sgt. Charles E. Jordan, of Belton, S.C., went to New Guinea and fought together; they returned to the States together and came to England at the same time.

Allen heard that Jordan was in the same outfit with him and got the gunner back in his crew again. Jordan was credited with a Jap Zero over New Guinea.

T/Sgt. John L. Clute, of Glens Falls, N.Y., is one of the few men who has taken off in a P47 once without ever landing in one.

The maintenance chief was working on a P47 one day when Capt. Donald B. Clayton offered to give him a ride. Clute accepted and the two took off. Shortly after the take-off one wheel of the P47 dropped off.

"We flew around a while," Clute said, "but finally the captain said to me, 'I'm afraid, John, that you'll have to jump. You're apt to be seriously hurt where you are.'"

Clute landed safely and Clayton landed the P47 belly down. Neither was hurt.

ADD "professional men" in the ETO: Pfc Albert M. Alexinis, of Brooklyn, a former professional wrestler, now a mechanic at an aircraft repair and modification depot.

Alexinis once took on a 450-pound Canadian bear in a special bout. The bear won.

Traveling School Teaches 9th AF How to Spot Mines, Booby-Traps

By Benjamin Pollock Stars and Stripes Unit Correspondent

A NINTH SERVICE COMMAND DEPOT, May 28—Curiosity may kill a lot of cats, but it will have a hard time killing any of the GIs at this depot, thanks to a mobile mines and booby-traps school which recently stopped here and put the men through a concentrated introduction to the lethal jokes of modern warfare—mines and booby traps.

With movies, lectures, diagrams, samples and demonstrations, the instructors hammered home their gospel of caution against the dangers behind a harmless-appearing book, an interesting "pin-up girl" . . . or even the other end of a toilet chain.

Directed by 2/Lt. A. R. Vanston, of Smyrna, Ga., the school is one of two such gypsy training units currently touring Ninth Air Force installations. They spend two or three days at each post, providing selected groups of base personnel with a short but extensive education in the location of mined and booby-trapped areas and neutralization of the mechanisms with a minimum of risk.

In demonstrations at this post, build-



But of course there are a few places a Marine sentry has to stop at in between.

NEWS FROM HOME

Officer to Hang For Killing Four On West Coast

Army Lieutenant Who Shot Sweetheart Convicted by Court-Martial

CAMP ANZA, Cal., May 28—Lt. Beaufort G. Swancutt, of La Crosse, Wis., Friday was sentenced to death by hanging after an army court-martial had found him guilty of murdering four persons, including his sweetheart, during a shooting affray last Mar. 5.

Swancutt offered no denials of the killings. The officer insisted that he had no motive or intent to kill anyone and that on the afternoon of the incidents he suffered a mental blackout from which he did not recover for several days.

Beside his sweetheart, Dorothy Douglas, 19, Swancutt shot Louridine Livermore, also 19, at the Officers' Club here, and later killed Capt. Aubrey G. Serfling, his commanding officer, and Arthur Simpson, a Riverside policeman, before being arrested.

Clean-up Drive in L.A.

LOS ANGELES, May 28—Mayor Fletcher Bowron has ordered a cleanup of the little Tokyo section in downtown Los Angeles. Thousands of families who have flocked to Southern California to work in war plants have been told to vacate or fix up their homes. The building housed 30,000 Japs before the war.

Reunion After 38 Years

SPOKANE, Wash., May 28—A father and son, each of whom believed the other had perished in the San Francisco earthquake, were reunited here after a 38-year separation. They are William H. Merrick, 83, and Ross Dennis Merrick, a Merchant Marine deck officer.

\$65,000,000 for Rocket Guns

WASHINGTON, May 28—President Roosevelt signed into law yesterday legislation authorizing a \$65,000,000 appropriation for tools, equipment and facilities to manufacture rocket guns, projectiles and other confidential equipment for the Navy.

Binnie Calls Off Divorce

LOS ANGELES, May 28—Actress Binnie Barnes has decided not to divorce her husband, Capt. Mike Frankovich, the former UCLA football star. Everything has been straightened out, she said yesterday.

DSM for Knudsen

WASHINGTON, May 28—Lt. Gen. William S. Knudsen, director of production for the under-secretary of war, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Medal.

FDR Gets Physical Checkup

WASHINGTON, May 28 (Reuter)—President Roosevelt visited the Navy Medical Center at Bethesda, Md., Friday for a medical examination.

Kennedy Warns Against Hogging Cargo Shipping

BOSTON, May 28—American must not be so insistent on having the world's largest merchant fleet after the war as to deprive nations such as Britain and Norway—for whom merchant shipping "is a matter of day-to-day survival"—of an opportunity to make a living, Joseph P. Kennedy, former ambassador to London, told an audience here.

"After the Army and Navy have taken what ships they want," the former Maritime Commission chairman said, "and after we have decided what vessels are required for our mercantile marine, I think we should then negotiate for the transfer of tonnage to foreign countries—taking into consideration, of course, just what effect the use of these ships by foreign nations will have on our own mercantile marine."

Wide-Awake Pfc Has A Dream Encounter

It seemed like the beginning of a bad dream to Pfc Harold E. Dickman, of Milwaukee, member of a QM salvage company, when he and his heavy truck, bowling along an ETO highway, were motioned to a halt by the driver of a two-star sedan. But Maj. Gen. L. T. Gerow, commanding U.S. field forces in England, got out of the sedan and told Pfc Dickman: "This is the best truck I have seen on the roads in England."

A few days later—convincing both Dickman and his buddies that the incident had been more than a good dream—the pfc's commanding officer, Capt. A. C. Niebels, of Greene, R.I., read to the company a letter from the general's aide commending Dickman on "the fine appearance of his truck," and calling him "the sort of

Got Any Gum, Yank?



Girl employes of Montgomery Ward Company's plant in Chicago get a thrill from the presence of a grim-faced sentry in one of the corridors of the plant as they wend their way to lunch. Photo was taken while the plant was being operated by the U.S. Government.

To Jobless Night-Club Artists, Somervell Suggests War Work

CHICAGO, May 28—Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, chief of the Army Service Forces, can't see why anyone should shed a tear for the 15,000 entertainers who have lost their jobs since the 30 per cent night-club tax went into effect.

"There's plenty of work for them in our plants, or on the railroads, or on the steamships," the general told a group of Chicago business executives. "Let's put them to work at something useful."

Gave Life to Save Platoon; Wins Congressional Medal

WASHINGTON, May 28—Posthumous award of the Congressional Medal of Honor to 2/Lt. Robert Craig, of Toledo, Ohio, who "sacrificed himself so that his platoon might . . . withdraw while he drew the enemy fire" in Sicily last July was announced by the War Department.

The citation said Craig, who was 24, killed three enemy soldiers in a machine-gun nest and then charged a group of 100, killing five of them before he fell.

a problem, "but I know we are going to solve it." He pointed out that valuable manpower was being employed in beauty shops, perfume factories and bowling alleys.

He disclosed that American war industries had turned out 90,000 pieces of medium and heavy artillery and that last year 20,000 75-mm. tanks were shipped overseas.

Eight times the material which went to France in World War I already has been sent over in this war, the general added.

Naval Air Portfolio Slated For Fitch, Forrestal Says

WASHINGTON, May 28—Vice Adm. Aubrey W. Fitch, former Southwest Pacific air commander, "in due time" will succeed Vice Adm. John S. McCain as deputy chief of naval operations for air, Secretary of the Navy James V. Forrestal announced.

Prom Off—No Men

BURLINGTON, Vt., May 28—The Senior-Alumni Prom at the University of Vermont was called off last night. Reason: "Manpower shortage."

Diane



Male Call



Blondie



Army Veteran Suing To Get Back Old Job

NEWARK, N.J., May 28—In an action believed to be the first of its kind, a discharged soldier has filed suit to force his former employer to re-employ him in his pre-war job.

The veteran, Joseph Grasso, 26, is suing A. J. Crowhurst and Sons, demanding that the firm restore him to his former position of fur cutter at a weekly salary of \$51.20.

He had been employed by the company eight years prior to his induction into the Army in June, 1943.

Output of Landing Craft Now Ahead of Schedule

WASHINGTON, May 28—An April increase of 35 per cent in production of landing craft pushed the 80,000-vessel program two per cent ahead of schedule, the War Manpower Commission reported last Monday, attributing much of the rise to a labor recruiting drive by the U.S. Employment Service.

WMC said deliveries of tank-landing ships moved ahead of schedule for the first time. Of the 15 types of landing craft being built, production was equal to, or ahead of, schedule in all but two and these were only slightly behind.

Assails Critics Of Liberty Ship

Land Calls It Pack Horse Of Sea; Cites Breaking Of Riveted Vessels

NEW YORK, May 28—Critics of the Liberty ship have been given a tongue-lashing by Rear Adm. Emory S. Land, Maritime Commission chairman.

"The Liberty ship is the pack horse of the sea and nothing is gained by attempting to put a blot on its escutcheon," he said in a speech at New York University.

Taking notice of criticism that Liberty ships have broken in two at sea, he said:

"The outstanding fact is that while six (welded) Liberty ships have broken in two, during the same period seven riveted ships have suffered like fractures."

"No one need offer apologies" for the Liberty ship, Land said, adding that though it was designed to serve only as a cargo carrier it has been converted into nine different types of auxiliaries for war use.

Carrie Chapman Catt III

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y., May 28—Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, 85-year-old women's rights champion, is seriously ill following a heart attack.



"I sometimes feel you married me just to shine your buttons!"

By Jean Baird



By Milton Caniff

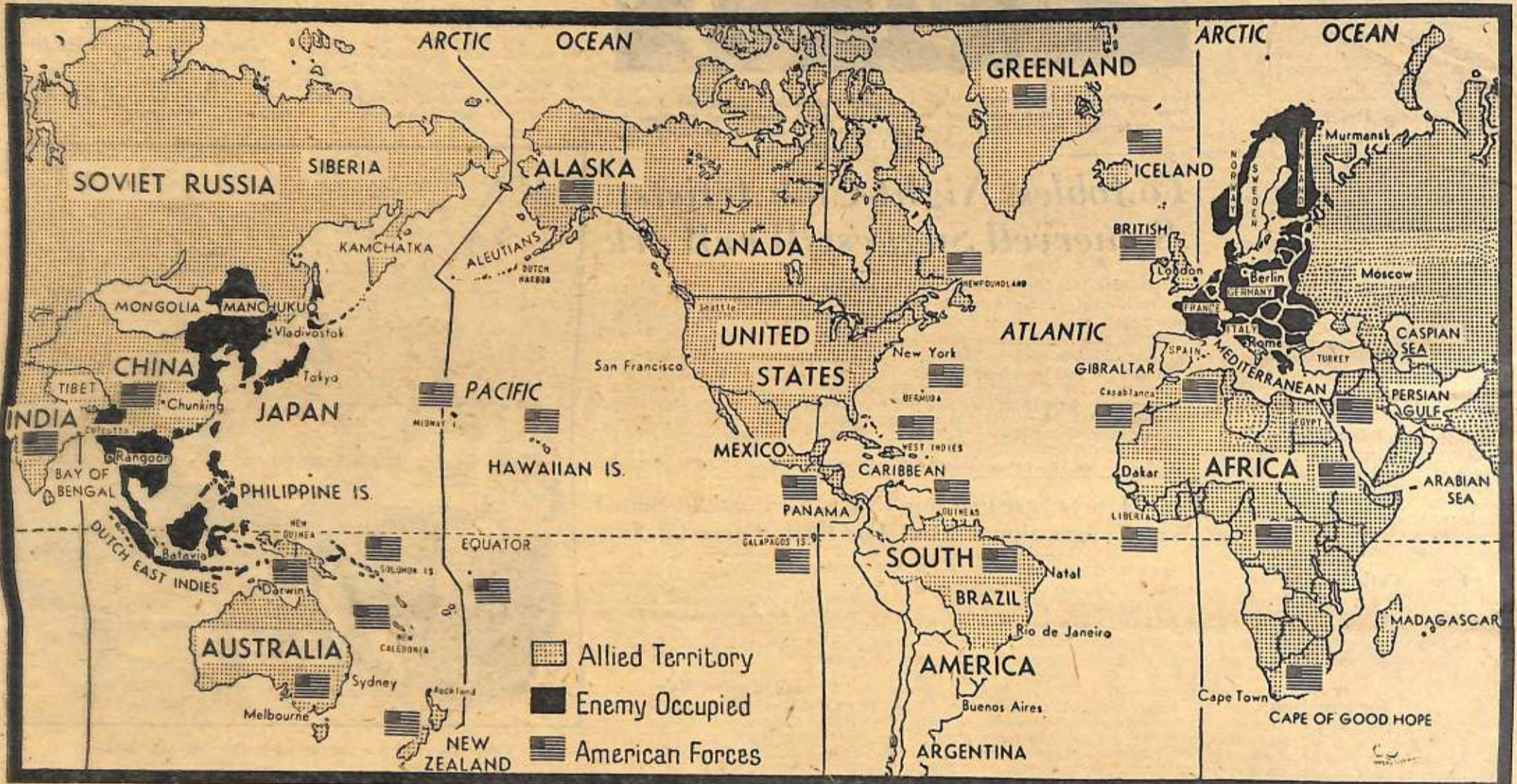


By Chic Young



By Courtesy of King Features Syndicate Inc.

Our Forces Take Up Battle Stations Around the World



The Reserve Line—The engineer of one of our American-made reserve locomotives receives the 'Go' signal from Cpl. William D. Matthews, somewhere in England.



7,000 Words—First "picture answer" to last week's "leg quiz"—Mrs. Herb Caen, wife of Lt. Caen of the ETO. She rates 7,000 words (per week—V Mail.)

In this global war American fighting men are serving on every continent, standing guard in places which were to most of us just an obscure name in the geography book. In every case the Yank has quickly adapted himself to his locale, as proven by the faces of these men of the Army, Navy, Marines and Coast Guard.



A Record Hop—Col. Clair Peterson, Fargo, N.D., piloting a P51 Mustang fighter plane, completing his Los Angeles-to-New York hop in record-breaking time of 6:31:30.