

## British Take Gabes, Pursue Foe North

### The Engineers Hitch-Hiked to War

By Bryce W. Burke  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

HQ.—TH ENGRS. (GS), England, Mar. 30—This outfit hitch-hiked to war. Officially there wasn't room on the convoy, but Col. Harry (Hitch-hike) Hulén wanted to go, so he told his men to toss their barracks bags on the dock and then thumbed his regiment across 3,000 Atlantic miles, on four different ships, to get here.

They landed in the British Isles without orders, equipment or plans. They didn't have a place to live or any idea what would happen next, but they had picked up a piano, 2,000 books and a load of fresh fruit on the way, and, as the colonel said, "We got here, so what the hell!"

According to Col. Hulén, who comes from Jackson, Miss., the story had its beginning back in World War I, when he wanted to go overseas but couldn't get any farther than the docks.

"I reached the port of embarkation three times, but my orders were changed each time and I never got overseas," he explained.

When his unit reached port in this war, and all but one battalion were ordered to an eastern port to wait "a few weeks" for the next convoy, Col. Hulén thought the same thing starting again. The one battalion had passage overseas; the rest didn't—officially.



Col. Harry Hulén

"Why can't the rest of us go on this convoy?" the colonel demanded of port authorities, and was told there was not sufficient room. Not to be put off so lightly, the Mississippi colonel went to see for himself, and managed to find space for all but one company of his regiment.

Depositing excess baggage and barracks bags on the dock along with the forsaken company, Col. Hulén dispersed his men on four vessels of the convoy and informed port authorities he was ready to go.

There was only one small technicality yet to clear up. Army regulations say the senior officer on a ship is in charge, and Hulén, 18 years in his present grade, ranked the colonel already placed in command and comfortably settled on the ship. There was some disturbance, but the engineer colonel eventually took over command of the troops on board and with it the best suite.

"There were a lot of Red Cross nurses on board, and they and their lieutenant escorts took over my suite," Hulén said. "I couldn't even find a place to sit down."

The men of the unit weren't sitting down either. They wandered over the boat, inspected it and weren't satisfied. They looked at the lifeboats, then at the cold, (Continued on page 4)

### Eighth Army Drives To Join U.S. Forces; Air Support Mounts

#### Algiers Says British Navy Landing Men At Sfax, 70 Miles North of Gabes; Yanks Advancing on Flank

The pincers were closing tighter on Rommel's once mighty Afrika Korps last night as the British Eighth Army, bursting through the 16-mile-wide Gabes Gap, occupied the port itself and pushed northward, and American, British and French troops pressed still closer against the Axis flank.

The retreating Axis forces tried desperately to stem the onrushing British troops, but were thrown back north of Gabes on the Tunisia coastal road, and a junction between the Eighth Army and the American Fifth Army in the Guettar Pass seemed imminent.

Algiers radio broadcast a report last night that the British Navy was disembarking fighting forces at the port of Sfax, far in Rommel's rear. There was no confirmation from Allied sources. Sfax is 70 miles north of Gabes.

Gabes, Rommel's southernmost port, was seized within 24 hours after his Mareth Line defenses collapsed. The port had been subjected to a continuous air bombing and a heavy week-end shelling from British warships, which moved into position in the Gulf of Gabes as the Eighth Army jammed through the line.

Capture of Gabes—and of El Hamma, 20 miles directly west—was primarily the work of divisions of New Zealanders and Scotsmen. They led the flanking movement which Gen. Montgomery sent around the southern end of the Mareth Line when the enemy succeeded in holding his frontal attack.

Every mile of the Eighth Army's advance beyond Gabes made the enemy positions east of El Guettar more untenable, and both the British and the Americans anticipated a combined sweep up the Tunisian coast.

#### Not a Rout

Dispatches from the front emphasized, however, that Rommel's retreat had not taken on the aspect of a rout. His rear-guards maintained stubborn resistance and his sappers planted thousands of mines and booby traps to cover his withdrawal.

Bayonet fighting was in progress north of Gabes as the New Zealanders and Scots pressed close on the heels of the enemy toward Outref, ten miles up the coast, Algiers radio said last night. All obstacles, "natural and artificial," were being overcome, the radio added.

The number of prisoners taken since the Mareth offensive began ten days ago has grown to 8,000, the Allied communiqué announced yesterday. Most of them are Italians.

On other fronts the Americans and French were drawing the ring on Rommel tighter.

Only a few miles to the north American troops were edging eastward at several points toward the vital coastal highway on which the retreating army's transport was withdrawing toward Sfax.

#### Yanks Gain Ground

Southeast of El Guettar, American infantry was advancing Monday night under heavy mortar and artillery fire over the "Hot Corner" foothills east of the Febel Berda and were approaching the junction of a road from Kebili to Gabes. Kebili, an oasis just south of the salt lakes, was being threatened by the French troops on the left flank of the Eighth Army.

In the Maknassy sector, further north, Maj. Gen. George C. (Blood-and-Thunder) Patton's forces repulsed two fierce German attacks designed to give Rommel elbow room for his withdrawal. At latest reports a third such assault was still in progress.

Still further north French and American forces were reported by Morocco radio yesterday to be converging on Kairouan, and in the extreme north the British and American First Army was (Continued on page 4)



The British Eighth Army pursued Rommel North of Gabes last night as Americans around El Guettar, Maknassy and Fondouk pushed into Rommel's flank. Algiers radio said British Navy was landing men at Sfax, 70 miles north of Gabes.

### Twin Night Raids By RAF Batter Berlin and Ruhr

#### Double Force Loses 33; Fires Are Started in Reich Capital

Germany's anti-aircraft defenses, already strained by repeated heavy blows from American and RAF bombers, face a new threat—twin raids, in force, at widely separated objectives.

The new technique, made possible by the growing strength of the Allied air forces, was demonstrated Monday night when one heavy force of RAF and Empire bombers dumped tons of high explosives on Berlin—while another large force lashed at the important railway junction town of Bochum and other objectives in the industrial Ruhr.

The raid on Berlin was the RAF's eighth visit to Berlin this year and the third this month. The attack cost the RAF 21 bombers, an indication that several hundred planes probably took part.

#### 12 Lost Over Ruhr

Twelve planes were lost in the Ruhr bombing.

The effect of attacking several target areas at once may be to pin down German defenses and force the Nazis to spread their night fighters and AA batteries thinly instead of concentrating them.

The Berlin radio said last night that a new AA device called the "Kommando Instrument" was used against the raiders and was responsible for the loss of British planes.

"The instrument follows the aircraft constantly," the enemy station said, "and played a large part in achieving the result of 27, or, as the British admit, 33, planes shot down."

Pilots returning from recent raids have reported encountering a new form of anti-aircraft barrage which burst like a huge daisy with a red center and fringes of white explosions.

One effect of the stepped up series of raids was reported from Stockholm, Sweden, yesterday. Copies of the Essen newspaper, Essener National Zeitung, dated Mar. 29, said all Essen schools had been closed for the duration of the war because of the raids.

Both striking forces battled tough (Continued on page 4)

### Archbishop Spellman Flies to North Ireland

A USAAF STATION, N.I., Mar. 30—Archbishop Francis J. Spellman, of New York, arrived here from England by air this afternoon for a stay of "several days."

His trip, it was explained, was for two purposes. He will visit the American Embassy in Eire and then will come back to Northern Ireland for a series of meetings with Catholic chaplains assigned to U.S. Army units here.

### Unpopular Cigarette Brands To Be Cut Under New Setup

Soldiers in the ETO soon will be able to buy the kind of cigarettes they like at Post Exchanges, an Army Exchange Service spokesman said yesterday. Unpopular brands are being eliminated, when present stocks are exhausted, and the shipping space they consumed will go to added quotas of more popular brands.

The change is one of several which will result from a new policy of operation for the PX organization. Within a few weeks it will revert to the setup used in the United States and which was in force here until last October.

American magazines and other reading material also will be on sale at Army Exchanges soon, it was announced.

The change over to control by the Quartermaster Service was effected in order to obviate the extra cost on articles that had to be transported by sea, insurance costs being a large item, it was explained. It has now been found possible to arrange a system whereby the Quartermaster Service and the Army Exchange Service can cooperate to supply the Army Exchanges. During the time the PXs have been under the QM the name used was "Sales Stores."

Lt. Col. Edmund M. Barnum, ETO exchange officer, said in London last night that these changes "will not mean any increase in prices."

"The Quartermaster Service will act as wholesaler, it will warehouse and distribute the merchandise, and the Army Exchange Service will act as retailer."

"Cooperation between the two services is very close, the object of both being to give to the members of the American forces in this theater the best possible service and range of goods possible, having consideration to present conditions."

"There are many things we would like to provide that are impossible. Radios, for instance. They are difficult to pur- (Continued on page 4)

### Denmark Scene Of New Revolt

#### Danes Join in Resistance; Yugoslav Guerrillas Increase Forays

Danish workers were reported yesterday to have joined the growing wave of resistance and sabotage sweeping German-controlled Europe, while in Yugoslavia guerrilla warfare grew to such a pitch that the Axis was reported rushing fresh reinforcements for the five divisions now tied down there.

In Denmark, a machine shop was bombed in Copenhagen Mar. 10; a factory making uniforms for the German army was set afire by five men Mar. 21, and three Germans were wounded in an explosion and fire which wrecked a German barracks in Aarhus Mar. 22, according to reports reaching Stockholm.

In Yugoslavia German troops were fighting pitched battles with patriots whose numbers were swelling daily in anticipation of new developments in the Mediterranean area, the Associated Press reported from Ankara.

There were fresh reports of rebellion (Continued on page 4)

### Six Teams Reach Quarterfinal Round in ETO Cage Tourney

By Charles F. Kiley  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

Six teams advanced to the quarterfinals of the ETO basketball tournament yesterday by surviving first-round eliminations in spacious Albert Hall.

Results of the first day's action left the SOS Fourth Port Ramblers with a close victory over the Londonderry Naval Base, 23-22; London Base Command with a handsome 47-34 triumph over the GIs, SOS unit and champions of Northern Ireland; the 7th Division Blues, winners over the 4th Cavaliers, 42-37; Southern Base Section, a close victor over the Eighth Air Force Support Command, 33-27; Eighth Air Force Service Command an easy winner over the 4th Engineers, 37-26, and Fighter Command edged out the SOS Red Raiders, 29-24.

The tourney continues today at 1 PM with two more first-round games followed by two quarter-final tilts in the afternoon. The second pair of quarter-final games will be played tonight starting at 7 PM.

The semi-finals and finals are scheduled for tomorrow.

Eighth Air Force Service command remained in the tourney by eliminating The 4th Engineers in the first of two games played last night.

The Service command also came up with one of the individual stars of the day in Don Samsal, a slender sharpshooter from Lima, Ohio, who always seemed to come through when his team needed points. Samsal scored eight points in the first half and six in the second to lead both teams with 14 points.

The Engineers got off to a bad start when Service Command erected a 10-0 lead before Alex Zukowski, Engineer forward, netted a set shot. Early in the third quarter, the Engineers climbed back to within four points of their opponents at 24-20, but Samsal gave the Air Force five a wider margin with a pair of one-handed shots.

The Fourth Port Ramblers, losers of (Continued on page 3)

### Soviets Smash German Attacks Along Donetz

#### Heavy Fighting Flares On Three Sectors Of Front

MOSCOW, Mar. 30 (UP)—Renewed activity sprang up in three main sectors of the Russian front today. At the same time, Russian troops broke three attacks at different points on the Severny-Donetz and forced the Germans to retire after inflicting heavy losses.

Heavy fighting for the river crossings along the middle course of the Severny-Donetz, where the main bridgeheads are littered with German corpses, is still continuing.

Dispatches from the front reported that despite heavy losses the Germans are continuing their assaults on the hills which dominate the approaches to the west bank of the river. Soviet artillery entrenched on top of these hills can sweep the approaches to the river with fire, and have constantly checked the German attacks.

The few small groups of Nazis who have succeeded in pushing their way across the river have all been wiped out, the Russians say.

Fighting on the Smolensk front has died down as the weather converts the battlefields into a sea of mud.

The Russians announced that they had smashed their way into German fortifications forming a network south of Byeli, 75 miles to the northeast of Smolensk. The Germans counter-attacked but were beaten back and Russian troops occupied a number of inhabited places, including three hamlets.

Berlin reported particularly violent fighting east of Staraya Russa in the sector south of Lake Ladoga today.

It was claimed that Russian attempts to dislodge the Germans from their advance positions had failed although they were carried out with superior forces. Successful German shock-troop actions south of Lake Ilmen and on the Volkhov sector were said to have been carried out.

### U.S. Trucks Bucking Mud All Along Russian Front

MOSCOW, Mar. 30 (AP)—American motorized equipment is receiving its severest test of the war in the mess of mud and slush which the whole Russian front is becoming.

Last year some American jeeps were used in the spring fighting, but there were few heavy American trucks in action on the Russian front. Now 50,000 trucks and 20,000 jeeps are in use. Russian generals frankly admit that American equipment bore the main burden in the offensive southwest of Stalingrad, on the Don and in the Ukraine.

Russian drivers say the American trucks will "go everywhere—so far," and that even if they are "foreigners" they are "making themselves at home here."

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Daily Newspaper of the U.S. Armed Forces in the European Theater of Operations. The Stars and Stripes is edited and published under auspices of the Director of Special Service Division, S.O.S., War Dept., Brig. Gen. F. H. Osborn, and Col. Theodore Arter, Chief of Special Service Sect., ETO, for the U.S. Armed Forces in the European Theater of Operations and Africa. Printed by The Times Publishing Company, Ltd., at Printing House Square, London, E.C.4 (Telephone: Central 2000). Contents passed by the U.S. Army and Navy censors: subscription, 26 shillings per year.

EDITORIAL BOARD Editor: Maj. E. M. Llewellyn; Capt. H. A. Harbar; Associate Editors: 2nd Lt. J. C. Wilkinson

STAFF News Editor: T/Sgt. Robert Moore; City Editor: S/Sgt. Bud Huston; Photo and Makeup: T/Sgt. Ben F. Price; Sports: S/Sgt. Mark Senigo; Navy: Yeoman Tom Bernard, USNR; Vol. 3, No. 127, March 31, 1943

Hash Marks

Hundreds of wives and sweethearts are storming the libraries back home in search of classical books on how to write love letters. To aid the cause many libraries have compiled a special list on the subject, headed by the works of Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, John Middleton Murry, British pacifist; the letters from Katherine Mansfield to her husband; the correspondence of Ellen Terry and Bernard Shaw—and, to top it off, Lewis Carroll's letters to children.

A Dallas, Texas, resident jumps now everytime he hears "Show Me The Way To Go Home," sung in alcoholic dis-



cord. He was awakened at 3 AM by muffled cries for help outside, ran to the window, still heard cries, but saw no one. He finally traced the sound to the gutter where he heard a man's voice groaning deep in the earth. Police called to the scene found a stout, elderly drunk lost in the sewer—led him out through an entrance five blocks away.

Whee! Whee! Dorothy Lamour has won an engraved whistle and a new title: "The girl most likely to be whistled at in 1943." (Donor of the title and whistle: The Southern California Chapter of the Whistle Teachers' Institute of America.)

The wife of a famous war correspondent grabbed the telephone by her Washington, D.C., bedside and put through a call to her husband in Cairo. After an hour and a half of ear-splitting cardrum uproar, she heard from the international operator: "Are you Mrs. B... and do you wish to speak to your husband, Mr. B... in Cairo?" "Yes," she replied eagerly. Came the reply, "All right, it will cost you 30 for the first three minutes, plus federal tax and—come to think of it, the service has been suspended."

When a fire broke out in Seacliff, N.Y., it was found that the fire siren had frozen. The fire brigade was summoned by an old hand bell which had been cast aside decades ago.

Standing before the army's physical examiners in Manhattan, young Don Lurie unveiled the body beautiful that



won for him the title "Most Muscular Man in America" in 1942. Despite the fact that he could do 1,625 push-ups, Lurie was sent back to body building—rejected because of a slight heart murmur!

Said Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson of an untruthful report that Kay Francis and Martha Raye had been interned in Africa: "I regret to say that I am not an expert on the movements of actresses."

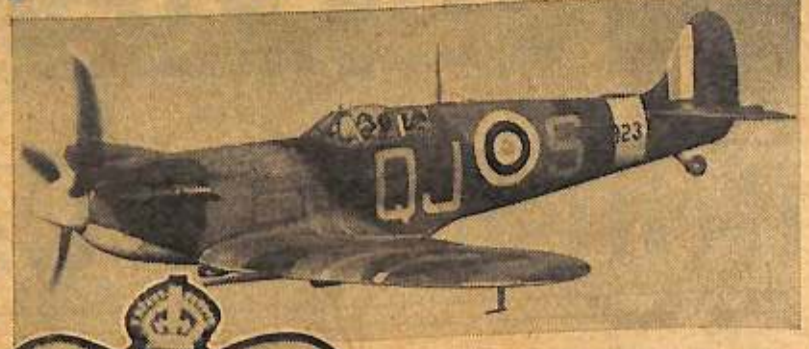
All snap judgment decisions to the contrary, Bob Burns did not invent the wondrous new Bazooka gun.

J. C. W.

The RAF Spans a Quarter Century

Force Which Licked Luftwaffe Created Apr. 1, 1918

By Philip Bucknell Stars and Stripes Staff Writer Tomorrow the Royal Air Force is 25 years old. The RAF, which in bleak 1940 stood alone between Britain and German



On those fighter sweeps over France in the last war, RAF pilots, then called the RFC, used the 130 h.p. Sopwith Camel (left) to knock out German planes. Today the 400 m.p.h. Spitfire (above) is the famous weapon of the RAF



Richthofen: "Frequently the daring of the British can only be described as stupidity, though in their eyes it may be pluck and bravery... they absolutely challenged us to battle." With the coming of the peace that people thought would last, the British rapidly whittled away the RAF until it was only one-tenth of its 1918 strength. Only the determination of the chiefs of staff to maintain at least its reputation as a corps d'elite, and an insistence on efficiency and enthusiasm saved it from becoming completely moribund.

First Non-Stop Flight

The RAF encouraged its men to experiment, if necessary to risk their lives. It spent millions of pounds annually in aeronautical research.

In 1919 Alcock and Brown made the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic. In 1927 there was a formation non-stop flight from England to the Persian Gulf—a flight of 3,400 miles. There were flights to Singapore, to South Africa and Australia. Speed and altitude records were sought and gained. In 1927, 1929 and 1931 the RAF's high speed flight won the Schneider Trophy, the latter competition producing a world record of 407.5 mph in a Supermarine S6 seaplane, forerunner of today's Spitfire.

Campaigns on the frontier country of India gave the RAF experience of bombing. Their policy of "control without occupation" was to give villagers warning that unless they had made up their minds to behave they should clear out of the homesteads by such and such a date, for the bombers were coming. This policy was put into effect in Iraq soon after the war. In 1931 an insurgent Iraqi sheik was forced to surrender to the RAF, while more recently in 1941 the RAF played a large part in bringing down the pro-Axis government of Iraq and bringing that country round to the side of the Allies.

It was not until 1936 that the Houses of Parliament, despite earlier pleas by Mr. Winston Churchill and others, would consent to any large expansion of the RAF. In 1936 the personnel was less than 50,000, and a year later had expanded by only 5,000. But alongside the RAF were growing organizations resembling the CAA, the Auxiliary Air Force and the Civil Air Guard, designed to provide a trained reserve.

International tension increased. Shadow factories were built to produce planes. Recruiting was stepped up.

Munich came. Hitler marched into Prague. War was inevitable.

The RAF prepared for trouble. Two hundred militarized versions of the twin-motor Lockheed 14 and 200 North American BT-9B two-seater trainers were ordered from the United States.

And war came. The RAF was ready. It was outnumbered four to one by the Luftwaffe. But it was ready.

American Forts and Libs are following so effectively right now.

But it was tough sledding. Outnumbered from the start, the RFC put up a gallant fight, but in 1915 the Germans introduced the Fokker, a fast fighter mounting a machine-gun synchronized to fire through the propeller. The best the British could show, the BE 2C, with its fixed gun in the cockpit and the rifle carried by the observer, was sadly outclassed.

Fighter Craft Improved

Not until the beginning of 1916, when Sopwith brought out a two-seater, 130 h.p. fighter with a fixed gun synchronized with the propeller, and a swivel gun for the observer, did the RFC pilots have a fighting chance. Then followed three fast single seater fighters, the Pup, Camel and Snipe, the latter being for many years after the war the top fighter of the world.

In 1918, planes built specifically as bombers began to play a larger part in war. The DH 9A day bomber can be likened to the present-day Mosquito or the A-20 C. Six squadrons of the Handley Page 0/400 heavy bombers were nightly taking aerial warfare over Germany, chiefly the Ruhr, the "Happy Valley" of our present day airmen.

A comparison of fighter aircraft of 1918 and the present day shows that horse power has been stepped up 15 times since the birth of the RAF; firepower, eight times; weight, six times; speed, three-and-a-half times; and the effective ceiling is twice as high.

In the history of the last war the growth of tactics in air fighting has many parallels with the war today.

As early as 1914 RFC planes flew over the German lines at Mons, and the information they brought back prevented a dangerous outflanking movement on the part of the Germans. Trench-raiding started in 1915, and in July, 1916, at the Battle of the Somme, patrolling airplanes came down low over Delville Wood and chased parties of infantry and cavalry out of it with machine-gun fire.

Formation flying was introduced in 1916; not as it is today, but stepped up from leading plane to the rear. At that time planes were most vulnerable from behind, and the staircase formation gave best protection.

Heavy Bombing Started

Early in 1918, before the full force of American strength could be brought to bear, the Germans launched their mighty offensive that brought them so close to victory. German air concentrations opposed 730 planes to the 579 mustered by the British on the eve of the offensive. It was then that the British first opened a campaign of heavy bombing of enemy transport and communications.

On one night a single squadron dropped 390 bombs on German rest billets. Another raid, early in 1918, on the airfield, dump and railroad station at Busigny, produced the first attempt at fighter escort for bombers. The slow DH4s did the bombing, while SE5s waited above to dive down and intercept enemy aircraft.

As the 1918 German offensive began to roll up the Allied defenses, the RFC threw itself into the task of saving the situation. In one day 900 bombs were dropped and 250,000 rounds of ammunition fired. And gradually the RFC, with the growing strength of the American air force, gained ascendancy over the German aviation.

By the time the Allies were ready to mount their counter-offensive the RAF (as it was by then) had in the sky 1,290 first-line aircraft against its opponent's 340.

And, be it noted: It was after the Allied air forces had established ascendancy over the opposition that victory was won. A parallel British and American air chiefs are busy drawing today.

During the war the British air arm grew from 120 planes and 2,073 men to 22,171 planes and 290,000 men; 12,800 officers and 3,900 men were killed, missing or wounded.

Their epitaph is in the words of Germany's greatest wartime flyer, Baron



Anchor's Aweigh

A new "Victory Version" of the Navy's famous "Anchor's Aweigh" has been composed by the original song writer.

The new words for the song were composed by Comdr. Alfred H. Miles, USN, who, with Lt. C. A. Zimmerman, wrote the original version in 1906, according to the Army and Navy Journal.

The new words for the song are:

Stand Navy out to sea, Fight, our battle cry, Hunt down the vicious foe, So Japs and Huns steer shy-y-y-y, Roll out the TNT, Anchor's aweigh, Sail on to Victory and Sink the Jerries, sink the Japs, Hooray!

Yo Ho! there shipmate, Take the fightin' to the far-off seas, Yo Ho! there messmate, Hear the wailing of the wild banshees, All hands, firebrands, Let's blast them as we go—So—

Stand Navy out to sea, Fight, our battle cry, Hunt down the vicious foe, So Japs and Huns steer shy-y-y-y, Roll out the TNT, Anchor's aweigh, Sail on to Victory and—

—Slap the Japs (clap-clap) —Trap the Japs (clap-clap) —Scrap the Japs (clap-clap) Sail on to Victory and Sink the Jerries, sink the Japs, Hooray!

Still Fighting

In the mountain wilderness of Timor, less than 450 miles from Australia, a Commando force was 59 days written off as lost. Composed of Australians, fighting together with Dutch guerrillas, it is today pinning down the Japanese, denying them the conquest of the island, and making any attempt to invade Australia hazardous from that base.

Against odds of 100 to 1 they are killing Japanese at the rate of more than a hundred for every Australian or Dutchman lost in action. They are ambushing the enemy in the mountains, raiding his camps, and even carrying the fight right down the main street of Japanese-held Dilli.

The facts have been brought home to people in the Western World by a news-reel taken in the actual area of these operations and then smuggled out through Portuguese Timor by a secret route.

The story this film tells is one of the most remarkable of the war and plainly indicates how insecure is the Japanese hold on much of the vast new empire she has so recently won. It is General MacArthur's job to see to it that the Nipponese hold remains insecure; so that in the very near future it can more easily be knocked off its perch on the entire South Pacific.

Allied guerrillas appear to be the answer to this need.

Look Out, Buddy

Forewarned is forearmed, so just remember, GI Joe... tomorrow is April 1st... better known as All Fools' Day. So we advise you to accept with discretion the 14-day pass that lacks the C.O.'s signature. Go careful, too, when consuming candy bars generously proffered. Orders directing you to secure a can of "sight grease" from the QM, and all other requests on that day, should be carefully considered before hasty action is taken.

But if you are a victim, keep your sense of humor on top, for it all began a long time ago.

In India, for example, where we now have a large number of GIs it has been a custom from time immemorial. The festival of the Spring equinox is there termed the feast of Huli and the chief amusement is fooling your friends by sending them on fruitless errands.

In this "theater" it all began with the French, when in the year 1564 King Charles IX decreed the New Year should begin on the 1st of January, thereby establishing the reformed calendar. New Year's gifts and visits of felicitation which had been 1st of April features up till that time then became associated with the 1st of January, and those who disliked the change were fair butts for those wits who amused themselves by sending mock presents and paying calls of pretended ceremony on the 1st of April. It worked out something like our double Thanksgiving Day.

In England it wasn't until the 18th century that the custom of making fools on April 1st became common, but in Scotland it is an ancient custom called "hunting the gowk," a gowk being a cuckoo, with cuckoo used as it is in most lands—as a term of contempt.

All of which goes to prove you haven't a chance to escape the day even in this year of global war, for apparently it is a world of fools, and we need only point to a world at war to prove it.

Unused Talents

The story of the unused talent as told in the Bible has like application today. Talents and assets of all kinds and types must be located and used in our "all-out" effort to win this war.

Today our government is beginning to pick up a few loose ends that will enable America to achieve new records in production this year. Recently, for example, owners of fifty-six carloads of steel in storage at the port of New York were notified the metal must be disposed of for war production by April 1 or the Government would take the necessary steps to purchase it as scrap.

All of this steel, some 2,445 tons, was purchased for export and was stored at the port of New York pending shipping arrangements. The bulk of it was intended for countries now under Axis control, or for ports to which shipping space is not now available.

Every effort is now being made to direct a steady stream of potential war material into channels that will assist with the war effort. Some of our frozen stocks in pre-Pearl Harbor days were purchased by interests and nations now hostile to America. To hold such stocks for release after the war would be dangerous in the extreme, and it is good to see our government moving at last in a positive manner to eliminate a defect in the pool of national resources.



"I said, is this the Royal Albert Hall?"

# Pirates May Be Major Factor In Flag Race

## Frisch Has 24 Men Who Saw Service With Bucs in '42

By Leo Peterson  
United Press Sports Editor

MUNCIE, Ind., Mar. 30—Barring further losses to the draft and defense work, the Pittsburgh Pirates may become the major factor in the 1943 National League pennant race.

Of the 26 players still left on the roster, Manager Frankie Frisch has 24 who saw either full or part time service with the club last year. No team in either league is so well equipped with veterans. Until a few weeks ago, the Pirates had not felt the war manpower drain. Then there were 33 players on the roster, but since then four have joined the armed forces and three others have announced their intention of staying at war work.

Among those lost, or who may be lost, are several men upon whom Frisch had counted strongly including Pitchers Ken Heintzelman, Aldon Wilkie and Rush Bauers; Outfielders Eddie Stewart and Maurice Van Robays and Shortstop Huck Geary.

If he can keep what he still has, however, Frisch may mold a club that with a little new pitching strength could become a pennant contender.

### Van Robays Would Be Sure

For front line pitching he has Truett "Rip" Sewell, the staff ace, Max Butcher, Lloyd Dietz, Henry Gornicki, Bob Klinger and John Laning. The candidates to complete the staff include Bill Brandt, Harry Shuman, Jack Hallett, who came up late last season after being with Toronto, Wally Herbert, who won 22 and lost 15 with San Diego, and Xavier Resigno who won 23 and lost six with Albany.

Al Lopez will be the number one catcher. Bill Phelps will be his relief unless he decides to remain in war work in which case Coach Spud Davis may don the mask and pads again.

The '42 infield is intact—Elbie Fletchers, first base, Frank Gustine, second, Peter Cocaret, shortstop, and Bob Elliot at third, Frank Zac, a rookie, is the likely number one utility man.

There is still a chance that Van Robays may report. If so, he would be a cinch for the outfield berth. Vince DiMaggio and Jimmy Wasdell probably will get the other posts. John Barrett and three freshmen from Toronto—Frank Coleman, Jim Russell and John Wyrostek—will fight for the extra berth if Van Robays does not return.

# Southern Base Stops Air Support



Tangling for one rebound during the Air Support—Southern Base game at Albert Hall yesterday were Dally Dahlstrom, Air Support, and Nelson Sperau, Southern Base. Southern Base won 33-27.

# Fourth Port Ramblers Edge 'Derry Five, 23-22

## Buffalo Edges Hershey, Will Face Caps in Finals

BUFFALO, N.Y., Mar. 30—The Buffalo Bisons have taken the Series A American Hockey League playoffs by defeating the Hershey Bears, 2-1. The Bisons will go on to play the Indianapolis Capitals, winners of Series B, in a best-of-seven elimination starting here tomorrow.

The Bisons' burly Bob Blake, right defenseman, slammed in a short goal in the final period to break a tie and give Buffalo the margin in the fourth of six games.

# Ex-Boston Cager Leads Winners' Comeback In 2nd Half

(Continued from page 1)

only one game in six months—and that in a close tussle with the University of Washington—established themselves strong contenders for the ETO title by eliminating the Londonderry Naval Base quintet in the opening game of the tournament. "Bo" Prydzial, ex-Boston College cager, led a Rambler comeback in the second half by scoring 12 of his team's 14 points. With the Navy in front, 12-9 at the half, Prydzial pumped in four successive field goals early in the third quarter to put the Ramblers ahead, 17-12.

The Navy had its subs in to start the second half, but after Bo's spree, the regulars came back in a hurry. Les Peebles, Navy's high scorer in the game with ten points, led a rally that put the Londonderry five in front again, 18-17. Just before the quarter ended Prydzial lofted a set shot to make it 19-18 for the Ramblers. The lead changed hands once more in the fourth period when Peebles scored from underneath. Johnny Hughes, Rambler guard, made it 21-20 and Prydzial tallied what proved to be the clincher with a shot from well out. With five minutes left Peebles kept the Navy hopes alive with a basket from close up, but once the Ramblers got possession of the ball they killed time until the final whistle.

### Campbell High Man

Prydzial, from Salem, Mass., led the teams with 14 points. Al Heinecke, at center, and Hughes were able assistants. Lester Van Voorhees, Matt Hahn and Peebles were the Navy's best.

Eighth Air Force Fighter Command had a close struggle in beating the SOS Red Raiders, 29-24. The Fighter five got off to a flying start with Alex Walter, ex-Long Island U. player from Jersey City, N.J., scoring four field goals in the first quarter, but the Raiders rallied to finish the half with only a two-point deficit, 13-11. Going into the last quarter, the Fighters still held a three-point edge, 22-19, and increased it by outscoring the Raiders 7-5 in the last quarter. Walter, with ten points, led both sides in scoring. George Hess, of Burton, Ohio, paced the losers with six.

The second game was evenly played until Southern Base Command came from behind at 21-23 in the fourth quarter to put together a string of 12 points while Air Support was scoring a single field goal. Bill Campbell tossed in a one-hander and Bill Blake pushed one in from underneath to start the Southern Base drive and put them in the lead, 25-23, with six minutes to play. Tony Zitta gave Air Support a tie with a double decker, but big Nels Speraw, Southern Base forward, made it 27-25 a moment later, then dropped in another to make it 29-25. Blake's one-hander and Fred Winton's layup made it 33-25 just before the end. Campbell and Winton led the victors with ten and eight points, while Jim Fowler paced Air Support with six.

Another Northern Ireland entry was eliminated in the third game when the GIs, SOS quintet from Belfast and Northern Ireland titleholders, bowed to a fast and aggressive London Base Command team.

### Ettinger One of the Best

The LBC dribblers used a fast breaking "reindeer" attack that kept the GIs on the defensive from the outset. Three of the best players of the day—Vince Costa, Bernie Heigh and Red Ettinger—kept the LBC offense in high gear throughout.

Another strong entry of crack shots, the Division Blues, put their names on the list as title favorites by eliminating the Cavaliers of the—Cavalry.

The Blues took an 8-7 lead midway in the first quarter and were never headed. But not until the fourth period were they able to take a commanding lead. Sol Ringel, Blues' guard, supplied his team's scoring punch in the first half which left the Blues in front, 26-20. Vince Scotto and Connie O'Connell kept the Cavaliers in the game with timely shots in the third quarter, but the Blues still led, 34-27, going into the last period. Goals by Tom Dunfee and Howard Brown and a foul shot by Big Doyle Hood, a valuable retriever, made it 39-31, and gave the Blues a comfortable margin. Brown's long shot from beyond the middle of the floor in the last second of the third quarter was the shot of the day.

### New Seating Policy

For tonight's games any American or Allied soldier with or without a guest will be admitted to the Albert Hall, whether or not he has a ticket for himself or his guest. There is a limit to the number of spectators that can be admitted, but when that limit is reached the doors will be closed. Ticket holders who wish to make sure of their seats should arrive early as it will be first come, first served. This policy applies only for Wednesday night's games. Arrangements for tomorrow night's games will be announced in The Stars and Stripes tomorrow.

Here is today's schedule:  
1 PM—Eighth Air Force Bomber Command vs. Playboys.  
2 PM—Greys (— Division) vs. AGs.  
3 PM—Fourth Port Ramblers vs. Southern Base Section.  
4 PM—London Base Command vs. Blues (— Division).  
7 PM—Eighth Air Force Service Command vs. Fighter Command.  
8 PM—Bomber Command-Playboys winner vs. Greys-AG winner.

# Redmen Jolt Toledo, 48-27

## St. Johns Wins Invitation Cage Title; Will Meet NCAA Winner

NEW YORK, Mar. 30—Center Harry Boykoff, six feet nine inches long, and beetle-browed Guard Al Moschetti tallied 13 points each as they led St. Johns University to the National Invitation Basketball Tournament title, smothering Toledo's Rockets, 48-27, before 18,233 fans at Madison Square Garden. Washington and Jefferson defeated Fordham, 39-34, for consolation honors.

St. Johns, victors over Rice and Fordham in earlier tournament rounds, took an early lead, running the count to 8-0 before Toledo broke the ice on Center Jim Glass' field goal after six minutes of play. Controlling the play under the basket on the defense, St. Johns continued holding the advantage, leaving the court with a half-time lead of 22-16.

Starting the second half, Guard Dallas Zuber, who paced the Rockets all-freshman team with nine points, led a Toledo scoring rally to tie the score, but St. Johns, unable to find the basket in the first eight minutes of the second half, started connecting and ran up the count for a 33-22 advantage before the Rockets could score again and piled it on the remainder of the way to the final gun.

Toledo, winner over Manhattan and Washington and Jefferson in earlier rounds, couldn't overcome the all-around height advantage of the Redmen. Toledo star Davage Minor, who sparked their victory over W and J, was held scoreless by the brilliant defensive performance of Fuzzy Levane.

St. Johns meets the victor of tonight's NCAA finals between Georgetown and Wyoming in Madison Square Garden on Thursday for the benefit of the Red Cross.

Boykoff was awarded the trophy as the outstanding tournament player.

### Golden Gloves Start Today

CHICAGO, Mar. 30—The inter-city Golden Gloves tournament between New York and Chicago will be held here tomorrow.

# Pep Outpoints McIntyre In Slow Fight at Detroit

DETROIT, Mar. 30—Willie Pep, of Hartford, Conn., New York State version of world featherweight champion, pounded out an easy ten-round decision over Bobby McIntyre, a local boy, before a crowd of 3,500. Pep, whose sensational 62-fight winning streak recently was shattered by Sammy Angott, outpointed McIntyre last November.

Though Pep carried the attack and took every round except the ninth, Hartford's pride and joy did not land over half a dozen solid blows and neither fighter was near a knockdown at any time.

# Basketball Tournament Results

Fourth Port Ramblers				Navy				Blues				Cavaliers			
G	F	P		G	F	P		G	F	P		G	F	P	
Peplinack, f	0	3	3	Peebles, f	5	0	10	Dunfee, f	4	0	8	O'Connell, f	4	1	9
Prydzial, f	7	0	14	Greenstein, f	0	0	0	Adams, f	0	0	0	Jones, f	1	0	2
Heinecke, c	1	0	2	Van Voorhees, f	3	0	6	Kalmeyer, f	1	0	2	Metzner, f	1	0	2
Schutt, g	0	0	0	Taylor, f	0	0	0	Brown, c	3	1	7	Kelly, f	0	0	0
Hughes, g	2	0	4	Nichols, c	0	0	0	Seviero, c	1	3	5	Wilbert, c	2	1	5
Sedmack, g	0	0	0	Lucey, c	0	0	0	Ringel, g	5	1	11	Scotto, g	5	1	11
				Brotchie, g	2	0	4	Barie, g	0	0	0	Anderson, g	1	2	4
				Pagnotta, g	0	0	0	Blair, g	1	2	4	Glampetero, g	2	0	4
				Hahn, g	1	0	2	Nieman, g	1	0	2	Hood, g	2	1	5
Totals	10	3	23	Totals	11	0	22	Totals	18	6	42	Totals	16	5	37
S.B.C.				Air Support				Services Command-37				Engineers-26			
G	F	P		G	F	P		G	F	P		G	F	P	
Blake, f	2	1	5	Dahlstrom, f	2	1	5	Shimpliw, f	2	0	4	Burkack, f	1	0	2
Smutzler, f	1	2	4	Swearingin, f	1	0	2	Zimmerman, f	3	1	7	Sebert, f	0	1	1
Speraw, c	3	0	6	Fowler, f	3	0	6	Cooper, f	1	1	3	Gamble, f	2	1	5
Winton, g	4	0	8	Arnold, f	1	0	2	Stroh, f	1	0	2	Wright, f	0	0	0
Campbell, g	4	2	10	Orswine, c	0	2	2	Christie, c	1	0	2	Enquist, c	0	0	0
				Feldman, c	1	0	2	Barton, g	0	0	0	Pulstie, g	0	0	0
				Zitta, g	1	3	5	Wilson, g	0	0	0	Zukowski, g	4	2	10
				Harris, g	1	1	3	Macbook, g	1	1	3	Pinnack, g	3	2	8
Totals	14	5	33	Totals	10	7	27	Totals	17	3	37	Totals	10	6	26
Fighter Command-29				Red Raiders-24				London B.C.				GIs			
G	F	P		G	F	P		G	F	P		G	F	P	
Ganske, f	3	0	6	Waskins, f	2	0	4	Costa, f	4	1	9	Poucher, f	3	1	7
Needleman, f	0	0	0	Benedict, f	1	0	2	Heigh, f	7	1	15	Peluso, f	4	0	8
Texdahl, f	4	1	9	Podany, f	2	0	4	Ettinger, c	4	3	11	Black, c	0	2	2
Hotsko, c	0	1	1	Barkh, f	0	0	0	Respiga, c	3	0	6	Olsen, c	1	2	4
Waterson, g	5	0	10	Spijate, c	1	0	2	Sabalta, g	1	1	3	Baer, g	0	1	1
Hark, g	0	0	0	Hess, c	3	0	6	Hoffman, g	0	3	3	Durken, g	6	0	12
Besetzky, g	0	0	0	Van Lente, g	1	1	3				Widerberg, g	0	0	0	
				Shapiro, g	0	0	0	Totals	19	9	47	Totals	14	6	34
				Endleman, g	0	0	0								
Totals	13	3	29	Totals	12	2	24								

# NEWS FROM HOME

# Congress Talking Referendum On Post-War Peace Terms

WASHINGTON, Mar. 30—A growing sentiment for some kind of popular referendum on post-war settlement terms emerged in Congress this week. One Congressman said he planned to introduce a resolution providing for a nation-wide ratification election on any peace terms finally reached after the end of hostilities.

Sen. Tom Connally, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, apparently had something of the same nature in mind when he told sub-committeemen, considering several proposals, that they should strive for some proposal upon which at least two-thirds of the Senate could agree.

The peace referendum is the idea of Rep. Michael A. Feighan, Ohio Democrat, who said he was seeking to avoid a Senate rejection of a league of nations plan.

### Copper Workers Vote Strike

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Mar. 30—Members of the Independent Association of Millworkers empowered their officers to call a strike at the Salt Lake plant of the Utah Copper Co. after the War Labor Board refused to approve a wage increase which the company and the union had agreed upon. The company employs 2,000 workers and produces about one-fourth of the country's copper supply.

### Continue Coal Talks

NEW YORK, Mar. 30—Southern Appalachian soft coal mine operators agreed yesterday to continue negotiations with the United Mine Workers after the present contract expires at midnight tomorrow. Northern operators had previously reached the same agreement. As a

result, work will go on in the mines after the contract expiration.

### Murderer Saved From Chair

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Mar. 30—Ellis Howard Rowe, convicted killer of David Blakely, has been snatched from the chair through an executive clemency order signed by Gov. Chauncey Sparks. Rowe, who left school at seven, was called "almost a product of the alleys" by the governor, who said he made no attempt to justify a "horrible crime," but felt Rowe's environment had been against him.

### No Ration Book For Monk

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Mar. 30—James Oaks, an admirer of Susie, Cincinnati Zoo gorilla, tried to give her his ration book so Susie would have plenty of the canned peaches she likes. Zoo officials refused, with thanks, so a "Peaches for Susie" club has been formed. Members will donate part of their ration allowance.

### Park Bench to Work Bench

NEW YORK, Mar. 30—The City Department of Welfare, reporting on the operation of a plan to salvage manpower from the ranks of the "Bowery bums" and other delinquents, said that over half of 513 such men brought into court on minor charges in the last four months were now regularly employed in defense industries.

### Plow Up Golf Course

KINGWOOD, W. Va., Mar. 30—Three and a half acres of the Preston Country Club course, here, has been plowed up to grow potatoes as part of the community's victory garden program.



# Gabes Is Taken, British Pursue Rommel North

## 8th Army Drives Toward Junction With Yanks, Pressing Flank

(Continued from page 1)

...mashing slowly but steadily east toward Tunis and Bizerta, regaining territory captured in Von Arnim's thrust two weeks ago.

It is at Tunis and Bizerta that Rommel now is expected to make the "last stand" which Axis spokesmen frankly mention.

The fall of Gabes and El Hamma was announced dramatically by Prime Minister Churchill in the Commons yesterday.

"Another severe defeat has been inflicted by the Desert Army on the Axis forces they have so long pursued," he said. "According to my latest information, we occupied El Hamma last night. Our vanguard passed through Gabes this morning."

The breakthrough, Mr. Churchill said, had been aided "to an extraordinary degree by novel forms of intense air attack in which many hundreds of British aircraft were simultaneously employed."

### Heaviest Air Assault

As the heaviest fighter-bomber onslaught of the desert war was flung against Axis troop concentrations, the USAAF and RAF announced in a joint statement yesterday that it was shifting its concentration of attacks temporarily from the enemy supply lines to the front-line troops themselves.

Once Rommel's defenses are broken, the statement said, final "non-stop annihilation tactics will be employed, with Kitty-bombers, Spitfires, Bostons, Baltimores, Beaufighters and Mitchells from the Western Desert; Lightnings, Spitfires and Airacobras from Algeria, and Mosquitoes and Beaufighters from Malta.

Supplemented by scores of planes repaired and rebuilt in Nile workshops, the Allied air forces yesterday were pounding troop concentrations and transport columns along the route of Rommel's retreat on the road between Oudref, 10 miles north of Gabes, and Sfax. Trucks were destroyed, ack-ack positions knocked out, troop columns strafed and gasoline dumps set afire.

The last formation of fighters which operated in the dusk reported that the route of the retreat was littered for miles with flaming vehicles.

### Axis Admits Withdrawal

Berlin radio last night admitted the loss of Gabes and El Hamma, but said the Eighth Army was stopped north of the port. Paris radio's military commentator said the Axis forces had suffered a "severe setback."

The 200-mile outflanking movement across soft sand and the barren outcrops of the Matmata Hills to El Hamma was described by correspondents yesterday as "the boldest stroke" which Gen. Montgomery has made in the entire campaign. In the extreme north the First Army's attack on the German positions between Tamera and Sedjenane came to a standstill in the center, but progressed elsewhere. The number of Axis prisoners taken increased to 1,000, of whom all but 100 were Germans.

Forty-five prisoners taken by the British were killed and seven wounded when a German plane strafed two trucks taking them to the rear.

Officers said the British thrust was going well and that the Tamera area, from which the Germans ousted the British in bitter fighting early this week, was being mopped up. The Germans tried to impede the British advance by blowing up several bridges on the road between Jebel Abiad and Tamera and by sowing minefields.

## Plan Dance, Floor Show Saturday at Southport

SOUTHPORT, Mar. 30—A formal dance and floor show are scheduled next Saturday at the Red Cross club here, Director Bob Hutchinson announced.

During the evening emblems will be presented to women volunteers who have worked more than 150 hours at the club.

## Raids - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

weather conditions. At no time was the route to either objective free from icing clouds. There was hail and rain and many crews reported running into electrical storms.

The two attacks were more than three hours apart. Berlin's zero hour was just before 1 AM. The attack on Bochum's railways and war factories started a little before 10 PM.

While the RAF bombers were on their way to Germany, a few Nazi planes raided a coastal area of East Anglia, dropping bombs harmlessly in open fields. There were no casualties.

Last night the German radio loosed a blast of threats, as a result of the raids, Hans Fritzsche, political commentator, said the RAF was the inventor of "terror bombings" and that the stepped up bombing of Germany would be revenged.

Later the German radio claimed that Salcombe, on the English Dorset coast, had been raided yesterday afternoon.

# 'Italy Wanted No War With U.S.'

## Two Navy Men Tell Of Life While In Rome

Italian propaganda claims of unity in Mussolini's tattered empire bring grim smiles to the faces of two U.S. Navy men, now stationed in London.

They are Capt. J. L. Callan, USNR, Naval Attaché for Air for Allied Governments in Exile, and Chief Yeoman W. C. Faulkner, now assigned to Capt. Callan's office here.

Both spent years on duty in Italy before the war, both were interned when the United States entered the conflict and both were returned to the United States in the exchange of diplomats which followed the declaration of war.

Yesterday both men recalled their experiences in Italy as a mixture of comedy and pathos among a friendly people who want no war with Americans.

"For instance there was the expected anti-American demonstration which never happened," recalled Capt. Callan, who taught Italian pilots to fly and was a member of their naval air force from 1915 until the U.S. entered World War I.

"On Dec. 11, 1941, all Americans in Rome were summoned to the Embassy in anticipation of an Italian declaration of war. It came along with an inflammatory speech by Il Duce. A cordon of troops had been thrown around the Embassy to 'protect' us from aroused Italians who were expected to demonstrate their dislike for us after listening to Mussolini's oratory. Apparently the crowd was unimpressed for they went



Capt. J. L. Callan (right) and Chief Yeoman W. C. Faulkner, now on duty here, saw how Mussolini tried—and failed—to whip up a popular "war hatred" against Americans.

quietly home, leaving our 'protectors' with nothing to do but go home themselves."

Chief Yeoman Faulkner said he found Rome a fine billet when he arrived there in 1935, "but as the Axis grew stronger we began to notice an unfriendly undercurrent among Italian military men. Then

we noticed we were under surveillance by the OVRA—the secret police. They became quite frank about it, standing on street corners and writing in the notebooks as we moved from place to place."

Capt. Callan's home is in Albany, N.Y. Chief Yeoman Faulkner comes from Florence, Ala.

# Colonel 'Hitchhikes' Outfit Across the Atlantic to War

(Continued from page 1)

dark water, and called for the ship's tools.

For the rest of the voyage they hammered, sawed, plumbed, and painted. When the liner docked the lifeboats were repaired and painted, the steam-line system was changed, the mess hall was remodeled and the captain was grateful. He had been unable to stay in port long enough to have necessary repairs done; they were completed en route.

"Take what you want," he told the Colonel and his men. So now a piano sits in the hallway of their headquarters building, they have a fair-size library, and for weeks after landing they gorged themselves on fresh fruits and vegetables from the ship's refrigerators.

"If we had known what shortages we would run into here we could have brought loads of other stuff," the commandant said. "Crates of lemons, apples, oranges and anything else we wanted were ours for the asking."

"When we got off the ship we were afraid there wouldn't be a place for us to live here in England, but they managed somehow."

He pointed out that the piano and books were about all the equipment they had. Their heavy equipment was consigned to the port, and probably went from there to a base camp. Personal barracks bags were left ashore.

"Some of the boys didn't have enough clothes for a change," he continued, "but we were issued new equipment over here."

Trucks, pile drivers, power shovels, graders, caterpillars, and other heavy equipment were more difficult to obtain, but they have it now and his only explanation is that "you can do a hell of a lot of things in this Army if you just take the bull by the horns."

The hitch hiking contingent of the regiment landed in England before the one battalion scheduled for the trip. When that battalion arrived in camp, they were met by the boys they thought were left behind. The one abandoned company, left in the U.S., joined the fold three weeks later.

A general service engineers regiment must be prepared to do anything any other engineering outfit can do, Col. Hulén explained, pointing out that his unit can build hospitals, roads, bridges, railroads; unload trains or boats or handle bombs with power cranes. Two companies of the regiment went to Africa and now are combat engineers somewhere.

The organization, made up of men from practically every state in the union, with the larger groups from Texas and Massachusetts, is now reorganizing and adding replacements.

The colonel, a reasonably profane civil engineer, is proud of their versatility and

told of one instance of their ingenuity.

Back in the U.S., the unit was stationed along the Florida coast. Recreational facilities were at a premium so they cleared a portion of the coast line for a bathing beach. The sun proved too hot without some form of shade so they wheeled out a power shovel, transported palm trees from inland, transplanted them in the sand and started to enjoy the fruits of their labors.

Further complications came up, however, when the trees dried up, turned from green to brown, and died.

"That was a tough one but we finally solved it," the colonel said. "We just took some regulation OD paint and covered those trees. They looked as fresh and green as before."

# U.S. Plane Hits Jap Destroyer

ALLIED HQ, Southwest Pacific, Mar. 30—After destroying five to seven Jap seaplanes in a low-level attack on an enemy base in the Shortland Islands, Lockheed Lightnings and Corsair fighters in a strafing attack set on fire a Jap destroyer on the way home, today's official communique reports.

Three feet of one of the attacking planes wings were sheared off by the destroyer's mast.

Elsewhere yesterday bombers carried out eight scattered attacks on Jap bases in New Britain, New Guinea, and islands north of Australia.

In a low-level attack, medium units bombed and strafed Jap installations and villages in the Kai Islands, south of Dutch New Guinea. Fires visible for 15 miles were left burning by the bombers, who strafed two enemy villages on the way back to their bases.

In a night attack, Lae, strong Jap base on the northern coast of New Guinea, was bombed and strafed by medium units. Heavy bombers blasted the airdromes at Gasmata, New Britain and Cape Gloucester, and harbor installations at Madang, New Guinea. Sweeping down the coast, a heavy Allied bomber strafed enemy villages in the Sidor area, New Guinea.

Six Jap bombers raiding the Allied base at Oro Bay under cover of darkness caused slight damage and no casualties.

### Bridge Winners Announced

BELFAST, Mar. 30—Winners in the weekly bridge contests at the Red Cross club here were Sgt. D. A. Abbott, Cortland, N.Y.; Cpl. D. K. Bartlett, Cleveland, Tenn.; and Cpl. David Bach, St. Paul, Minn.

# Special Service Plans Refresher

## Officers to Get Four-Day Course in Military Administration

EIGHTH AIR FORCE HQ, Mar. 30—A four-day refresher school for Special Service officers will open here Monday.

Courses will emphasize methods of procedure and equipment of Special Services, and will further include work on school of the officer, military administration, channels and procedure, military correspondence and the interrelation and correlation of sections.

Maj. Gen. Ira C. Eaker, Commanding the Eighth Air Force, will open the classes at 8.30 AM Monday. Available for about 75 officers, mainly of the Eighth Air Force, and others to be designated by their commanders, the school will last through Thursday, Apr. 8.

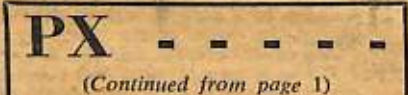
Special Service instruction will be given on athletics, music, education, war bonds and insurance, procurement, stage and movie shows, the American Red Cross and British-American relations.

Instructors will come from Headquarters, Eighth Air Force; Headquarters, ETO, from the British War Office and the University of London.

Lecturers will include: Col. David H. Cole, Army Education expert, and Lt. Col. E. C. Priestley, of Army Bureau of Current Affairs, both British; Col. Theodore Arter, Chief of Special Services, ETO; Col. Neal Creighton, Col. William Bailey, Special Services, Eighth Air Force; Maj. J. L. Holbrook, SOS; Maj. K. C. Chatwin and Maj. E. H. Gilman, both of Headquarters, Eighth Air Force, Special Services; Capt. Fred Hanna, SOS; Capt. Eddie Dowling, ETO; \* Donald Corrie, War Office head of correspondence courses; A. Clow Ford, University of London, and C. S. Williams, founder of the Anglo-American Brains Trust.

### Rainbow Band Concert

A band concert is scheduled at 8 PM tonight at the Red Cross Rainbow Corner.



(Continued from page 1)

chase back home now, and it would be hard to justify the shipping space. Other merchandise, such as watches and fountain pens, we will try to obtain."

At the moment there is no likelihood of American candy being on sale at the Army Exchanges. To save shipping all candy supplies are being purchased from the British, and soldiers are being rationed according to British standards.

# U.S. Air Force Chops Red Tape To Speed Action

## Washington Cuts Air Staff Divisions from 19 to 6; Reduces HQ 'Brass'

WASHINGTON, Mar. 30 (AP)—The U.S. Army Air Force, in a sweeping reorganization, has chopped off countless miles of red tape from its administrative procedure to gear the organization for top speed in the prosecution of the air war.

It sheared away lines which had sent administrative matters through various bureaus, cutting the major divisions of the air staff from 19 to only six and reducing the total number of officers in the headquarters from 25 to 13.

The Air Force said the new program, based on a study of current needs, is effective immediately and will have these results:

### Cuts Detail Work

1—It will relieve headquarters of the details on the execution of orders and leave it free to determine over-all policy.

2—It will create a more cohesive organization within the headquarters.

3—It will delegate greater responsibility to field commanders, who henceforth "will be told what to do but not how to do it."

4—It will reduce the personnel of the headquarters staff.

There will be three deputy chiefs of staff, including Brig. Gen. Laverne Saunders, a fighter pilot who saw much action in the South Pacific before his recall to Washington. Other deputies will be Brig. Gen. T. J. Hanley, who was the only deputy before the realignment, and Col. William Hall, whose nomination for promotion to brigadier general has been sent to the Senate by the President.

### Six Staff Assistants

Six assistant chiefs of staff, with specific duties assigned to each, will "have primary interest in and supervision of specific commands in the field."

Lt. Gen. H. H. Arnold will continue to head the organization under the new alignment that officers insisted was "not a shakeup, but instead a streamlining to expedite action."

Directly under Gen. Arnold will be Maj. Gen. George Stratemeyer as chief of staff, who will act as commanding general in Arnold's absence, supervise activities of the air staff, special staffs and commands, and be chairman of the Munitions Assignment Committee for Air. Gen. Stratemeyer is also a member of the Munitions Assignment Board which is headed by Harry Hopkins.

# Texans to Meet Every Tuesday

So enthusiastic were the Texans who trooped into the Red Cross Mostyn club Monday night to celebrate their "state night" that they have formed a Texas group to meet there every Tuesday.

T/Sgt. George Black, of Dallas, 47-year-old adventurer, who went with Rear-Adm. Byrd on two Polar expeditions, was elected chairman.

Each man on Monday wore on his blouse the miniature orange head and horns of a Texas steer; while on the walls were pinned the banners of Texas cities.

Present were: M/Sgt. J. C. Gilvin, Brownwood; Hollis W. Truesdell, Denton; and Herbert Reek, Austin; T/Sgt. G. H. Black, Dallas; Louis Magnon, San Antonio; Floyd D. Spears, Frank Shields, Dallas, and Ray Lovelady, Abilene; S/Sgt. B. G. Stout, Texarkana; S/Sgt. Nathan Guarino; Bernard G. Owens; J. C. Todd, Westaco; A. R. Hanslik, Hallettsville; Luther R. Martin, Trinity; John U. Yates, Gore; Ray W. Thompson, Mesquite; Thomas Grisham, Sacol; and Charles L. Booker, Grane; T/As Houghton Cox, Belton, and Harry Hall, Fort Worth; T/5s William R. Fleming, San Marcos; James M. Bryan, Hillsboro, and Samuel Fasnach, Corpus Christi; Cpls. Bob Smith, Houston, and Thomas F. Lyster; Pfc. W. W. Duke; Wade H. Ray, Dumas; Kenneth R. Grubbs, Denton, and Servando Gonzalez, Rio Grande City; Priv. Julius J. Brenner; Walter M. Parks, Michael Green; Happy Norman; Waco; John R. Lockman, Victoria; Reuben Marsh, Cisco; Ed. Manning, Amarillo; Pat Etter, Shamrock; Herman I. Smith, Chico; John M. Davis, Rock Springs; O. R. Hayes, Kingsville; James R. King, Southland; Fred Knell, Stockdale; G. S. Morton, Killbuck; Larry Mantor, Taylor, and Doyle Hood, Westminster.

# Rebellion - -

(Continued from page 1)

from other occupied countries. Moscow radio said 1,200 Germans assigned to the garrison at Narvik, in northern Norway, had deserted and fled to the mountains, where they were living on food seized from German supply transport. They had clashed with SS troops sent to subdue them, Moscow said.

In France, according to Swiss reports, a 9 PM curfew was imposed on the city of Lyons after German workers discovered a time bomb in the post office and tossed it out of a window, where it exploded and injured several French civilians.

Algiers radio reported three German officers had been slain in Belgium. BBC meanwhile broadcast for German listeners a report from "an absolutely reliable" neutral source that 50 men, including a Foreign Office official, had been executed for plotting to overthrow Hitler.

## Blondie

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



by Chic Young