

Reds Menace Nazi Grip on All Caucasus

Pilots Brave Ice, Storms To Hit Axis

Pound Bases in Tunisia As Africa Battles Draw Closer

By the Associated Press
Mud and mystery dominated the battles of Tunisia and Libya last night as these two struggles continued to merge slowly into a single battle for Africa.

Rain and electrical storms were coupled with gooey mire to reduce land and air activity to a minimum, and no clearer than this mud was the answer to the question, "Where is Rommel's armor?"

Although badly hurt by the British breakthrough at Alamein and nicked deeply again after Agheila, it was generally agreed that the Nazi marshal still has a heavy weight of tanks and men somewhere.

Fly in Bad Weather

British and American bombers and fighters braved violent electrical rainstorms and severe icing conditions to continue a day and night assault on important German communications and troop concentrations in Tunisia.

B17s with a P38 escort bombed the harbor and docks at Sousse yesterday, but were hampered by icing, which compelled one bomber to turn back, after one member of the crew, on the pilot's orders, baled out and landed on friendly territory.

Douglas A20s attacked bridges at La Hencha, north of Sousse, and also bombed an enemy tank depot southeast of Pont du Fahs, which had been the target of a P38 attack earlier in the day. A spokesman reported that all the U.S. bombers returned safely.

Night Flights in Rain

RAF Bisleigh bombers flew through some of Tunisia's worst weather of the campaign for a night of bombing and low-level strafing assault against German troop concentrations, road junctions, and motor convoys on the night of Dec. 28 in the Tunis, Massicault, and Pont du Fahs areas.

Allied fighters destroyed at least six German planes and at least 32 lorries in widespread forays against Axis communications in Tunisia and Tripolitania Tuesday, while Allied artillery destroyed two German tanks.

RAF Spitfires and United States P38s split the day's bag of six enemy planes.

British Leave Medjez Hill

The communique announced that British Guards units had retired from the hill gained in the Christmas battle six miles northeast of Medjez el Bab after inflicting heavy casualties on the enemy.

Deep mud continued to hamper major movements of troops and supplies there and along the northern sector.

The slight withdrawal of Allied forces east of Medjez el Bab was not regarded by observers as serious in itself although seen as further evidence of what the Allied Command has been emphasizing right along—that the Axis is strong in Tunisia and prepared to fight to the last to save the final African foothold, thereby delaying as long as possible the day when United Nations will be in a position to strike into Europe from the South.

The latest official report tending to (Continued on page 4)

U.S. Bombers Blast Lorient

U.S. bombers continued the assault on Nazi Europe yesterday, attacking submarine pens at Lorient in France in the afternoon. Three of our bombers, according to the Air Ministry and Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, did not return.

Squadrons of RAF, Dominion and Allied fighters made covering and supporting sweeps but did not encounter enemy aircraft.

Formations of enemy fighters which attempted to intercept the bombers were fought off and "a number" were destroyed. Details are not yet available.

Later yesterday, USAAF fighters on offensive patrol over the Boulogne-Abbeville area attacked a freight train. The last three box cars were seen to explode.

Women Guard Navy Air Base



Planet Photo

"Port . . . Arms!" is the order as these women, first of their sex to relieve men as U.S. airport guards, line up for inspection at the Naval Air Station, South Weymouth, Mass. Stiff Civil Service examinations must be passed before they receive appointments.

Wounded Gunner's Last-Ditch Fight Saved Fortress, Won DFC

A sergeant who manned his gun despite a broken arm, a broken leg and numerous wounds; a colonel who brought his group through long, hazardous operations without loss; a corporal who saved a man and woman from drowning—these were among four officers and eight enlisted men whose names appeared today on the growing Eighth Air Force honor roll.

S/Sgt. John J. Hudjera, Chicago, Ill., led the list, receiving the DFC. Though grievously wounded in a Fortress fight over occupied Europe, he stuck to his gun and, according to the citation, "undoubtedly prevented complete destruction of the airplane and probably saved the lives of other crew members."

Sgt. Robert H. Sangster, Vienna, Ga., won an oak leaf cluster along with his Air Medal "for extraordinary achievement" while manning the ball turret guns of a Fortress during combat over France Dec. 6. His ship was attacked by several German fighters and Sgt. Sangster destroyed one FW190.

Led Troop Carriers

Col. A. J. Kerwin Malone, West Point, N.Y., was awarded the Air Medal "for exceptional meritorious achievement while commanding and leading a troop carrier group during July, 1942. Displaying great personal courage, leadership of the highest order and exceptional flying skill, Col. Malone led his group on a long hazardous flight to its destination without loss of life or equipment."

Maj. Claude E. Putnam, Jacksboro, Tex., received the Air Medal award for "courage, coolness and skill" in five combat missions over enemy territory, serving variously as pilot, co-pilot and as machine-gun stations on Flying Fortresses.

Capt. Homer H. Noss, Stockton, Cal., (Continued on page 4)

Army Revises Signal Alphabet

'B' Is Baker, Not Beer, In New Symbols for Letters, Numbers

American, British and Canadian Armies here have got a new alphabet.

Several symbols for letters, used to insure correct reception when signalled in any way, have been altered. Thus "A" becomes Able instead of Ack, and "P" is now Peter instead of Pip. Here is the complete revised list:

A becomes Able instead of Ack; B is Baker instead of Beer; C remains Charlie; D is Dog instead of Don; E is Easy instead of Edward; F is Fox instead of Freddie.

G remains George; H becomes How instead of Harry; I is Item instead of Ink; J is Jig instead of Johnnie; K remains King; L is Love instead of London.

M becomes Monkey instead of Mike; N is Nan instead of Nuts; O is Oboe instead of Orange; P is Peter instead of Pip; Q remains Queen; R is Roger instead of Robert; S remains Sugar.

T becomes Tare instead of Toe; U remains Uncle; V is Victor instead of Vic; W remains William; X remains X-ray; Y is Yorker instead of Yoke and Z remains Zebra.

There are also new numeral sounds. 0 is Zero; 3 is Thu-ree; 4 is Fo-wer; 5 is Fi-yiv, and 9 is Niner. The others are as normally pronounced.

Italian Paper Approves Wallace's Peace Aims

BERNE, Dec. 30 (AP)—The peace aims along economic lines Vice-President Henry Wallace indicated in his recent speech would be acceptable to Italy provided there were adjustments to give the poorer nations economic opportunity, Giornale d'Italia implied in commenting on the speech today.

The newspaper, whose viewpoint is presumably that of Gayda (official spokesman) quoted lengthy excerpts, especially passages concerning abundance as against misery, "a war point on which all peoples could agree."

Take Two Key Cities In Drive on Rostov, Move Closer Hourly

One Force Occupies Kotelnikovo, Railhead; Another Takes Yashkul Defense Line; Two May Converge on Don City

MOSCOW, Dec. 30 (UP)—Hitler's hold on the Caucasus, as well as his gains during the summer north and east of Rostov, are beginning to totter following the Russian successes of the last 24 hours.

The fall of Kotelnikovo, 95 miles southwest of Stalingrad on the railway to Krasnodar, has paved the way for a new Russian drive across the flat Kuban country towards Rostov.

It has destroyed the anchor of the entire German right wing southwest of Stalingrad and southeast of the great bend of the Don. The entire strategic position of the Kuban area is thus reversed, laying it open to the fast-moving Russian tank columns.

The left flank of the German Caucasian armies is now threatened following the capture of the Yashkul line, the strongest German base protecting this flank.

Two Paths Open

From Yashkul the Russians may drive south across the flat steppes and hit at the Germans in the east Caucasus, or push directly westward and add their strength to the forces already converging towards Rostov in what is now more than a 90-degree arc.

At practically all points these converging Russian columns are advancing hourly, gravely increasing the threat to the big key point on the mouth of the Don.

The position on various parts of this front now is:

On the German's left flank the Russians are continuing their push towards Voroshilovgrad, although latest reports indicate stiffened German resistance here.

Nazi MPs in Battle

Among the German reinforcements in this area are many police units, which have been thrown into battle immediately they reached the front, after their marches. A number of these units were destroyed, according to the latest reports.

The Russians have also smashed a number of fortified points on this front and other enemy units which counter-attacked were subsequently routed, abandoning a considerable quantity of arms and vehicles.

Fierce battles were raging today in the outskirts of a town believed to be Millerovo. The Russians reached the outskirts after smashing the German resistance, stiffer than hitherto on this front.

Millerovo Encircled

Millerovo is already known to have been practically surrounded, with the Russians fighting at some parts within less than three miles of it. South of the town the Russians are already pushing southwards towards Rostov along the railway towards Kamensk.

From here, to where the Russian line crosses the Don southwest of Biryukov, steady pressure is being maintained by the Red Army.

South of Stalingrad the Russians are driving forward with several more places already in their hands after the capture of Kotelnikovo. Ilinka, on the Kotelnikovo-Tikhoretsk railway, is the next big town in their path.

In this advance the Russians captured the headquarters of two German divisions. At one place a German battalion commander gave himself up. When given the opportunity, he crossed back into the (Continued on page 4)

Japs Starving, Disease-Ridden At Guadalcanal

Marines Find Many Dead From Ills, Starvation; No Recent Supplies

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (AP)—Japan's isolated forces on Guadalcanal Island in the Solomons were reported authoritatively to be suffering severely from starvation and disease, and to have been without fresh supplies for about six weeks.

Comdr. Dwight Dexter, Coast Guard officer, who was in charge of the naval operating base at Guadalcanal until Nov. 5, told a press conference at the Navy Department today: "Right now the Japanese are having all they can do to combat starvation and disease, let alone having to worry about the bit of hell the Marines are giving them."

His observation coincided with a report from Sgt. James Hurlbut, Marine Corps combat correspondent in the Solomons, who said the Americans were keeping enemy reinforcements and supplies from Guadalcanal, and "disease and lack of proper medical facilities are playing havoc with the enemy. Recent Marine patrols have discovered scores of Japanese in bivouac areas who apparently died from disease or malnutrition."

Yesterday American forces scored a success in an artillery duel on Guadalcanal, according to the Navy Department.

Buna Airfield Taken

WITH AMERICAN TROOPS, New Guinea, Dec. 30 (AP)—Buna Airfield, from which Jap bombers and Zeros once started raids on Allied bases, fell completely into the hands of American and Australian forces today.

The field, now overgrown with high native grass, was completely occupied after artillery, firing at almost point-blank range, smashed the enemy's defen-

(Continued on page 4)

Special Service, Red Cross Plan Happy New Year's Eve

American soldiers are sure of a good time over New Years, if they can get time off to attend to it. Although Jan. 1, 1943 will be "business as usual" in U.S. Forces, the American Red Cross and Special Services, who provided a history-making Christmas for men overseas, are ready with a variety of dances, entertainments and other means of ringing out the old and in the new.

For instance, any soldier who hasn't any place to go New Year's Eve needs only call Special Services, London Base Command, where there are a number of invitations to parties in private London homes. Hotels were booked up solid yesterday, but all the Red Cross hostels are giving special events; not only New Year's Eve but also New Year's Day.

At the Hans Crescent, a "balloon dance," a comedy film show featuring "Slim" Allen, Tom Jova and Virginia White, souvenirs and refreshments are on the program. And, for the first time in any Red Cross club in Britain, women

guests and hostesses will wear evening dress. The dance starts at 7.30 PM and ends 12.30 AM. On New Year's Day a 3 PM concert by an Army band is scheduled.

The Washington Club will be converted into a night club for its New Year's Eve dance, music by W.O. Frank Rosato's Infantry swing orchestra.

Celia Lipton, singing star of "Get a Load of This"; Tommy Trinder, star of "Best Bib and Tucker," and the dancing team of Jeanne Ravel and Ronny Boyer are among the entertainers.

A vaudeville show and dance, 8 PM to 12.30 AM, are listed for the Milestone Club on New Year's Eve. Another dance, 7.30 PM to 11 will be held New Year's night.

A stag "surprise party" (no babes, bud) at the Rainbow Corner starts 8.30 PM on New Year's Eve.

The Mostyn Club's New Year's Eve (Continued on page 4)



With Kotelnikovo and Yashkul, key communications points, fallen to the Reds, Nazi forces in the Southeast are in flight. In the Northeast, the Russians strike closer to Voroshilovgrad, after surrounding Millerovo.

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Hash Marks

It's been a long long time since we've heard the Jello, or any other program on the radio. But one of our more fortunate acquaintances tells us he heard this one the other night. Jack Benny was protesting about a scene which called for an actress to slap his face. "It won't hurt," said a director, "she's wearing gloves." Piped Rochester, "So does Joe Louis."

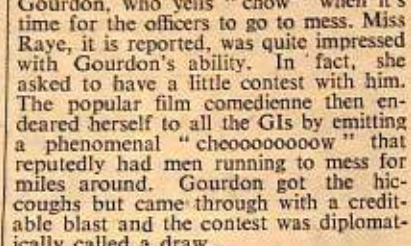
We heard this story while zipping into the bowels of the earth on an escalator; so it was a little hard to catch the necessary names to go with it, but we'll pass it on anyway. A corporal was telling us about a letter he received from a sergeant pal of his who's serving somewhere in the vast world theater of operations. The sergeant, who works for an AG publications office, received word that he was the father of triplets. Oddly enough, chuckled the corporal, the fellow works for the reproduction department.



If you heard a helluvalot of noise reverberating over the British Isles the other night and can't figure out what it was, we believe we have the answer. The movie stars over here—Kay Francis, Carole Landis, Mitzi Mayfair and Martha Raye—were putting on a show for an engineer unit. This particular unit is quite proud of the lung power of a certain private Gourdon, who yells "chow" when it's time for the officers to go to mess. Miss Raye, it is reported, was quite impressed with Gourdon's ability. In fact, she asked to have a little contest with him. The popular film comedienne then endeared herself to all the GIs by emitting a phenomenal "cheooooooow" that reputedly had men running to mess for miles around. Gourdon got the hiccoughs but came through with a creditable blast and the contest was diplomatically called a draw.

Overheard at a naval base in Ireland: "Is that guy conceited!—says he joined the navy so the world could see him!"

Home front flash. The latest shortage is alarm clocks. In Tulsa, Oklahoma, a few hours after the shortage was announced, five "Wake'm Up Bureaus" advertised they were ready for a small fee to awaken anybody, any hour, day or night. Shucks, we know some guys with bugles that do that kind of stuff for nothing—and you don't even have to ask 'em.



The latest communique from the Italian front (via illegal radio) reads: "It was so quiet at home last night you could hear Mussolini's heart drop." J. C. W.

An American Looks at England



This is England . . . the historic buildings of Whitehall, and American soldiers feeding the pigeons in old Trafalgar Square, with the famed stone lions in the background.

Russian Offensives

The tremendous striking power which Russia still possesses after eighteen months of war, demonstrated by the scope and intensity of present offensives, indicates that the German Armies on the Eastern front now face disaster.

The Stalingrad pocket is held firmly by the Russians, and the Battle of the Middle Don threatens to become the Battle for the Lower Don.

Should Russia's mighty armies crash through to Rostov, hundreds of thousands of German troops fighting in the Caucasus would be cut off, with their only avenue of escape barred except by way of the narrow passage across the straits of Kerch to Crimea.

At the present rate of progress, we should know the answer to this question within the next ten days, to two weeks. On the answer depends the length of the war.

Flying Tigers

The remarkable contention that Japanese air power over China could be wiped out by the maintenance of a force of 100 fighters and 50 bombers in that theater of war was made in Washington, D.C., recently by George L. Paxton, a former member of the American Volunteer Group, the "Flying Tigers," who between the outbreak of the Pacific War and their incorporation into the United States Tenth Air Force last July shot down 552 Japanese aircraft over Burma and China.

Speaking of his experience with the American Volunteer Group, Paxton called it "a dream outfit" and said that every man worshipped its leader, Brig. Gen. Chennault. "He's a genius, and in this war you have to be a genius."

The record of the Flying Tigers gives strength to the almost incredible statements made by Paxton. The story of Gen. Chennault is more thrilling than a Hollywood plot, and the organization, operation and tactics of the "Flying Tiger Squadron" will be studied carefully in future years in flying schools the world over. What would sound like a military impossibility coming from any other source is accepted as credible when applied to "Flying Tiger Standards."

It is also true that in the air Japan has proved to be no match for American flyers, even when the U.S.A. boys were operating planes considered by some to be inferior to the Zero models.

These facts spell disaster for Tojo's original war plans, and mean that the day of reckoning is close for those who "ordered" the attack on Pearl Harbor.

The "Black Market"

A new weapon has been forged by patriots in the occupied countries of Europe. It is the weapon of the "Black Market." Illegal trading, participated in by every class, pursues two main objectives: First . . . to withhold as much as possible from the Germans, and second . . . to supplement the meager rations of the people.

"Black Market" trade, of course, hurts the Germans where they can be hurt the most because, as is well known, they are depending for the feeding of their own army and people to a considerable extent on the looting of the occupied countries.

The farmers are necessarily in the forefront of the "Battle of the Black Markets" and they have been very successful. Wherever possible they have diverted part of their grain or vegetable crops to feeding their hungry compatriots. Milk deliveries, for example, have declined 45 per cent. in one country, and the entire decline is not due to the illegal slaughtering of dairy cows.

The fishermen, too, are taking part in the "Black Market" struggle on the home front, and shopkeepers are risking their lives each day to assist whenever possible in beating the "starvation ration program" that Nazi authorities have instituted.

The Nazis themselves, moreover, are not above participating in the "Black Market" game when bribes make such participation worth while. In the main, however, they hunt out and put to death or send to concentration camps the patriots who have organized the "Black Market" distribution system.

All evidence at hand thus far shows clearly that neither appeals, threats nor even the most drastic punishment can curb the growth of the "Black Market" trade in occupied countries. The people are out to beat the German whenever and wherever possible, and in the "Black Market Battle" they are doing it with very gratifying results.

First Strand Winner Tells Reaction to Life Here

Through The Stars and Stripes, Strand Magazine offered £25 for the best article on England by any of the American forces in Britain. The contest, according to Strand's Editor, yielded a batch of "extremely readable and often moving contributions." The first story, printed in Strand's January issue and reproduced here was written by Pfc William Hogan, now stationed in Africa with an armored service company. Others will be printed as they are selected. When all of the chosen stories are published, the Editor of Strand will name the final winner.

By Pfc William Hogan

"This," you say to yourself when you look out of the train window, "is England." And you find yourself repeating the fact all during the long train ride through the Midlands from a West Coast port, and later, too, when you bivouac temporarily in a grove of tall trees in an immense meadow with thatched-roof farmhouses nearby, and quiet peaceful people in the small village below you. "It's England," you say to yourself. You're somebody from Oregon, or

Minnesota, or Tennessee's hills, or perhaps a boy from the vast Dakota wheat lands, and maybe the first ocean you ever saw in your life was the one you just crossed in a convoy.

And you keep saying to yourself: "Look, this IS England."

Most of us, at first, notice the smallness of things to the people of England you meet. You don't tell them their goods cars look like children's toys, or their roads are too thin and winding, their autos midgets, their factories small, and their beer terrible to your taste. Because if you do, they think you are ridiculing their way of life and their land.

But you're not. It's just that Iowa and Nebraska and Texas and the steel works in Pittsburgh and the motor factories of Detroit are so sprawling and out of proportion that you forget there are other proportions. And a little later you find that the beer is all right, too, if you give it a chance.

England is so many things. There's a man from Nevada, another from a suburb of Milwaukee, here's a tall boy out of the Louisiana bayous, and there's a rancher from Arizona's colored deserts. To each of them England is a different thing, a different picture and experience. You cannot talk for them. You can talk only for yourself.

Learn the Language

Say you have been here a month. You have learned to call gasoline "petrol," a subway the "underground," and the movies the "cinema." You have learned to think and figure in terms of bobs and pence and pounds.

But you do not grasp all of this realm in a month. You grasp just a few scattered, sharp and immediate things that you keep thinking about, and they are the pictures in your mind that slowly become England to you.

For instance? Well, you're on your first leave up in London, and you find yourself in an immense, roaring city, the one they said was burning all through that time back in 1940, when the blitz was on. Outwardly, it does not show it.

Then suddenly you find yourself in the world's most famous streets, trying to look unconcerned as you pass a famous address in Baker Street. Then Whitehall. The immensity of Whitehall. Trafalgar Square, and the Strand, Downing Street, Soho, Park Lane, Charing Cross.

Buckingham Palace

You cross a large green and you find yourself in the Mall, and down there stands the Victoria Memorial, and across, behind the impressive grille, is the enormity of Buckingham Palace, with the King's colors flying up there, and in your throat you feel a twinge.

I don't know. The traffic and the horns of taxis, all the noises of the city, seem to fade as you stand there looking up at Buckingham Palace for the first time.

You don't know exactly what you are feeling. Maybe it's history, or simple dignity, or an overpowering sense of permanence.

Let's see. You're on top of a bus coming back to your camp late at night. Outside, the hills and the land are black, and there are no people on the roads, but far down on the horizon sharp anti-aircraft searchlights intertwine together, making an eerie background, like something out of a spectacular motion picture. The important thing now is that it is not a motion picture any more.

Around you on this bus are soldiers, British and American, all of them singing. The Welshmen sing loudly and beautifully, and the Americans keep quiet for a minute after shouting their own Tin Pan Alley tunes, to listen to those Welshmen, and then to the answering Scots, and then all sing out together "Keep the home fires burning . . ." Outside, along the horizon, the lights

stabbing for aircraft; inside, the voices in the darkness of the bus.

There is a thrill in your stomach from this, and you are glad you are here with these people; and by this small incident alone you have been inoculated with a spirit of comradeship.

Again, for instance, England is an auburn-haired girl who talks to you quietly in the speech of the north and tells you about the home she once had up there which was smashed by a Jerry bomb. She tells you quietly that a younger sister was killed that night, and that the boy she was going to marry was lost on a merchant convoy a year before, and that the chap her elder sister was going to marry died fighting in Crete.

'Unbeatable England'

She tells you about the others, her neighbors up there, who have gone through the same sort of thing. And you look at this girl in amazement, because she talks about these things with calmness, with such casualness at personal loss. Then you see that this is so because underneath she has such utter confidence in the result of this war that it doesn't make any difference, this personal losing of hers.

In this girl, talking there with you, is the unbeatableness of England.

It is the same with others you meet, the little people, the ones you talk with in the pubs and in trains, the ones who ask Americans the stock questions about moving-picture people and skyscrapers, the number of automobiles in American towns and the wages in the States.

You see in the faces of these little people, and hear in their voices, a strange sort of knowingness, a belief in the dignity of the cause for which their nation and their allies are fighting.

'Magnificent Fearlessness'

The thing about the common people of England seems to me to be this: They know they can lose individually, but deep inside them everywhere you find the complete and magnificent absence of fear. The outsiders and the armed hordes who attempt to crack that vital part of England have pitched themselves against the energy which even England did not know existed.

You find that the English are fighting for a lot of things. Not to get them, but to preserve them.

You know, talking to the British soldier, that he fights not particularly to gain anything, but to keep the things he loves, to go back again, back home to his garden and his girl; and like Americans, too, the British soldier knows he can do that only if a lot of other soldiers can go home to their gardens and their girls as well . . .

This, Then, Is England

Yes, England is all of these things. It is touching a cathedral wall and knowing it has been there for more than seven hundred years. It is walking down a lane underneath magnificent trees and stepping on the curbstones which Victoria used to pass.

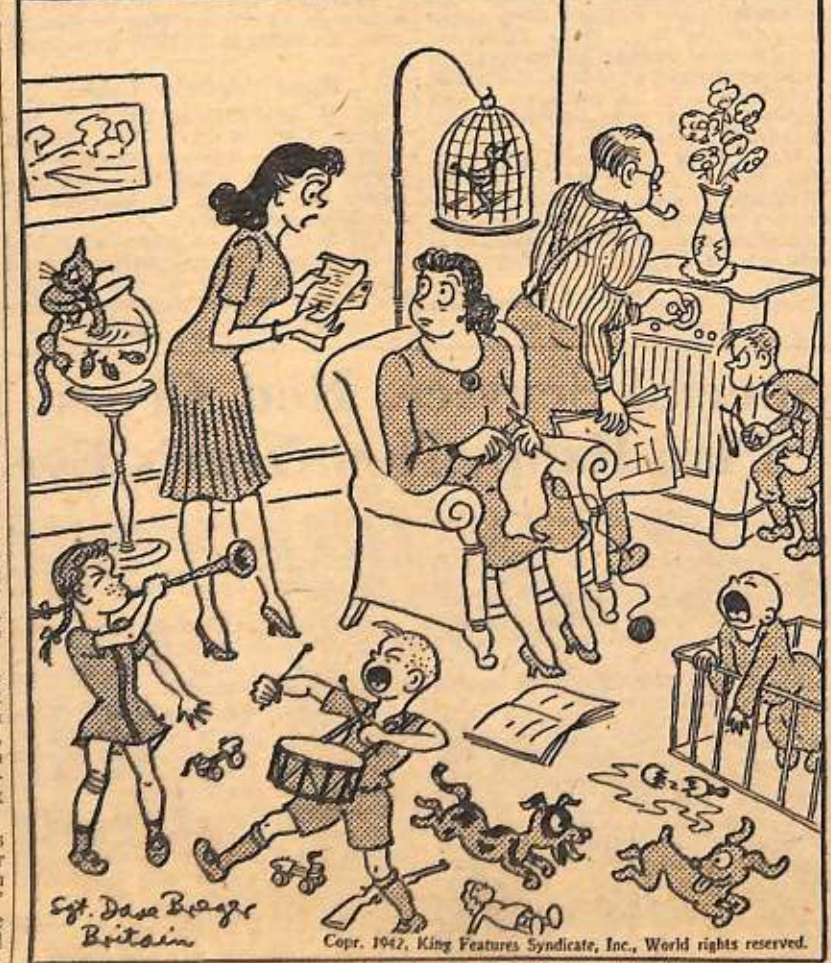
It is the healthy faces of little children, and long lines of brick houses in which live hard-working people, and it is people with tragedy around them who are still able to laugh.

England is the shadow of the Mother of Parliaments in bright moonlight under a bomber sky, and the defiance these ramparts of freedom fling back into the advancing fliers' eyes. It is the hospitable place to which we have come, filled with energy and with hope.

But do you really think anyone can put England into a handful of words after a month here?

These are some of the things we Americans have felt, and which I have written, and here they are.

PRIVATE BREGER



"Davis writes the battlefield is very restful!"

Segura Takes Orange Bowl Tennis Crown

Bartlett Wins First Set Of Finals, But Drops Last Three

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 30—Francisco (Pancho) Segura, the Ecuadorian tennis star who is ranked third among the nation's amateurs, won the ninth annual Sugar Bowl tennis title here yesterday, defeating Earl Bartlett, Southeast Conference champion from Tulane University, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-4.

Segura replaced Ted Schroeder, No. 1 amateur in the nation, as Sugar Bowl titleholder. Schroeder beat Segura in the Sugar Bowl finals last year, but did not compete this year.

Bartlett played magnificent tennis all through the match, but Segura's drop shots and sizzling services were too much for him. They split the first six games in the opening set, then Bartlett copped the next three and the set. He continued his spurt, taking the first game of the second set, but Segura's mastery began to tell and he won the next three, dropping one and then taking the next three for the set.

Bartlett repeated in the third set, walking off with the first game, but Segura, though hard pressed all the way, racked up six straight. Again, in the fourth set, Bartlett led 4-1, then Segura's drop shots began to click and he took five games and the title.

Darkness halted the doubles final with Bill Talbert, Cincinnati, and Charles Mattman, New York, leading Jack Tuero, Memphis, and Bartlett, 6-2, 8-6, 9-11, 5-3. They will complete the match today.

Rangers Trip Bruins, 5-3

BOSTON, Dec. 30—The New York Rangers defeated the Boston Bruins, 5-3, in their National Hockey League game at the Garden here last night before the largest Boston crowd of the season, 13,500.

It was the Rangers' third straight win, and the Bruins' first defeat on their home ice in 11 starts this season. The victory pulled the Rangers out of the League cellar into a fifth place tie with the Montreal Canadiens. The Bruins remained tied in first place with the idle Toronto Maple Leafs.

The Rangers completely outclassed the Bruins, scoring twice in the first and second periods and once in the thrilling third in which Boston rang up three goals. Ranger goalie Jim Franks played one of the outstanding games of his career with 42 saves to Boston Goalie Frankie Brimsek's 15.

NEWS FROM HOME

750 Cargo Ships Built in U.S. This Year, Meeting FDR's Goal

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (AP)—The American shipbuilding industry turned out in 1942 the record number of 750 merchant vessels, totalling 8,000,000 deadweight tons, to meet President Roosevelt's "blueprint for victory" goal, H. Gerrish Smith, president of the National Council of Shipbuilders, reported today in a year-end statement.

Axis submarines have sunk 575 Allied and neutral merchant ships in the Western Atlantic since Pearl Harbor, according to the Associated Press tabulation of announced sinkings.

Mr. Smith said: "If we are given the men, materials, and equipment we can and will meet the President's call for 15,000,000 deadweight tons of merchant ships in 1943."

Mr. Smith said that shipbuilders, rising to meet the challenge of mass production, delivered more than seven times the output of 1941, when 1,088,497 tons were completed, and smashed all standards for monthly production.

The industry built 125 merchantmen, aggregating 1,110,000 tons, in December. The previous record, set in September, was 93 vessels with a deadweight tonnage of 1,009,000. The yards turned out 84 freighters of 891,000 tons in November.

Mr. Smith said: "Shipyard facilities and growing efficiency have so expanded that we can now produce ships faster than certain controlling types of material can be supplied for commercial and naval vessels."

Lifts Alien Restrictions

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 30 (UP)—The lifting of the curfew regulations affecting German aliens in the western defence area of the United States, and the abolition of over 1,000 zones in which enemy aliens are prohibited, was announced from U.S. Army Headquarters here.

U.S. Makes Rubber Deal

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (AP)—The Board of Economic Warfare has disclosed that the United States is permitting the shipment of small quantities of rubber tires and tubes to four or five countries on the east coast of South America as

Who's the Heavyweight Champion in Ohio?

COLUMBUS, Ohio, Dec. 30—Harry Bobo, the Pittsburgh Negro heavyweight, outpointed Buddy Walker here last night in their scheduled ten-round heavyweight match.

The Ohio Boxing Commission recognizes Bobo as the heavyweight champion of the world for the duration of the war. Now we'll tell one.

Change of Style Helps Rangers

Blueshirts Turn From Offense to Defense, Take 3 Straight

NEW YORK, Dec. 30—The New York Rangers' surprise victories over the Toronto Maple Leafs earlier this week and Boston Bruins last night have given them their longest winning streak of the season—three straight.

The new strategy which accomplished this miracle, and succeeded in hauling the Rangers out of the National Hockey League cellar is called counterpunching. From an all-out offensive squad the Rangers have been transformed into a tight defensive unit, letting their opponents make the mistakes, then pouncing for the score. Moreover, in their game with the Leafs, the Ranger backline guarded touted Leaf rookie Gaye Stewart and sharpshooter Syl Apps so closely neither could get set for a clear shot.

Also outstanding were the goal tending of Jimmy Franks, who was given competent protection and showed big league form, the defensive work of ex-forward Al Pike, who kept his offensive instincts, scoring twice, and the team play of Bob Kirkpatrick, newest addition to the first line.

The Rangers used only two lines during most of the game and must continue this iron man stint for the rest of the week, since Phil Watson and Gordie Davidson are still on the injured list. Moreover, the four games next week may prove over strenuous for the Rangers' prospects of immediately bettering their standing in the league.

Canadian Lightweight Wins Over New Yorker

NEW YORK, Dec. 30—Johnny Greco, 136, Canadian lightweight champion, pounded his way to an eight-round decision over Gene Johnson, 144, New York, in their feature bout at St. Nicholas arena here last night.

Herbie Brydon, Newark, 141, scored an easy six-round victory over Mickey LaRosa, New York, 138, in the semifinals.

part payment for future supplies of crude rubber which are expected from the southern republics.

Officials said the shipments "would be in line with our policy of sharing with Latin America our shortages as well as our surpluses." The United States has contracted to buy the entire output of surplus crude rubber from 16 Latin-American countries.

Hundreds Watch Gun Duel

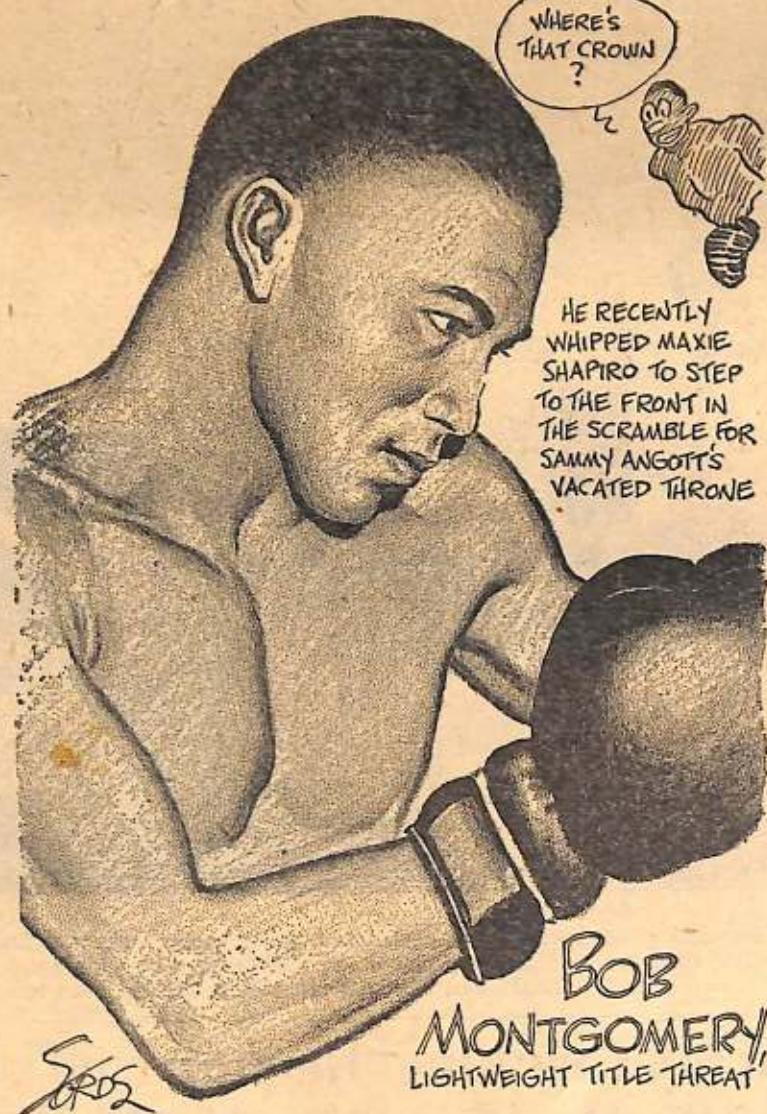
WRIGHTSVILLE, Ga., Dec. 30 (UP)—Hundreds of persons watched a gun duel resulting from a legal argument outside the courthouse here yesterday. Charles Claxton, former member of the Georgia State Legislature, and C. D. Prescott, sportsman, argued over a worker on Prescott's plantation. Claxton was wounded in the arm and hip and Prescott in the arm.

Novelist Held on Army Charge

MIAMI, Dec. 30 (AP)—Ursula Parrott, author of "Ex-Wife" and other novels, is under arrest charged with helping an army private to escape from detention. G-men alleged that the 40-year-old divorcee drove to the stockade where Michael Bryan, 22, was serving 30 days for being AWOL, concealed him in the rear seat of her car, and "did not return him until next afternoon."

Lightweight Title Threat

By Jack Sords



BOB MONTGOMERY, LIGHTWEIGHT TITLE THREAT

Richards Vidmer to Referee First Stars and Stripes Fights

One of America's outstanding sports writers, Richards Vidmer, formerly of the New York Herald Tribune, will referee the first Stars and Stripes fight cards at the Rainbow Corner, Tuesday night, Jan. 5. Vidmer is now in England as a major with the U.S. Air Force.

Other officials announced for the fights are Capt. Edward Corcoran, North Bennington, Vt., and Lt. Herbert Stribling, Savannah, Ga., as judges.

Lt. Stribling is a former professional fighter, known in the ring as Baby Stribling. In 268 fights he was knocked out only twice.

This is not the first time Lt. Stribling has been to England. A brother of Young Stribling, he came to this country when his brother fought Primo Carnera.

Capt. Corcoran, who is from an M.P. company, boxed at Norwich College, Vermont, in 1935, '36 and '37. While boxing at Norwich he fought under the same rules as those to be used for The Stars and Stripes bouts.

Maj. Vidmer will referee four bouts between American servicemen. Beside these four bouts Freddie Mills, light heavyweight champion of the British Empire, and Eric Boon, lightweight champion of Great Britain, will meet two opponents in special exhibition matches.

Amertex to Play Sailors For Ireland Cage Title

BELFAST, Dec. 30—The first game of a three-game series to select the champion basketball team of Northern Ireland will be played in the Belfast Red Cross Service Club on Saturday afternoon, Jan. 2. Both contestants claim to be champions of Northern Ireland.

The Amertex, a technician quintet, won the Red Cross elimination tournament at Belfast and claim the title. The other team, composed of men from a naval unit, were the winners of a tourney held in Londonderry and say they deserve the title.

The second game of the series will be played in Londonderry, with a third game, if necessary, at a place yet to be decided.

News on the Air

News is broadcast on both the Home and Forces programs at 7 AM, 8 AM, 1 PM, 6 PM and 9 PM. An additional broadcast is on the Home Service at Midnight. Sports news from America is presented by The Stars and Stripes on the Forces at 7 PM every day.

Belfast Handball Court Opens—With a Little Help

BELFAST, Dec. 30—A new handball court, the only one of its kind in Northern Ireland, was opened today at the Belfast Red Cross Service Club.

The court has been ready for use for several days, but Miss Mary Rice Anderson, club program director, was unable to obtain either handballs or handball gloves. A hurried call to The Stars and Stripes Help Wanted Department quickly solved her problem.

The London office searched the city and found four pairs of gloves but no balls. The Marine base at Londonderry also rallied to the cause, and yesterday a package arrived containing a dozen new handballs, together with two pairs of gloves.

Bears Topped Fielding In International League

NEW YORK, Dec. 30—International League Baseball figures for the 1942 season show that the pennant winning Newark Bears topped the League in fielding with an average of .971.

The Bears handled 5,664 chances with 164 errors, just two percentage points above the Montreal Royals and the Buffalo Bisons who were tied for runner-up.

The best fielding averages among the players were: Gene Corbett, first base, Newark, .995; and Lambert Meyer, second base, Buffalo, .976.

Basketball Results

- Arkansas 52, Texas Wesleyan 47.
- Oregon State 38, Michigan State 29.
- Texas Christian 40, Maryville 38.
- Navy Zoomers 34, Texas Tech 30.
- Baylor 51, West Texas 47.
- Texas 45, Oklahoma Aggies 36.
- East Central 34, Springfield 21.
- Oklahoma State 61, Springfield Teachers 39.
- Kearney 39, Nebraska Wesleyan 31.
- Wayne Teachers 60, Hastings 28.
- Midland 50, York 42.
- Manhattan 46, Niagara 39.
- Rockhurst 48, Washburn 34.
- Olathe Air Base 45, Missouri 35.
- Camp Grant 44, Glenview Air Base 30.
- Peru Naval Base 38, Lawrence Tech 30.
- Valparaiso 41, Evansville 37.
- Oregon State 38, Michigan State 29.

West's Coach Pins Hopes On Bob Kennedy

Hollingberry Not Worried About Paul Governali, But Fears Daley

SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Dec. 30—Babe Hollingberry, Washington State and Western All Stars' coach, is pinning his hopes for victory on Fullback Bob Kennedy, Washington State, in the New Year's Day East-West game here. Kennedy is an excellent blocker and plunger, but only a fair passer.

"We're not worried about the prowess of Paul Governali, the East's Number One passer," Babe said, "We've got four passers—Kennedy, Jim Jurkovich, Frank Porto of California, and Tom Roblin, Oregon."

Whistling in the Dark

Observers out here are inclined to regard Hollingberry's boasts as whistling in the dark since Jurkovich threw few passes last season, Porto none and Roblin is chiefly a plunger and blocker. As for Kennedy, they consider him a run-of-the-mine passer in comparison with a hurler as good as Governali.

And it's Governali that Hollingberry fears most, even though he isn't inclined to admit it. "Sure," Babe said, "we know Andy Kerr (Colgate and East's coach) is rapturous over Governali, but this Bill Daley of Minnesota is a tremendous runner. I don't know whether any of our fellows are fast enough to catch him if he gets in the clear."

Burckett May Star

The Easterners also respect Daley, whose three-year rushing average at Minnesota was five yards per try. However, they rate Governali as their chief asset, equal at least to Paul Christman, Missouri back, whose touchdown tosses gave the West its triumph last year.

Kerr has been using Les Horvath, Ohio State, right halfback, and Ends Dave Schreiner, Wisconsin, Bob Dove, Notre Dame, and Bill Burckett, Iowa, as receivers for Governali. Unheralded, Burckett may become the sensation of the game. Weighing 200, he is adept at faking and faster than either Schreiner or Dove.

Louis Praises Award to Ross

NEW YORK, Dec. 30—Sgt. Joe Louis, here on a brief furlough, commented on the selection of Barney Ross for the Eddie Neil Memorial Award, saying, "I know of no one more deserving of the award this year than Barney. He did just what one would expect of him in Guadalcanal in mowing down that bunch of Japs."

The award, made annually by the New York Boxing Writers' Association to the fighter who has done the most for boxing in the year past, was voted to Ross for his exploits on Guadalcanal, where he was stationed with the Marines.

"I know what kind of stuff Barney is made of," Louis continued. "I was in the Golden Gloves tournament with him in Chicago and I'm acquainted with his fistic accomplishments. He's a credit to the game and one of the nicest chaps I've ever known."

"I wish that I could be here when Jimmy Walker makes the presentation at the annual dinner given by the boxing writers. But I've other duties in the Army that sure keep me busy. But it's a great life and I love it."

U.S. Forces in India Find Time for Sports

CALCUTTA, Dec. 30 (UP)—Despite the recent bombings of Calcutta by the Japanese, Americans here are still devoting much of their leisure time to sports events.

During the holidays a team of American civilians defeated a combined team from the American and Canadian armies at softball. Widely publicized, the game netted \$2,500 for the Bengal Cyclone Relief Fund, drawing a mixed crowd of Americans, British and Indians. Star of the game was a southpaw hurler, William Stine, Los Angeles, Cal.

Also being held is the East India Lawn Tennis championships of the U.S. Army Air Force. Cpl. Hal Surface, ranking American tennis star, easily won both doubles and singles matches.



'Lost Battalion' Fights Its Way Back to Lines

Radio Out, Ammunition Nearly Gone, British Were Given Up

NEAR MEDJEZ EL BAB, Dec. 26 (delayed) (AP)—Seven miles behind the German lines, out of food, almost without ammunition and cut off from all means of communication with the Allied forces and being attacked continually, one of Britain's crack fighting units was given up for lost.

But today, four days after vanishing into the mountains towards Tunis, staggering from exhaustion, hungry and mud-covered, the "lost unit" of the North African campaign fought its way back into the Anglo-American lines, unbeaten and carrying its wounded.

A major, second in command, who twice had been reported dead on this front, pieced together one of the most remarkable fighting exploits of this war, as red-eyed, but still grinning, the Tommies marched into a front-line command post.

Creep Through Enemy

Three days before Christmas, the unit with 55 mules set out through the mud into the mountains held by the Germans. So boggy were the slopes as they crept single file through the German lines, they were only able to travel a mile in a half hour.

During the night the major fell off a ravine, was knocked unconscious and awoke to find his unit gone and a German battery less than 300 yards away. He watched it through the day and saw it drawing up more artillery at night. Taking off his helmet, which would shine in the moonlight, and discarding his kit, he made his way back to the lines at dawn Christmas after two brushes with German patrols.

Lose Contact With HQ

Meanwhile the battalion pushed on. All through Dec. 23 they hid in the bushes, dozing sometimes in the mist. With nightfall they pushed on again almost reaching their objective on Christmas Eve. Their radio had been smashed, and a steady fall of rain made air contact impossible. All but 10 of the mules died of exhaustion, but the men went on. As they neared their objective they shot up a German outpost.

The Germans spotted them as the fog lifted and from their lofty mountain position they could see the Germans rushing about, gathering forces to attack.

Back at headquarters frantic efforts to contact the unit had been fruitless. "On Christmas Eve about 11 o'clock the Germans attacked us," the major said. "Our commander had chosen as headquarters a high knoll which was perfectly obvious, so that patrols returning would be sure to reach our lines instead of wandering into the German positions. He grabbed a rifle with the rest of us and we went to it."

"The attack lasted until 2 AM Christmas. The Germans tried a winking (bayonet) charge, but our lads stood firm and gave it to them and they fell back."

'Merry Christmas'

After the attack the commander decided it was necessary to withdraw as ammunition was almost out, food and water gone, and there were some wounded.

He gathered the officers round, calmly wished them "a merry Christmas," and gave the order to withdraw. The battalion started to fight its way out of the German lines.

Christmas was spent half in a ravine less than 1,500 yards from the German position and under machine-gun fire.

First the wounded were sent out. Then the unit drew out of range over a ridge. Many of the men had been without sleep since Dec. 22 and were on the verge of utter exhaustion, but they kept going through and round the German positions, led by their commanding officer throughout the day and night.

At dawn today the first groups began to reach the Allied lines. The unit, which had been in the front line since their landing at Algiers, and endured the terrific fight at Tebourba, completed its withdrawal to the comparative safety of the British-American lines by nightfall on Boxing Day with amazingly small casualties. They brought out all their wounded, carrying most of them on improvised stretchers.

Heroes - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

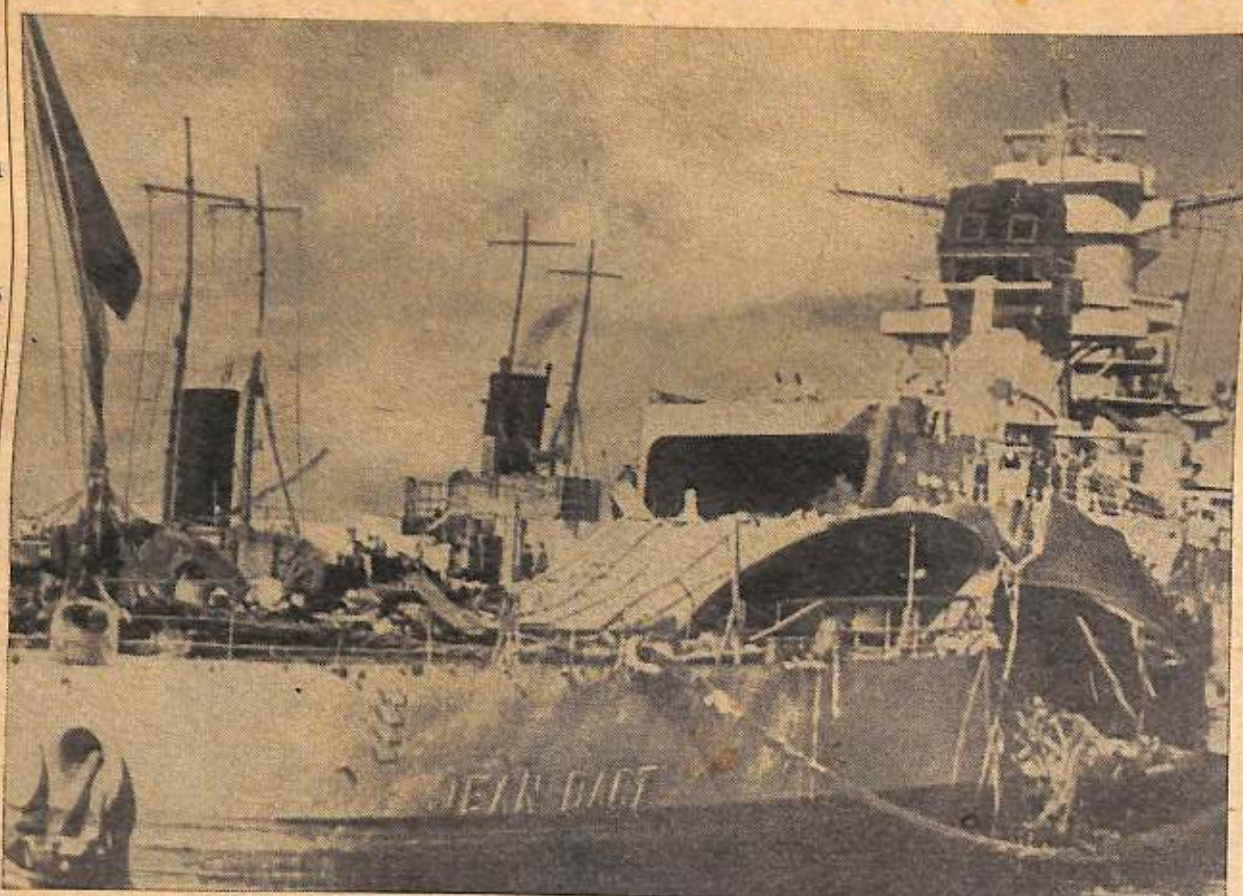
won the Air Medal for a feat of flying that brought his heavy bomber safely across the final 1,000-mile leg of an over-water flight with two of its four engines out of commission.

Other Air Medal winners: Capt. John M. Regan, San Francisco; T/Sgt. Daniel Goldstein, Brooklyn; T/Sgt. Jarvis E. Hall, Dallas, Tex.; S/Sgt. Frank S. Tamsett, Saratoga Springs, N.Y.; Sgt. Jack Belk, Temple, Tex.

The Purple Heart was awarded S/Sgt. Warner E. Renner, Camden, Ind., wounded Dec. 12 in a Fortress over Europe.

Cpl. Eugene B. Thompson, Jr., Needles, Cal., won the Soldier's Medal for saving a man and woman from drowning in November of this year.

Here's What American Battle Power Can Do



Her deck plates buckled and debris-laden, and a gaping hole torn in her side, the French battleship Jean Bart, damaged by U.S. Navy planes and shells after the beginning of the African campaign, lies at-docks at Casablanca, West Africa. Picture has just been released by the Navy.

Army Drinking No Big Problem

Survey in States Shows Troops Less Thirsty Than in 1918

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 (AP)—There is no evidence of excessive drinking among American troops, and alcohol does not constitute a serious problem among them.

These findings were reported by the Office of War Information, whose investigators travelled 12,000 miles in a coast-to-coast survey of "drinking conditions" in and around Army camps.

The investigators came to the conclusion that the sale of light beers in army camps was a healthy and sensible arrangement. The fact that there is much less drinking among the soldiers in this war than in the last—which is almost universally confirmed by army commanders and civilians—may arise from the sale of beer in the camps.

In the last war the camps were "dry" and bootleggers did a thriving business. No army in American history has ever been so orderly as the present one, the O.W.I. report said.

The investigators found that coffee, milk, malted milk and bottled soft drinks were the best-selling beverages in the camps. The report said that commanding officers agreed that half the troops drank nothing stronger than beer and many even abstained from that. Army chaplains concurred in this opinion.

The O.W.I. said that beer provided the soldiers "with mild relaxation without impairing their efficiency and there was no indication that the sale of beer lowered the number of total abstainers."

Africa - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

confirm the widespread belief that Rommel is planning no stand in Tripolitania but pushing through to a junction with Nehring was the communique Tuesday telling of a successful American plane attack on a long Axis motor column west of Tripoli and moving still westward.

In Tripolitania British patrols penetrated at least 10 miles beyond Wadi el Bey and Wadi el Kebir and are keeping up a steady pressure on the retreating enemy. Wadi el Kebir is 40 miles west of Sirte, which was occupied on Christmas Day.

In the Mediterranean an Axis supply ship blew up in a cloud of flame and smoke which rose 5,000 feet as a torpedo launched by a Malta-based naval aircraft struck home.

Mechanized Army, Offensive In Air, Marked '42 for Britain

The British Army came out of the mud in 1942 and made itself a fast, hard-hitting mechanized force, while the RAF last year gained definite superiority over the Axis, year-end reports issued yesterday by the War Office and Air Ministry declared.

The annual reviews were the most cheerful of any since the war started. The War Office proclaimed that defeat of the Afrika Korps late in 1942 showed the world the first results of Britain's three year struggle to create an army trained and equipped to fight Germans on even terms.

Mechanization and fire power was the watchword of the army in 1942, and bomber strength the achievement of the RAF, which developed many new and efficient types for tremendous assaults on Germany and occupied Europe.

Infantry Mobile Now

British infantry, the report said, "has come into its own, and today is mobile. . . . It no longer is the plodding, mud-encumbered 'poor bloody infantry' of Passchendaele, nor the ineffectual gallants who were swept back by the weight of German metal to the beaches of Dunkerque."

The report said 1942 has marked "the significant turning point" of the war on land—passing of the general strategic initiative from the Axis to the United Nations.

Perhaps the most remarkable development of 1942 was the RAF's climb to superiority over the Luftwaffe.

New bomber types and tactics were described, particularly in use of the four-engined bomber, together with the fast Mosquito bomber in place of older twin-engined types. "Increased damage has been done," the Air Ministry said, "to German and Italian war industries, ports and railways, without any corresponding increase in the actual number of aircraft used."

Saturation Raids

"The advantage of the saturation attack was first clearly revealed in the raid on Lubeck on the night of March 28-29," the report went on. "It was found possible to carry out very heavy attacks in as short a period as an hour. Improved bombs, including the new 8,000lb. high explosive bomb, also appeared."

A main feature of RAF's 1942 strategy was the use of fighters for offensive sweeps. The fighter attacks on locomotives and barges in France, Belgium, and Holland strained the enemy transport system, which already is deteriorating, the Air Ministry claimed.

"In 1942," the report said, describing development of coastal power, "Coastal Command aircraft flew over 25 million miles, mostly on anti-submarine patrols. Three hundred attacks were made on U-boats in 12,000 patrols. Over 4,000 attacks were made on enemy shipping."

The RAF pointed to its part in the North African campaign, where ground personnel followed assault forces on to the beaches east of Algiers.

Floods Menace Three States

NEW YORK, Dec. 30 (AP)—Several war factories were closed, hundreds of homes, shops, and streets were flooded, and rail and road transport was curtailed in the Pittsburgh industrial area today as rivers and streams overflowed their banks.

The floods swept down the Allegheny River, north of Pittsburgh, and moved down the Ohio River towards Ohio and West Virginia.

In Pittsburgh proper the waters, rising six inches an hour, flooded the low-lying streets at the edge of the "Golden Triangle" business section which was devastated by the 1936 flood.

Firemen and civil defense workers assisted families marooned in nearby communities. The Red Cross relief began evacuating families and opening feeding stations.

The Ohio River at Pittsburgh was 32.4 feet at midday, highest in 100 years. A 36-foot stage was predicted.

Pacific - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

sive bunkers with a heavy loss of Japanese lives.

Only wrecked enemy bombers, their bright orange Rising Sun still glistening in the sun, and damaged Zeros remained on the once important base which American planes long ago made untenable with frequent bombings.

At the same time a "triangle" which stubbornly resisted American attempts to capture it was taken unopposed after the Japs withdrew and left their posts unattended.

Bitter fighting marked the battle for the field, which yesterday was held partly by Japanese and partly by Americans and Australians. Shell after shell was hurled at Jap positions, with ground troops finally moving in to clean it up.

In New Ireland a prolonged night harassing attack on the Japanese airdrome area at Kavieng was by medium bombers, and started large fires, one of which burned for 90 minutes.

Russian Drives Menace Nazis' Caucasus Grip

Capture Two Key Cities As Push on Rostov Gains Speed

(Continued from page 1)

German lines, got the remainder of his battalion, and brought them over too.

(By capturing Kotelnikovo, the Associated Press pointed out, the Russians are now in full possession of 113 miles of railway between Kotelnikovo and Stalingrad. Kotelnikovo was used as a supply base by the Germans for their armies south and southwest of Stalingrad, and even for their forces operating in the Don bend. Huge stores had been brought up this line from Rostov by way of Tikhoretskaya.

(The capture of this base is one of the most significant Russian accomplishments of the present campaign. Held by the Germans for four months, it was the place where the Germans unloaded their tanks from the supply trains and sent them into action.

(It was believed that the Germans had carried on extensive assembly and maintenance operations there, and they had also used the town for air operations against Stalingrad. There the Reds captured 17 undamaged planes and a train-load of tanks.)

Retreat a 'Debate'

The word "debacle" fits the German retreat on this front. On one sector the Russians surrounded two infantry regiments and wiped out 1,800 enemy troops. Booty and material destroyed is still being counted.

From south of Kotelnikovo the Russian lines now run southeast and south to west of the Yashkul line, which fell to the Russians with the capture of Yashkul, some 50 miles east of Elista, capital of the Kalmuk.

This area was strongly fortified by the Germans and contained numerous belts of anti-tank and anti-infantry obstacles, minefields, dugouts and pillboxes.

Smashing down the enemy's defenses with concentrated artillery fire, the Russians sent their infantry ahead and occupied the positions after fierce fighting.

Stalingrad Springboards

The Red armies here are now able to push southeast and hit at the Germans in the eastern Caucasus, or drive directly west across the Kalmuk steppes—over country which offers little opposition to tank thrusts—towards Rostov.

Inside Stalingrad the Russians have established "springboards" for their next attacks with the capture of large numbers of fortified points.

To the northwest of the city counter-attacks launched by the trapped German forces are only hastening the process of wearing down the 22 trapped German divisions, which apparently have no hope of escape.

The Russian offensive on the central front is being steadily pushed ahead. Several more inhabited places were occupied in the Veliki Luki area, while part of the Russian forces on this front took one place and wiped out a German regimental HQ.

Raiders Bomb and Gun Two Southwest Towns

At least one person was killed by bombs which fell in scattered residential districts of a southwest town in Britain yesterday. A number were trapped beneath debris, and it is believed the death toll may mount. A number of houses were demolished.

Another town was machine-gunned from the air by a second raider.

New Year - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

program calls for a GI floor show and dance, 9 PM to 12.30 AM.

Guests at the New Year's Eve dance in the Edinburgh club, Scotland, will make a round of "Hogmanay" parties, traditional Scotch affairs, after midnight and then return to the club for breakfast, which will be prepared by soldiers.

In Belfast another formal dance is open to all servicemen in Northern Ireland.

A pageant of the British Empire and her Allies will be staged in the Royal Albert Hall on New Year's Day with a detachment of the security company of Headquarters, European Theater of Operations, representing the United States.

The detachment consists of S/Sgt. Harry Patin, Crowley, La.; Sgt. H. B. Forman, Crowley, La.; Pfc. Warren Dorman, Tampa, Fla.; Pfc. Cecil Valentine, Haynesville, La.; Pfc. Clyde R. Young, Danville, Va.; Pfc. Frederick M. Savage, Tarboro, N.C.; Pfc. Albert Dephillips, Hammond, La.; Pfc. Aston Dronet, New Iberia, La.; Pfc. Alvin Avritt, Cleveland, Miss.; Pvt. Roy D. Culp, Grand Rapids, Mich.; Pvt. Walter M. Paris, Dallas, Tex.; Pvt. Cecil Kieth, Jefferson, Ia.; Pvt. Glendon Moser, Oosterdock, La.; and Pvt. Louis Huxford, Des Moines, Ia.

Servicemen's tickets for the pageant are 2s. 6d.

Blondie

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

by Chic Young

