

Yanks Land on Okinawa Island

'Greatest Pacific Landing' Is 325 Mi. From Japan Proper

Successfully completing what was officially termed the greatest amphibious operation of the Pacific war, American infantrymen and Marines comprising a new U.S. Army, the 10th, swarmed ashore on Okinawa Island, 325 miles south of Japan proper, at 8.30 AM yesterday (Tokyo time), Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced in a communique which he himself broadcast.

The landing was supported by the Pacific's largest task force, involving more than 1,400 ships, including strong units of the British Pacific Fleet, under command of Adm. Raymond A. Spruance, 5th Fleet commander.

Proceeding "according to plan," the assault forces landed on the west coast of Okinawa, large island in the center of the long Ryukyu chain stretching southwestward from Japan, "advanced inland rapidly and by 11 AM had captured the Yontan and Kadena airports with light losses," Nimitz said.



The landing made on Easter morn., and following ten days of devastating bombardment by naval guns and carrier planes, was achieved without a shot being fired, cabled a Reuter correspondent aboard Adm. Turner's flagship. He said that the only noticeable enemy movements the morning of the invasion were to the rear and that gains were made all along the line after seizure of the two airfields named in Adm. Nimitz' communique.

Nimitz read his communique personally for the first time, lending added significance to the new invasion which would give the U.S. air bases practically in Japan's back yard.

Operations Follow Landings
The operation followed landings which began last Monday and resulted in the capture of islands in the Kerama group just off Okinawa's southern tip. Artillery emplacements on these islands joined battleships, cruisers and lighter naval units in pouring shells into Jap positions on Okinawa.

Nimitz disclosed that the new 10th Army is under command of Lt. Gen. Simon B. Buckner Jr., and that it comprises the 24th Army Corps under Maj. Gen. John R. Hodge and Marines of the 3rd Amphibious Corps under Maj. Gen. Roy S. Geiger. With attached units, that would mean a force possibly exceeding 100,000 troops. The size of the actual landing force was not disclosed, however.

March Record Month for 8th

Heavy bombers of the 8th Air Force were idle yesterday after rounding out their greatest month of the war on Saturday, when more than 1,300 Fortresses and Liberators, protected by 850 Mustangs and Thunderbolts, attacked rail, industrial and oil targets in Germany.

During March, featured by the mighty assault that helped clear the way for the Rhine crossings, the 8th unloaded 73,000 tons of bombs on the Reich, surpassing by 15,000 tons its previous heaviest month, June of last year, when its planes dented the French coast in co-operation with the invading Allied forces.

The heavies flew more than 28,500 sorties, bettering by 2,600 the number flown during D-Day month, until now the record month. Fighters made 16,400 sorties, topped only by June, July and August of last year.

The record tonnage represents nearly two tons of bombs dropped every minute during the month. It took the 8th 18 months, from mid-August, 1942, to mid-February, 1944, to drop its first 73,000 tons on Nazi strongpoints.

The 8th lost 138 bombers and 99 fighters during March, or one plane lost for every 200 sent out. At the same time, 410 enemy fighters were destroyed, 250 shot down and 129 destroyed on the ground by fighters and 31 shot down by bomber gunners.

U.S. Sub Toll Rises To 1,083 Jap Vessels

WASHINGTON, Apr. 1 (AP)—U.S. submarines have sunk 11 Jap vessels, including a large aircraft-carrier, two destroyers and two escort vessels, the Navy announced. The announcement raised to 1,083 the total of Jap vessels sunk by American submarines.

Vignette of Peace New Yorkers See Double

By Richard Wilbur
Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Apr. 1—Easter morn blossomed forth with warm weather in New York following the appearance last night over Gotham's skyscrapers of a double rainbow—long the symbol of hope.

The weatherman said double rainbows appear quite frequently over New York, "only nobody ever looks at them."

But New Yorkers looked last night—with uplifted hearts.

Though American women brought out their spring finery, fashion did not keynote the day—as in previous years.

Prayers for soldiers overseas and veterans at home were heard in thousands of communities and military posts.

At the Arlington, Va., national cemetery, Col. Alfred Oliver Jr., an Army chaplain recently freed from a Philippines prison camp, participated in services which he originated 15 years ago.

Soldiers at Fort Benning, Ga., formed a living cross in Doughboy Stadium. In Colorado Springs, Col., park benches were provided to wounded veterans in the Garden of the Gods at sunrise services.



ADM. SPRUANCE LT. GEN. BUCKNER

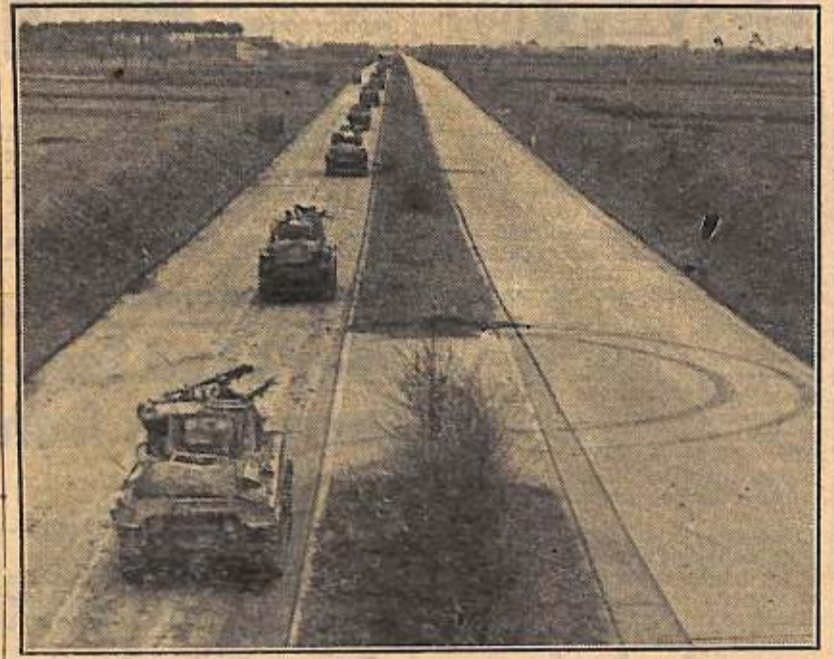
Amphibious operations were commanded by Vice-Adm. Richmond Kelly Turner, who has handled that phase of every invasion in the central Pacific. A fast carrier task force under Vice-Adm. Marc A. Mitscher, whose famous Task Force 58 has long roamed Japanese waters, also participated in the attack.

"The capture of Okinawa will give us bases only 325 miles from Japan which will greatly intensify the attacks of our fleet and air forces against Japanese communications and Japan itself. As our sea-air blockade cut the enemy off from the world and our bombing increases in strength and proficiency, our final victory is assured," Adm. Nimitz concluded.

Meanwhile, the 20th Air Force, which Nimitz disclosed had lent "strategic support" to the Okinawa invasion, sent a large force of Superforts against industrial targets in the Tokyo area today (Tokyo time), following twin raids Saturday on the home islands of Kyushu and Honshu.

Link-Up Seals Ruhr As Foe Seeks Escape

An Armored Posse Goes Coyote Hunting



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo. The super highways that Hitler built to wheel his armies to world conquest now point the way to his doom. Here 7th Army tanks clank along the highway connecting Mannheim with Heidelberg.

Armor Meets Resistance First Time

Tanks of the 2nd Armored Division of the U.S. 9th Army linked up yesterday afternoon with elements of the U.S. 1st Army in the first union of units sealing off the Ruhr, creating a tremendous pocket from which three enemy divisions already have been reported attempting to flee. The juncture came near Lippstadt, west of Paderborn, where 1st Army forces were engaged in hard fighting with dug-in Nazi tanks.

Other signs of German attempts at a possible stand against the American spearheads thrusting into the Reich, in addition to that at Paderborn, were reported from the U.S. 3rd Army sector, where armored units ran up against opposition gathering along the east bank of the Fulda River.

Accounts of great havoc wrought by tactical air forces against enemy transport columns on the move in Holland were taken to indicate that the Germans, threatened by Canadian advances, may possibly be pulling out of that country, base for V-weapon sites. In one day's operations the airmen knocked out more than 600 vehicles, but yesterday's operations were curtailed because of bad weather.

Highlights of Weekend

Among the highlights of the weekend developments were broadcast proclamations from Gen. Eisenhower to the Germans. "The German government has ceased to exercise effective control over wide areas," the Supreme Commander declared. "The German High Command has lost effective control over many units, large and small, of the German forces." One broadcast gave detailed instructions to German troops on how to surrender to the advancing Allied armies; the other repeated previous orders to foreign workers in Germany on how to hamper the foe and escape from the battle zones.

A security blackout still covered most of the deepest Allied penetrations into the Reich. This was the situation, from north to south, as reported last night:

21st Army Group—A dispatch from Field Marshal Montgomery's HQ told of a sensational breakout on the British 2nd Army's front, with hundreds of tanks roaring to the east and northeast far beyond the positions pinpointed yesterday morning. Some reports asserted that British tanks—some of them carrying American airborne troops into action—were almost 100 miles beyond the Rhine, traveling over military highways where possible and over the countryside where the roads wouldn't do. Only isolated resistance was mentioned in dispatches from the front. Montgomery was estimated to have more than 2,000 tanks and self-propelled guns over the Rhine, enough armor for at least six divisions.

Tanks Breaking Eastward

German reports said British tanks were heading eastward both north and south of the big communications center of Munster, and admitted that other troops had reached the western fringes of this capital of Westphalia Province.

At Rheine, 25 miles northwest of Munster, the Luftwaffe fired their major airbase and fled.

12th Army Group—Troops of the 1st Army were fighting in Paderborn, farthest northern point officially reported reached by units which swept around the Ruhr. (Continued on back page)

Reds 33 Miles from Vienna; Nazis Report Stettin Push

German Radio last night claimed that Marshal Zhukov had thrown at least 360,000 men into a massive assault on Stettin while, at the southern end of the Eastern Front, two powerful Russian armies drove ahead toward Vienna and the vital railway lines feeding Nazi forces in Yugoslavia and Italy.

U.S. Vetoes Warsaw Poles

WASHINGTON, Apr. 1 (AP)—The U.S. and Britain yesterday turned down the Soviet Union's demand that Poland's present Warsaw government be represented at the forthcoming San Francisco world security conference.

The explosive issue, threatening to divide the United Nations, sent Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr. to the White House to confer with the President.

An unidentified State Department official said the U.S. position was based on agreements reached at Yalta to set up a Polish government representative of all political elements. The present Warsaw government is not representative, the official declared.

Senators concerned with foreign affairs indicated regret that Russia had posed such an obstacle to full co-operation in setting up the proposed world security organization.

While the controversy continued, the Warsaw government announced it would incorporate the Free City of Danzig into Poland.

In the Resurrection. New Hope



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo. U.S. servicemen and servicewomen attending Easter sunrise services at the bandstand in Hyde Park yesterday morning.

Cupid Lends His Wings

Senator Aids Lovelorn Sgt.

WASHINGTON, Apr. 1—Sen. Joseph C. O'Mahoney's middle initial doesn't stand for Cupid but the Wyoming Democrat showed here yesterday that he is willing to help young love along when the opportunity presents itself.

One of O'Mahoney's constituents—now a tech sergeant in the Air Force—recently wrote to the Senator bemoaning the fact that while in the ETO he fell in love with an English girl, that before getting married he was returned to the U.S., and that his prospective father-in-law would not allow the bride-to-be to come to the U.S. unless she became a bride first.

The sergeant asked O'Mahoney to fix it up so he could fly to England to get married and the Senator instructed his staff to drop everything else until the frustrated lovers' dilemma was solved. Within an hour a telegram was dispatched to the sergeant at Lowry Field, Col., telling him to make formal application for furlough to England and to state his preference to travel by air. O'Mahoney also added a statement "I shall be glad to cooperate in arranging with Immigration and Naturalization service for passage of your wife to the U.S. if you will contact me upon your return." The Senator withheld the names of the lovers.

'Milwaukee' Becomes the 'Murmansk'

By Dick Grueneberg
Stars and Stripes Special Writer

Thirst of Russian sailors for knowledge on a couple of occasions forced American sailors to forget about their hunger for food, but outside of that everything ran smoothly during the transfer of the U.S.S. Milwaukee to the Russian fleet, seven U.S. officers and six enlisted men revealed yesterday.

Following the revelation by Moscow Tuesday that the light cruiser is now manned by Soviet sailors, the U.S. gobs all talked freely yesterday about how the transfer was effected and how they taught the Russians to man the ship. And in the process the men—all of whom speak Russian and later served at the Big Three Crimea Conference—laughingly explained the "thirst and hunger" angle.

About breakfast time one morning the "General Quarters" alarm sounded. The Milwaukee crew men scrambled for their action stations, readied the guns for anything. But nothing happened. Over the loud speaker came the announcement: "Belay that."

At noon the CQ alarm sounded off again, and for the second time the U.S. sailors ran to their stations. And again nothing happened.

The problem was solved when somebody discovered that the very inquisitive Russian sailors, studying the bridge of the cruiser, had pressed a little red button—



KOVAL SAWCHUK

the one that set off the action alarms station.

The special U.S. crew boarded the Milwaukee in a British port. One officer and one enlisted man were assigned to a department, which they studied thoroughly. As soon as the men knew the ropes the ship took off for Russia, and after an eventful trip during which more than one Nazi U-boat was sunk, the Milwaukee became the first U.S. warship to enter the port of Murmansk in this war.

For the next five weeks the ship's various departments were classrooms. Russian officers and men bombarded the U.S. Navy men with questions. They wanted to know the purpose of every

lever, bolt and valve, and sometimes the "quiz" lasted until late hours of the night.

When the indoctrination was completed the Milwaukee went out on a shakedown cruise with both American and Russian crews aboard. She fired everything she had—six-inchers, three-inchers, 40mm. guns, 20mm. and depth charges. She even sent catapult planes into the air and retrieved them. Everything worked perfectly. The American sailors had apparently taught well and the Russians were apt pupils—even though they were a bit too inquisitive once or twice.

Capt. C. F. Fielding, USN, who had commanded the Milwaukee for more than a year, officially turned the ship over to the Russians with the traditional last order: "Secure the watch!" The Stars and Stripes came down and the Milwaukee became the U.S.S.R. Murmansk.

The U.S. Navy men who instructed the Russians were:

- Lt. G. S. Scherbatoff, USNR, Sharon, Conn.;
- Lt. D. P. Keusoff, USNR, Mount Pleasant, N.J.;
- Lt. M. Kimack, USNR, Garfield, N.J.;
- Lt. (jg) J. P. Romanow, USNR, Dearborn, Mich.;
- Lt. (jg) J. Cheplick, USNR, Oliphant, Pa.;
- Lt. C. M. Houghton, USNR, Maspeth, N.Y. (no longer with the original team);
- Andrew M. Bacha, Chief Yeoman, Garfield, N.J.;
- Nicholas Korniloff Jr., Y2c, Garfield, N.J.;
- Russell Koval, Y2c, Fort Plain, N.Y.;
- Alex Nestoruk, Y2c, Buffalo, N.Y.;
- Andrew Sawchuk, Y2c, Los Angeles, Cal.;
- Harry Skelnar, Y2c, Berwyn, Ill.

Veteran U.S. Troops May Occupy Reich

By Phil Bucknell

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Apr. 1—When it's white flags all the way and the last islands of Nazi resistance have been washed away by the flood of onrushing Allies, there will be considerable reshuffling of armies.

Nobody believes for one moment that the occupation is going to be less severe and strict than obtains in areas already overrun. Eisenhower's declaration that "we come as conquerors" will set the pattern of occupation.

Nothing official has been issued delineating the actual zones of occupation (the last news came from Yalta where it was announced that France would have a zone) but there is unusual agreement among commentators on the subject and it is possible to piece together a story on how Germany is expected to be occupied.

The U.S. zone, it is believed, will extend east and south are Czechoslovakia, Austria and Switzerland.

Berlin under Allied Control

Russia will occupy the eastern sector of Germany almost as far west as the Baltic port of Lubeck. From there the line will go south to the Elbe river, following that river and the Saale and ending at the western tip of Czechoslovakia. Berlin comes in that zone but it is believed the capital will come under joint Allied control. It will be the site of the Allied occupation commission.

Britain will probably be assigned the northwestern sector, bordered on the north by the North Sea and Denmark, on the west by the Rhine, on the east by the Elbe and Saale rivers and on the south by the line extending north from Frankfurt-on-Main to Czechoslovakia.

France will almost certainly be allotted the west bank of the Rhine, but it is believed that Gen. de Gaulle is pressing for territory on both sides of the river.

On the assumption that this will be the division, or approximately this, it is possible to give a guide to the territory that will be occupied by our troops. Estimates of the number of American troops that will be needed for this task vary from 200,000 to 500,000 and, while some observers consider that troops which have done the conquering will do the occupying for at least the first six months, others think unseasoned soldiers will be used for the task.

Guerrilla Warfare Expected

Since reports have it that the Nazis will try to hang on in the mountains in desperate guerrilla warfare—and the American zone contains the most likely terrain for such tactics—the first assumption looks more likely.

The chief cities in this zone are Munich, Nuremberg, Karlsruhe, Stuttgart, Frankfurt-on-Main, Mannheim, Augsburg and Wurzburg. The terrain is some of the most beautiful in Germany, excluding all towns which have been thoroughly bombed, and is known for its Alpine and lake scenery. The area is roughly 40,000 square miles and has a normal population of about 13,000,000, although refugees have swelled this figure considerably.

The people of southern Germany always used to claim that they were different from the rest of the Germans—more peace-loving, more pleasant, song-loving and honest-to-God beer and wine drinkers who never meant harm to anyone. The territory, however, was the breeding ground of Nazism and Hitler maintained party headquarters in Munich. At Nuremberg were held annual semi-barbaric dedication ceremonies.

Rather more than half of the population is Roman Catholic. It is believed that rules against fraternization will be maintained and, instead of troops being billeted in private homes as they were the last time, barracks will be erected to prevent any contact outside of official business. For amusement the soldiers will be provided with large scale sports and entertainment programs.

Somebody Here Is Ab



The Light Touch From the



Another curfew gag by Cafe Zanzibar. For a buck an hour you can get this lovely to hold your seat at a nearby hash house: until you roll over from the club.



Dropping batons for their favorite instruments, five band leaders give out with a jam session at the Hotel New Yorker. From left, standing: Tony Pastor, Paul White-man, Sonny Dunham; seated: Charlie Trotter and Jerry Wald.



No smoke shortage for Norman Bell, of Baltimore. He got this imposing stack in a store-to-store canvas of tobacco shops.

Off the Beaten Warpath



The four Kitts brothers of Knoxville, Tenn., each with separate units of the 9th Army, hold a family reunion somewhere in Germany. Left to right are Pys, Bill and Ray, both infantrymen; Pfc Harlan, signal corps; and Pfc Gene, of an armored division.



Everybody grabs 'em on the front these days. Fred Ramage, International News Photos photographer, brings in a few Nazi prisoners on his press jeep.

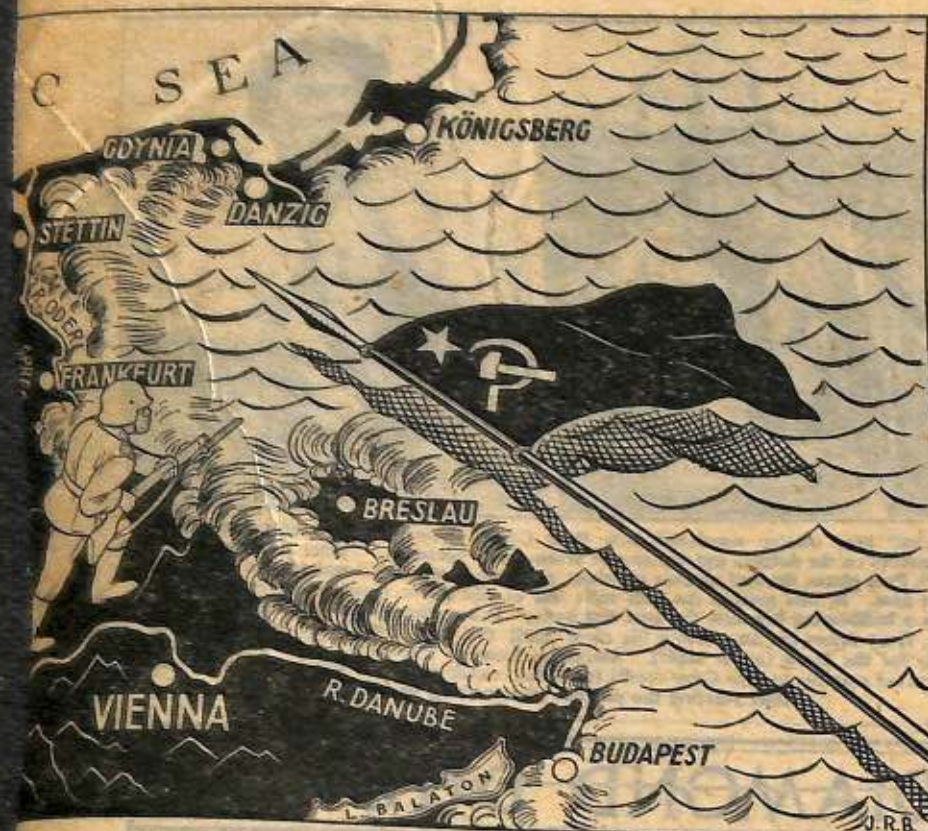


Filipino women on Luzon, who do a rushing business washing clothes for U.S. soldiers, return with the wash smoking fat cigars. Here Pfc William Graves, of Indianapolis, offers a light to one of the women. Caption doesn't state whether the stogies are popular PX brands.

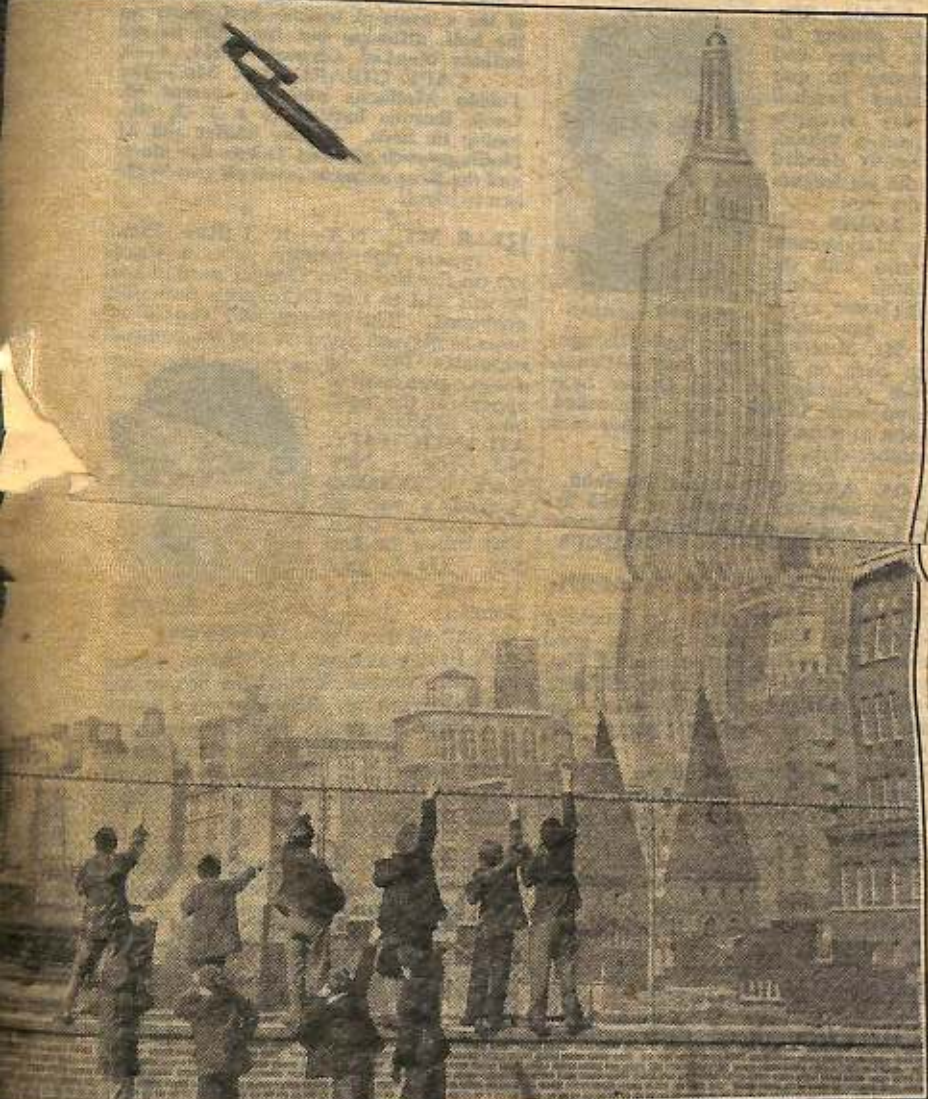
This is what last winter as a party in New York doodlebug

Here the Nazi thing.

out to Be Washed Up



Dark Rooms of America



Vice-Adm. Jonas Ingram, commander-in-chief of the Atlantic Fleet, meant when he warned that the Nazis could and would whip flying bombs over the U.S. east coast, with New York particularly desirable target. Here a group of boys on the roof of the Madison Square Boys' Club watch a V-1 tear for the Empire State building, but this happens to be a scale model of a V-1 created by Wallis Rigby, British model plane expert, and explains why the kids aren't hugging the ground like true V-1 vets.



Boys are all ears as they listen to Rigby explain the workings of his model. The miniature of the terror weapon is launched by hand and goes into the deadly plunge characteristic of the real thing. Rigby knows his subject first-hand, too, for he was in London during the terrible 80 days when buzz bombs rumbled overhead.

Last Week Over There

Death Showed Its Sting Good Friday

Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau
NEW YORK, Apr. 1—This was the week in which people felt the exhilaration of a 20-minute phony peace—but the spate of better news kept everyone from too severe a letdown.

It was a holy week for both Jews and Christians. Churches, chapels and synagogues were full of worshippers with hope and gladness in their hearts.

But on Good Friday the nation counted its dead—189,541 since Pearl Harbor—and realized that for every thrilling headline there were a hundred tragedies.

Among our better rumors was one that Germany hopes Japan will sue for peace shortly so the Nazis can claim they were never defeated—just let down by their allies. How's that again?

It's a global war on the editorial pages, but last week's hometown papers told us how our effort comes from every community—"Many Georgians in the Rhine Crossing"; "Assault Boats Made in New Orleans Used for Rhine Crossing";

"Chicago Paratrooper Leaps into Germany." It's all one war.

And we are enjoying early spring. Washington's cherry trees are blooming and 23 twigsnatchers were pinched in one day. Apple blossoms are out in Virginia. Fishing has started in many areas. Tappers are busy on New Hampshire's maple trees with what is claimed the sweetest sugar tap on record. Some farmers are afraid their crops, fooled by premature spring, will be nipped by frost and already that has happened with fruit trees at Las Cruces, N.M.

Even the staid New York Herald Tribune has been affected by the season. It headed a piece about shad being caught unusually early a "shad mistake."

George Gallup came up with two polls showing that home-front beefing, though audible, isn't too serious. Eighty-five per cent of those asked said the present income-tax is fair. And even if they don't like it, 82 per cent of those polled approved the curfew.

The nation is perturbed about the possibility of a meat shortage, although nobody can yet see why there should be one. There's cattle on the ranches, but they get snafued before they become three-inch steaks.

Distillers warn of another potential shortage—whisky. And in Atlantic City, proud of its golden-fried pullet, cafes advertise as a specialty, "chicken necks and dumplings."

In Charleston, W. Va., a butcher laid down his cleaver and vowed to try something more stable. In '33 he was out of work because people couldn't afford meat—now they can't get it. Maybe he should go to Miami, where they pay dishwashers \$150 monthly, plus room and board. And because of the shortage in fuel, girls at Mt. Holyoke College, Mass., are wearing flannel underwear.

In Cambridge, Mass., cops arrested a 19-year-old youth who organized a group of juvenile burglars. Also organized himself a 15-year-old "queen of the gang."

Now the Shoe Is on the Other Foot



It's fitting that some of the bullets Nazis are now dodging in Italy come from rifles of an all-Jewish brigade, now fighting with the 8th Army. Here the history-making unit lines up for inspection in Palestine before its departure for the front.



History makers, too, are these French troops, crossing the Lauter river into the German village of Schriebenhardt—first French penetration of the Reich since 1939.

Hitler's 'Holy Ground' Caught Hell

By Howard Byrne

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

WITH THE 70TH DIV., Apr. 1—Coming into Saarbrücken from the heights of Spichenen which Nazis call "Hitler holy ground," because it was the first French soil he set foot on, you read signs which say, "Surrender Never," "Victory or Siberia" and "Never Again Another 1918."

But Saarbrücken fell to the 1st Battalion of the 275th Regt., 70th Div., without a single shot being fired.

Pvt. Jess Cain Jr., of Philadelphia, a rifleman, just couldn't adjust himself to the idea that Saarbrücken had been taken. A few days before he had been on a 15-man patrol feeling out the dragons' teeth which skirted the southern edge of the city.

"Every guy on that job but me got hit," he explained. "Yesterday we drive right in like nothing. Screwy, isn't it?"

T/4 George E. Webb, Wilson, N.C., one of the cooks who brought the boys a pork chop dinner in a trailer, argued that Saarbrücken was the world's most beat up city. But not as bad as Aachen or Cassino, one of his buddies insisted.

Civilians poking around charred wreckage seemed more beat up than the buildings. Their grimy faces were morose expressions.

"These bastards tried to cuddle up to us when we came in," said Pfc Harold Van Horn, of Auburn, N.Y. "We told them to keep their distance."

However, not all civilians were trying to be palsy-walsy. Pfc Stanley J. Maiskey, of Baltimore, trotted up to the battalion with a six-foot fanatic he had pried out of a cellar.

"Here's that playboy who was sniping," he reported. "We got his rifle, two telephones and the radio he was using."

An officer conferred over the telephone about the matter. He said, "Take him over to the regiment. They'll take good care of him."



"... the world's most beat-up city."

"I hear that the women in this town used to get handfuls of that Hitler holy ground to keep in a jar on their mantels," said Pvt. Cain, surveying the ruin around him.

"Not many mantels left standing, are there?"

