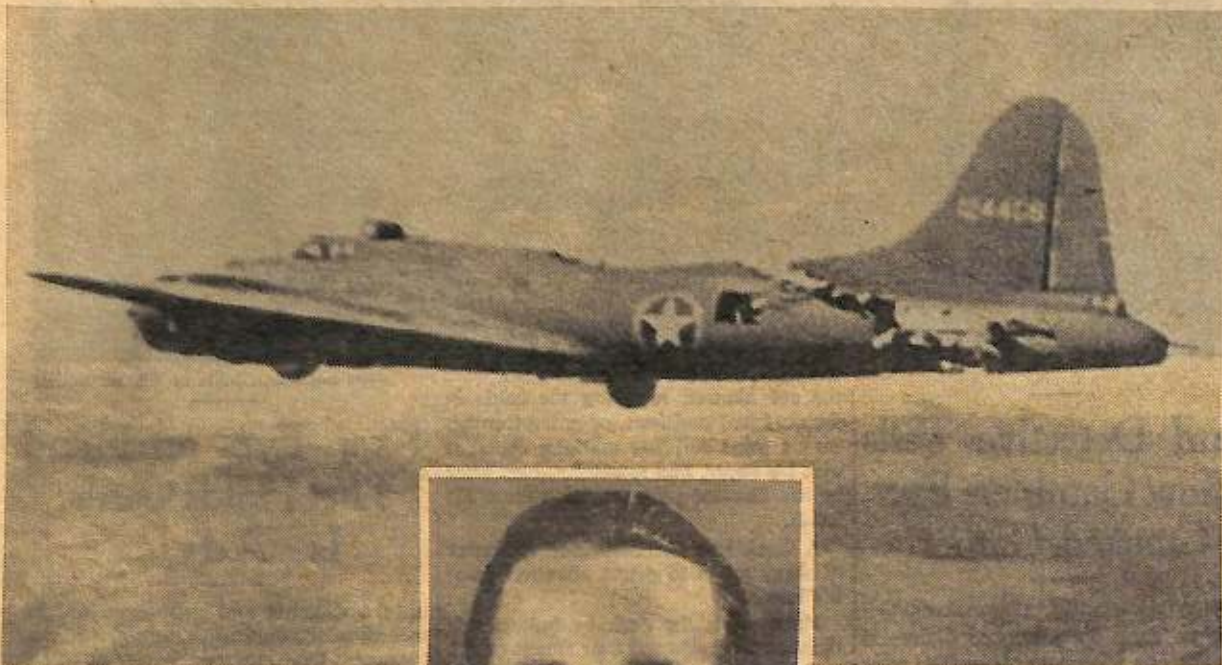


Tail Nearly Off, Fort Comes Home Safely



Allies Counter 2 New Thrusts On North Front

Foe Retires Without Fight In South; 8th Army Masses for Attack

ALLIED HQ, North Africa, Mar. 3 (AP)—Allied troops beat back two small thrusts by the Axis in Northern Tunisia today, while in the south advanced Allied elements pressed, without battle, on the heels of Rommel's Panzers retreating southeast of Sbeitla.

In the air, Allied planes bombed and strafed enemy truck concentrations at several points in Northern Tunisia, knocking down five Axis fighters and one bomber and heavily bombing Tunis and La Goulette harbor nearby.

In the far south the Eighth Army continued its patrol activity.

In repulsing two attacks in the north the British-American First Army artillery heavily shelled Axis positions. Axis infantry and vehicles advancing on the road four miles east of Sedjenane withdrew after four armored cars had been knocked out.

Tank Attack Smashed

Another small infantry attack five miles northeast of Medjez El Bab was thrown back and the remainder of six enemy tanks which were seen approaching Beja on the road 12 miles northeast of the town withdrew after two had been knocked out.

Spitfires and Hurri-bombers ranged over the front and destroyed a number of enemy vehicles near Sidi Bou Zid, Mateur and northeast of Beja. Direct hits were scored on enemy buildings and a farmhouse containing Axis troops.

Waves of Flying Fortresses, attacking simultaneously, smashed at the inner and outer harbor of Tunis, scoring hits on the docks and warehouses and industrial areas. At La Goulette other hits were made on the dockyard and dry docks in the outer harbor.

Nazi Fighters Downed

The Fortresses were escorted by P38 Lightnings, and one formation also had a protective cover of RAF Spitfires. The bombers destroyed three of a flight of some ten to 15 attacking Me109s and FW190s. Only one Allied aircraft was lost during the day's operations.

(Algiers radio reported the Eighth Army continued to bring up reserves in troops and material in preparation for an attack on the Mareth line. Guns have been installed in favorable positions and continuously pounded.)

A Spitfire pilot, previously reported missing, returned to his base today and reported having shot down a Me109.

1 1/2 lb. of Meat Weekly Probable Ration in U.S.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 3—Under the present plans of U.S. food rationing agencies, meat, butter, cheese, cooking oils and fats will be rationed after April 1, according to informed quarters here.

Rationing of canned and processed foods of all types began Monday. Fresh vegetables, fruits, bread and other food-stuffs are not rationed.

The meat ration is expected to be one and three-quarters pounds a week per person. In the British Isles each person is allowed one shilling two pence worth of meat a week, currently slightly more than a pound.



This Fort, almost cut in two, one elevator gone after collision with Nazi fighter over Africa, was brought safely home in 90-minute flight by pilot, Kenneth Bragg, of Savannah, Ga. Tail-gunner, S/Sgt. Sam Sarpolus, of St. Clair, Mich. (above), stuck to his post, feeling as if he was "riding on the tail of a zig-zagging kite."

Two Ships Sunk In Jap Convoy

14 Enemy Vessels Headed For New Guinea Still Being Attacked

ALLIED HQ, Southwest Pacific, Mar. 3 (UP)—Two Japanese transports, one of 10,000 tons and the other of 8,000 tons, have been sunk out of the Japanese convoy sailing between New Britain and New Guinea and headed for Lae.

The remainder of the 14 ships in the convoy is still being attacked after being intercepted and torn to pieces by Flying Fortresses, Liberators and Lightnings between New Guinea and New Britain.

Other transports were also hit and set on fire, while further hits or near misses were scored on escorting enemy warships and cargo vessels. The remnants of the battered convoy have been dispersed.

The attacking aircraft battled their way through tropical storms, heavy anti-aircraft fire and 30 to 40 Jap fighters to reach the convoy.

Out of the enemy fighter force protecting the convoy 13 planes were shot down, while our losses have been described as light.

Other Allied bombers attacked two enemy airdromes, one on Soemba Island, Dutch East Indies, and the other on Soembawa Island.

Allies Claim (and Foe Admits) Drive on U-Boats is Mounting

Britain's First Lord of the Admiralty claimed yesterday—and Germany virtually admitted—that the Allies are beginning to lick the U-boat menace in the North Atlantic.

Speaking in Parliament, A. V. Alexander said that the results in attacks on German U-boats during February were "the best yet experienced." In the three months from Dec. 1 to Feb. 28, he continued, "our tonnage losses were much less than in the corresponding period of last winter."

In the last half of 1941, Alexander said, the U-boat threat seemed under control. Shipping losses were less than in the two previous six-month periods "and we were killing U-boats faster." Then, he said, the whole position was altered by the entry of Japan into the war. The problem was tackled again and the result

Larger Ranger Force Hinted to Invade Europe

Picked Groups Toughened Over Rugged Course Under Live Fire

By Charles F. Kiley

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

A U.S. RANGER BATTALION, Scotland, Mar. 3—American Rangers, who have been nominated to help lead the Allied invasion of Europe, will be there by the thousands when the real shooting starts.

Existing forces of these highly-trained assault troops may be greatly expanded, Maj. Gen. Russell P. Hartle indicated here.

"Sooner or later we will be doing something like this on our own," he told correspondents.

Another Ranger battalion trained in the British Isles went to Africa. Now the Rangers are at it again, going through the toughest hardening routine a soldier could experience short of actual combat.

Side by side with their British counterparts, the Commandos, the Rangers are proving themselves Holy Terrors as fighting men in training for a duty which demands inexhaustibly energetic preparations.

Here's a Mock Attack

Observe a mock attack on an "enemy" coastal battery, one phase of the Rangers' training.

Crossing choppy water in assault boats, the attackers prepare to go into action. The first formation of three boats reaches land, emptying its occupants on a beach. Armed with rifles, Tommy guns, grenades, automatics, TNT and other weapons of destruction, they move silently over the sands to a clump of woods. The shore is quiet.

The second formation lands—and suddenly hell breaks loose. The "enemy" is contacted. Machine-guns spit a spray of searching fire that comes close enough to splinter the oars of the landing craft. Mines explode all over the beach with ear-splitting detonations.

The Rangers move ahead through blinding smoke and flying sand. In the woods, the advance party closes in on its objective. They crawl through

(Continued on page 4)

Nazis Leave Rzhev, Key City on Volga, May Retire Further

Surprise Evacuation of Vital Rail Junction Without Fight Hints a Withdrawal On Main Moscow Front

By The Associated Press.

The Germans have withdrawn from Rzhev, vital railway junction and key city on the Volga, northwest of Moscow.

This news, the most important indication for some days that the Russians are still sweeping triumphantly westward, is regarded as a forerunner of a general withdrawal from the Vyazma-Rzhev salient which has thrust dangerously toward Moscow for more than a year.

Official communiques for some days have not mentioned Rzhev, and the announcement, broadcast by the German radio shortly before 1 PM yesterday, came as a surprise.

The Nazis claimed the town was evacuated to "shorten our line," but before making the definite admission of the serious reverse, they gave signs of confusion. Immediately after the radio broadcast the first news, another broadcast followed, stating the announcement should be withdrawn. It was confirmed, however, in the official communique broadcast about 1.30 PM.

Navy to Rule World Is Planned by U.S.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 3 (AP)—Col. Frank Knox, Secretary of the Navy, today disclosed an operating force plan calling for a navy "big enough to dominate all the seas throughout the world."

His plan for building up personnel strength to 2,250,000 by July, 1944, was made public by the House Naval Appropriations Sub-Committee of the House of Representatives, as it completed its work on the new \$4,000,000,000 Naval Expenditure Bill.

In showing the need for increased manpower, Col. Knox said: "We are building not a two-ocean navy but a navy big enough to dominate the seas all over the world." Naval officials said the Navy had 3,205 ships in commission on Jan. 1, and would have about 4,100 by Dec. 1.

London military observers were cautious about speculating on the cause and ultimate effects of the German withdrawal from the city. It is known, however, that Rzhev was strongly fortified and was a snag which finally stopped the Russian offensive westward from Moscow in the winter of 1942.

When the Red troops thrust westward to the Veliki Luki area last year, they left Rzhev on the corner of the salient with the next strong point, Vyazma, about 90 miles due south. If there has been a withdrawal from Rzhev it is therefore likely to leave Vyazma in an exposed position like a finger pointing to Moscow.

Nazis There Since '41

London military sources declined to estimate just where the Germans' "shorter line" is to be established, but some observers thought it might go back to Smolensk, establishing a line running northwestward from Smolensk to Veliki Luki and southeast of Bryansk.

Rzhev first fell to the Germans in the great smash toward Moscow in 1941. It is an important railway junction on the Volga and was so heavily fortified and strongly defended that when Gen. Zhukov threw the Germans back from Moscow in the winter of 1941-'42 his men were never able to take it, although they swept around it and at one time almost surrounded it.

London Raided; Fires in Berlin

Nazis Hit Back 48 Hours After RAF Assault On Reich

German bombers struck back at London last night in retaliation for the RAF raid which blasted Berlin wide open Monday night and left fires still burning in the Reich capital yesterday.

Soon after 8 o'clock last night the sirens wailed across London and ack-ack defenses thundered into action to beat off enemy raiders. The foray against the British capital came after two days and three nights in which England was free from raids.

Some fires were started by the raiders, who struck back almost exactly 48 hours from the first explosion in Berlin.

Meanwhile, despatches from neutral Stockholm and even the German radio itself, tended to confirm that the RAF's cascade of two- and four-ton block-busters over Berlin Monday left a large portion of the city blackened and blasted.

The Berlin correspondent of the Stockholm newspaper Alehandra reported that the Nazis had ordered every person in the German capital to lend a hand in clearing the debris and rubble left by the raid. Casualties have reached 191 dead and 268 injured, according to an official announcement, and are still rising.

The German-controlled Scandinavian News Agency admitted that great fires were still burning in Berlin early yesterday.

Tuesday night, the RAF kept up its sustained attack on the Continent which has stretched Nazi defenses thin and tired with a light series of missions to western Germany. During Tuesday's daylight hours light bombers and fighters strafed the occupied countries.

Big Guns in Violent Duel Across English Channel

FOLKESTONE, Mar. 3 (AP)—One of the most violent cross-channel duels of the war raged for an hour last night, with British and German big guns hurling salvo after salvo over the misty Dover strait.

Bursts of British shells which appeared to be exploding inland were heard plainly on this side. The duel started 9.15 PM with British batteries sending over salvos of two and four shells at a time. German batteries in the Cap Gris Nez and Boulogne areas thundered into action in five minutes firing four-gun salvos.

German radio yesterday reported heavy fighting in the Orel region of Russia, south of Rzhev, where numerically superior Soviet forces repeatedly attacked German positions. They were stopped at all points, the Nazis claimed. At one point the Nazis said, the Red Army's superiority was 20 to one, but the Germans repulsed them.

Fresh Nazi Reserves

The sharpest Nazi counterblows came from the Donbas area southwest of Voroshilovgrad, where the enemy has been massing tanks and at times attacking with strong infantry and Luftwaffe detachments.

New German units appeared on several sectors of the front. The biggest was another outfit from Holland. The Red Army was definitely on the offensive in all sectors except southwest of Voroshilovgrad. All made progress, although no place names have been mentioned for more than 24 hours.

Changeable weather—in one case there was bright sunshine, rain and a terrific snowstorm within three hours—has been causing havoc, since mechanized transport is vital and the railways are not yet working in recaptured areas.



Rzhev (top center) was evacuated without a fight by Nazis. Whole German line before Moscow was in danger of thrust from north (arrow) as Red army drove ahead in south.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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Vol. 3, No. 104, March 4, 1943

American Rangers

Any American school boy can tell you the story of Rogers and his Rangers. During the Seven Years' War this group of hardy frontier fighting men won a reputation for courage and endurance in campaigns about Lake George. During one of these campaigns they broke for all time the haunting fear of French inspired Indian attacks against American frontier outposts by the complete destruction of an entire Indian tribe.

Later the fame of the Texas Ranger became a by-word for courage in the Wild West, where bravery was common and fighting ability an accepted requirement for a life packed with danger and hardship.

In recent years the word Ranger in America has come to refer to those in our Forest Service. It was carried by a fine body of men, respected for their honesty, clean outdoor way of life, endurance and unquestioned courage.

Today the word is again being applied to a group of American soldiers. These men are selected and trained to beat the best that Hitler, Mussolini and Hirohito can produce. They have already proved themselves in the Solomons, at Dieppe and in North Africa. More thousands are being trained by "the veterans" to hit Italy, Germany and Japan where it will hurt them most.

We have watched these men prepare for combat. We have talked with them after a dangerous raid. They are worthy to carry the mantle of a glorious name.

Better News

Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the British Admiralty, told members of Parliament yesterday the cheering news that: "In February the results of attacks on U-Boats were the best yet experienced," and "In the three months, Dec. 1 to Feb. 28, ship tonnage losses were much less than in the corresponding period of last winter."

This is the second statement released in recent weeks by the British government on the submarine question, and both have been optimistic. The British Prime Minister in his address made it plain Nazi submarines still constitute one of the most serious of Allied problems; but added that submarines whatever their depredations could not avert defeat of the Axis powers.

These official statements on the submarine question indicate we have passed through one of the most dangerous periods of the war, and have emerged scarred but successful.

In the future, the submarine will not only face the navy at sea; but while in port both it and its base of supply will be subjected to round-the-clock bombing from the full might of our growing air force. Planes dropping 8,000lb. bombs on sub pens and ports will most certainly do their part to "stop the submarine," while mass raids on industrial Germany will slow their production.

New long-range bombers now guarding sea lanes and convoys are also making life miserable for submarine crews. The range of these new escort planes has recently been increased. As a result, those charged with the responsibility of combating the sub menace have grown more optimistic as they have seen the offensive and defensive measures bear fruit. This optimism we feel is justified and it will go far to cheer us on to new victories at sea.

Chinese Air Defense

Although Chungking has been raid-free for the past year, after earning in the years 1939 to 1941 the title of one of the most heavily bombed cities in the world, Chinese authorities have recently been completing preparations to meet any re-occurrence of Japanese bombing.

As Spring advances, the fogs which during the winter give China's capital city natural protection lift, and the "bombing season" opens.

This year, with the arrival of that season, American fliers, flying American-built planes, will be available to give aerial protection. This air defense the Japanese have not yet ventured to test, and if they do make the attempt it is believed they will receive a "hot" reception, and will again shift their attacks to "easy targets."

Lend-Lease to China is still operating, and air support for China and her fighting forces is item number one on the long list of equipment now being flown to our worthy ally.

China's own pilots, many of them trained in America, will soon be able to man all the planes America can send to the Chinese Army. By the end of 1943, American planes and Chinese pilots will be giving the Japanese fliers a battle they may not live to remember.

Hash Marks

More horrors of war: 100 Tennessee children are receiving cod liver oil free from their county government. Ugh!

We finally believe those reports that Washington is slightly overcrowded. Guests at the Hotel Statler are having



to pick their way through a maze of scaffolding and overalled workmen—and get their meals elsewhere. Reason: The hotel was opened before its construction was completed due to the pressing shortage of accommodations.

We see by the papers that New York State Executioner Joseph Francel will not be given permission to buy tires on occupational grounds. His travels to and from Sing Sing prison are not considered essential by the rationing board. Nor by Sing Sing inmates, we presume.

In Evansville, Ind., an elephant lay down and wouldn't get up. Her keeper was afraid she would catch pneumonia, so he called a wrecker to turn her over with a block and tackle. The wrecker's truck bore a sign which read: "No Job Too Large."

Incidental information: Somewhere in England there is an M.P. unit located on, of all places, Constable Road.

Remember back before the war when the roughest, toughest news was about the strikes in Harlan County, Ky. Well, the Axis had better watch out. Residents of that county have raised enough funds for a bomber. The plane will be christened "Bloody Harlan."

A singer travelling in his car to make a broadcast in Boston was stopped by a highway patrolman checking pleasure motorists. "Where are you going?" asked the law. "To work," was the reply. "I'm an oratorical engineer."

It's never too late to learn, we guess. An engineer on a U.S. ship has put in 38 years at sea. During that time he has



been torpedoed, bombed and attacked 13 times. Last week he asked the United Seamen's Service in New York to teach him how to swim.

J. C. W.



Stars and Stripes photo by Richard Koenig

Card Detective Tells How Gamblers Fix Crooked Games

The prize sucker for a "mechanic"—gamblers' name for a crooked dealer—is a soldier with his pay in his pocket, trust in his heart, time on his hands—and an itch to speculate.

Laid out to end, the dough card sharks have swindled away from unwary guys in uniform would reach approximately from Piccadilly Circus to a point three and a half miles south of the town line of Billings, Mont.

Ex-card detective Lt. Thomas A. Dukehart, of Baltimore, has been studying "mechanics" and their ways for years and what he can show about the way they do it is enough to cure any "sociable game" addict for ever. There's nothing he enjoys better than demonstrating why you can't beat the card sharp or the operator of a pair of phony dice.

If you aren't familiar with a shark's methods, detection is virtually impossible but here are some of the tricks to look for, according to Dukehart:

A card can be cut to the top or bottom so that even when you are look-



Ace goes from bottom to top

ing for it you can't see it but merely hear a quick "swish."

A crook will give a player an opportunity to cut a deck. He may complete

the cut himself, replacing the cards in their original positions, or going through with a legal cut, but marking the spot with his finger, and re-cutting them after he has diverted your attention from his hands.

A shark is a fast talker and is master of many tricks to divert attention from his hands.

He controls the deck by holding his thumb on one side and four fingers on the



Ace palmed, deck is cut

opposite side, the fleshy tips of his fingers in a position to mark a cut in the cards.

He is a sleight-of-hand artist, able to work too fast for your eyes to follow him.

A poker hand can be dealt to anyone in the game, to the crook or an ally. As he picks up discards from a previous hand he quickly arranges them, palms the ones he wants to work with and goes through with a shuffle and cut.

A high card can be kept on top by



Dealing from second card (Ace turned up for demonstration)

always dealing the second card. This sounds simple but he gets away with it. In a black-jack game, a shark will pick

Keep Eyes on Hand That Holds Cards, Is Advice

up the discards and put them on the bottom of the deck after each player gets his cards. Knowing the strength or weakness of his own hand, he keeps a card that has been played on the bottom, cutting it to the top when he wants it. This trick can only be worked against a rank amateur who does not notice which cards have been played.

He can cut a deck with one hand or two, too fast for you to notice it. The one-handed cut is usually shielded



Arm shields one-handed cut

by an arm as he reaches for an ash tray or any other object on the table.

These methods of detection sound simple, but a shark can avoid suspicion in a game with those who don't know the answers. The unsuspecting player may be allowed to win an occasional hand, but when the big money is on the table he loses.

In giving demonstrations to cynical soldiers, Lt. Dukehart goes through the standard operations of a fair game, allowing the men to shuffle and cut the cards. Nevertheless, he can deal anybody in a game a royal flush, four of a kind, full house or whatever he wishes.

A man who feels he is being victimized in a crooked dice game can detect loaded cubes by dropping them in a tumbler of water. Crooked dice will always rest on the bottom with the same side up. The safest bet would seem to be dominoes.

PRIVATE BREGER

By LT. BREGER



"My No. 4 guard doesn't feel just walking back and forth is enough!"

ARMY POETS

The Armored Corps

So you think the British Guardsman is a damn good fightin' man? Well he is—I'm not denyin' that plain fact. An' you think the Russian soldier is as tough as he can be? An' Marines aren't puttin' on a clever act? Well you're right again my laddie, an' I know whereof I speak. You can also cut in "Fightin' French" this war; But I'll name another outfit an' its reputation's high; It's the bloody 1st Division Armored Corps. From the way I start this story you can very plainly see That it takes a bit of fightin' just to score: But for troops to stop the best the German Army can turn out Means they all must pass right through old Satan's door. Now it happened in the desert at a place called "Stoney Hill" Six two three they say's the number that it bore, An' the "First" had got an order they must take that ruddy peak Though not one had ever been up there before.

There was plenty of a rumble as their tanks went up that hill 'N I wonder how their drivers found the way; But when they reached the summit they were hit at two to one An' we lost a hundred men that bloody day. Though outnumbered by the Panzers an' most likely out-gunned too; They still held the ground that cost so much to take. An' when darkness hid the battle, Yanks were still on top that knoll Though the bombin' made it bounce and really shake. An' when they got the message to fall back an' close their ranks You could hear each tanker cuss and loudly swear What he'd do next time he saw a Panzer wagon in his sights, When the order came to charge that Nazi lair. So although the German army was left sittin' on that hill An' the armored boys fell back when first they met. They out-fought the Nazi tankers, though out-numbered two to one, An' my money's on the "First" for every bet.

E. M. L.

Toledo Boasts Crack Quintet Of Freshmen

Victory Over LIU Will Insure Bid to Garden Tournament

NEW YORK, Mar. 3—If, as expected, Toledo whips Long Island at Madison Square Garden in their basketball game tonight and receives a bid to the national invitation tournament, they'll be the first all-freshmen team ever so honored. But don't let the precocity fool you. Although 14 squad members are listed as freshmen, none of their high school days are recent.

Of the five starters, four completed high school in 1938 as members of the Indiana champion Fort Wayne Southside high school five. Burl Friddle coached them there. When Friddle was appointed Toledo coach in '42, they followed him.

Looking like the Notre Damers who visited the Garden earlier and whipped NYU, the Toledoans are rangy, hard and fast. In winning 18 of 20 games, they have achieved a reputation as one of the Midwest's three of four top teams.

A Natural Player

Davage Minor, six foot two inch 190-pound Negro who glides about the floor like a shadow, is the team's star. He's scored over 300 points and glitters defensively. After Toledo edged Dartmouth, 52-48, Ossia Cowles, Indians' coach, described Minor as "a natural basketball player who doesn't have to be taught anything. Eventually he will be among the country's two or three greatest players."

Minor is supported by Jimmy Glass, six-foot eight-inch center; Bob Bolyard, the team's second highest scorer with over 200 points, and Guards Charley Harmon and Dallas Zuber.

The Long Islanders, even if full strength, are not given much chance. But with 13 squad members just inducted, Coach Clair Bee is not even bothering to cross his fingers.

NYU will grapple with St. Johns in the Garden nightcap.

Kentucky Places Two Men On All-Conference Five

LOUISVILLE, Ky., Mar. 3—Following the Southeastern basketball tournament, in which Tennessee beat Kentucky, 43-40, the Associated Press has released the all-conference team:

- Guards—Eugene Bledsoe, Mississippi State, and Marvin Ackers, Kentucky.
- Center—Melvin Brewer, Kentucky.
- Forwards—Dick Mehan, Tennessee, and Frank Brian, LSU.

NEWS FROM HOME

Only Six Days in 10,000 Lost In War Plant Strikes

PHILADELPHIA, Mar. 3—The loss of productive time in war industries during 1942 because of strikes was only six one-hundredths of one per cent—six days in every 10,000 days worked—Vice-Chairman George W. Taylor, of the National War Labor Board, revealed in a speech here.

Taylor quoted the figure in an address before the Regional War Labor Board for Pennsylvania, Southern New Jersey, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia.

"We believe an enviable record has been created in this country," he said. "There have been strikes and there have been some lockouts, but I want to say this, for the record:

"The War Labor Board could not have asked for finer support from the trade union leaders of this country in fulfilling every obligation of theirs under the 'no strike' agreement.

"At no time have we had to ask a national union official to step up to his responsibilities and failed to get unqualified and full support."

Limit Bus Service

WASHINGTON, Mar. 3—Virtually all "special," or "exclusive" bus services not essential to the war job have been banned by Joseph B. Eastman, Director of the Office of Defense Transportation.

In an order which is to become effective Mar. 15, Eastman extended to all privately owned buses the same prohibitions against non-essential service already in effect for vehicles operated in charter service by the regular transportation companies.

N.Y.C. Has Walkie-Talkies

NEW YORK, Mar. 3—Mayor F. H. La Guardia disclosed yesterday that New York City has set up a system of independent radio communications for use in air attacks on a basis so mobile that squads of walkie-talkie radio operators will be on the street in air raids to give quick notification of bomb hits.

Open Women's Barracks

ARLINGTON FARMS, Va., Mar. 3—The first of 12 government-built dormitories for women in Federal service opened here on

Durocher Planning To Play Shortstop

NEW YORK, Mar. 3—Returning to the Flatbush offices of the Brooklyn Dodgers after being rejected by Army examiners, Leo "Lippy" Durocher, scrappy manager of the Daffiness Boys, announced his plans for the coming season.

He intends to start at shortstop and he has high hopes of persuading Dolph Camilli, first baseman, to leave his California ranch. He hopes the Dodgers will start an infield with Camilli at first, Billy Herman at second, himself at short and Arky Vaughn at third. There is as much certainty of Vaughn's return as there is of Camilli's.

Trojan Quintet One of Greatest

Coach Stresses Finesse To Overcome Lack Of Height

LOS ANGELES, Mar. 3—The Trojans of Southern California, who have clinched the Southern Division of the Pacific Coast Conference basketball championship, are hailed as perhaps the greatest Trojan team of all time. They have been beaten only by DePaul (one point) and little Pepperdine in a startling upset.

The Trojans have won six conference games and have a season's record of 18 victories. Their coach, Ernie Holbrook, himself a Trojan star of '33-35, developed a team which belies the theory that hoopers must be tall. Finesse and perfect drilling in sharp shooting and deft pivoting by Center Jim Seminoff replace towering height.

Seminoff is the offensive key. He feeds the forwards—Gene Rock and Alex O'Maley, who do most of the scoring. Both have maintained an excellent pace against strong guarding, largely because they have mastered the art of shooting while going away from the basket.

The team's standout is Ted Gossard, captain and guard, who has no peer defensively throughout the West. A great inspirational leader, he is six foot two, tallest man on the squad.

The Trojans will face either Washington or Oregon in the playoff for the Pacific Coast title. They will be heavily favored and if they win they'll go to Kansas City for the regional playoffs of the national collegiate basketball tournament. The winners at Kansas City will go to New York late in March for the finals.

American Losses 66,399

WASHINGTON, Mar. 3—The Office of War Information said today that the total casualties of the American Armed Forces since the outbreak of the war were 66,399. Of them, 10,455 were killed, 11,187 wounded, 38,027 missing, 6,641 taken prisoner and 89 interned in neutral countries.

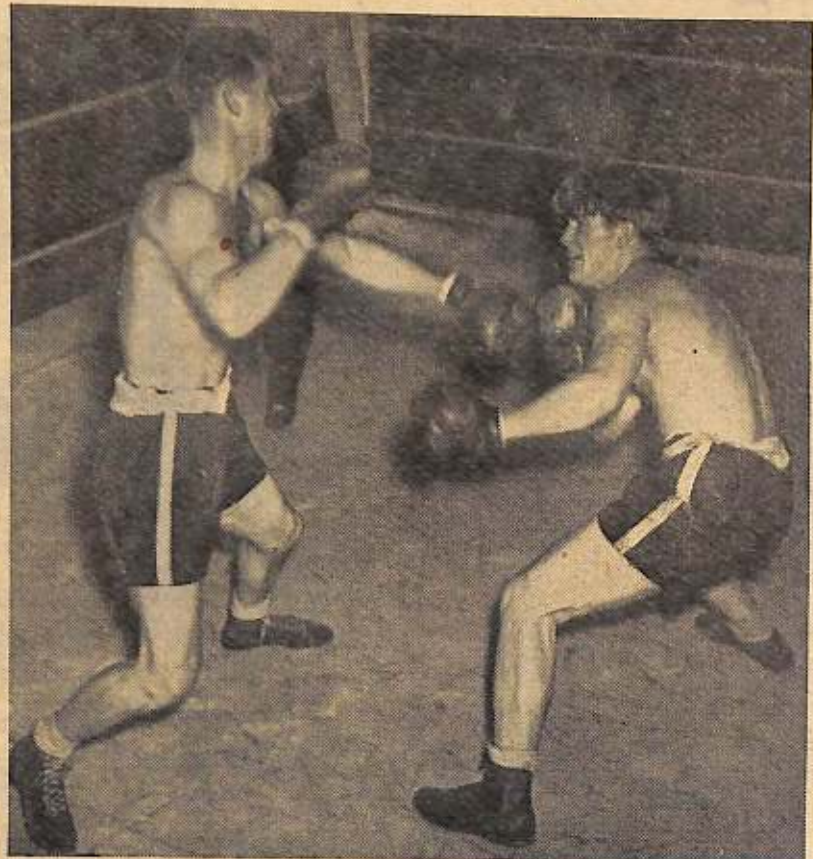
Launch New Carrier

CAMDEN, N.J., Mar. 3—The U.S.S. Monterey, fifth aircraft carrier to be launched here in the last six months, was lying at her fitting basin today after sliding down the ways last week. The same day the Monterey was launched, four new destroyers took the water at Kearney, N.J., less than 100 miles away.

Warns of Jap 'Ju-Jitsu'

ATLANTA, Ga., Mar. 3 (AP)—Joseph Grew, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan, warned against a Japanese "peace offensive" modeled on the principles of jiu-jitsu in a speech here. He had no fear, jitsu, in a speech here. He had no fear, he said, "that our military authorities are likely to be taken in by any application of jiu-jitsu principles."

Favorite's First Defeat



After winning two Rainbow Corner fights and going to a draw in the third, Pvt. Glen McCormick, of Richmond, Mo. (right), lost his fourth time out to Pvt. William Ciffo, of Woonsocket, R.I.

Bentleys Boost Rice Owls Near Hawks to Third Southwest Title

CHICAGO, Mar. 3—The Chicago Black Hawks are no better than their Bentleys. When the brother wingmen, Doug and Max Bentley, started fast at the beginning of the hockey season, the Hawks started well. When the brothers slowed down in mid-season, so did the Hawks.

Now the Hawks are high riding in third place, breathing on the necks of the second-place Bruins, and you can thank those winged Bentley kids again. They are currently just about as hot as any two pucksters can be. Doug leads all the individual scorers with a total of 65 points, and all the goal-getters with 30. Incidentally, 30 goals gives a hockey player almost the same thrill a baseball gets with a near-400 batting average.

Max is right behind with 24 goals and 40 assists for 64 points, and shares the runner-up spot with Bill Cowley of the Boston Bruins. Cowley remains the League's leading playmaker with 42 assists, although he failed to make a single point last week.

MP, Infantry Fives Formed At N. Ireland Air Base

A USAAF STATION, N.I., Mar. 3—Two new basketball teams have been organized here, one an Infantry quintet and the other an MP club, both attached to the Air Force.

The Infantry team is coached by Capt. H. L. Riser, of Shreveport, La., and the MP outfit by Lt. H. G. Sklar, of Manhattan, N.Y. Members of the teams: Infantry—S/Sgt. Dudley Manuel, Iowa, La.; Sgt. Charles D. Darnell, Marthaville, La.; Sgt. James Echerode, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.; Cpl. Jules A. Rouse, Warrior, Ala.; Cpl. Paul A. Letter, Norman, Okla.; Pfc Murphy D. Shaw, Shreveport, La.; Pfc A. D. Strother, Oakdale, La.; Pfc James Walker, Malanto, Texas; Pfc Richard L. Rose, Crystal Lake, Iowa; Pfc Joe L. Tucker, Bessmer, Tenn., and Pfc C. R. Wampler, Kingsport, Tenn.

MP—Sgt. Bill Kempe, Newport, R.I.; Sgt. G. Radcliffe, Bronx, N.Y.; Cpl. Vernon Summers, Cairo, Ill.; Pfc Ed Miller, Hoboken, N.J.; Pfc Lemo Powell, Tuscaloosa, Ala.; Pfc Sonny Sonagere, Fairview, N.J.; Pfc Tom O'Malley, Scranton, Pa., and Pvt. Babe Marinelli, Rockford, Ill.

Infantry Hoopsters Win, 20-9

BELFAST, Mar. 3—Paced by Pfc Richard Rose, of Crystal Lake, Iowa, who scored 12 points, an Infantry basketball team defeated an MP quintet, 20-9, on the Red Cross court here. Pvt. Babe Marinelli, of Rockford, Ill., was the mainstay of the MP club.

HOUSTON, Texas, Mar. 3—The Rice Owls' rise to leadership in the Southwest Conference basketball race—they will take the title if Texas loses to the Texas Aggies, otherwise a tie—is one of the most exciting events in Southwestern athletic history.

Heavy pre-season co-favorites with Arkansas, the Owls startled their followers by dropping their first three games. They have not lost since. A nine-game winning streak carried them past Texas last week when the Longhorns stumbled and lost both to a weak Southern Methodist and middling Texas Christian.

Bill Close, Owl center, practically clinched the individual scoring championship last week, running his total to 197 points in 12 games. John Hargis, of Texas, and Clayton Wynne, of Arkansas, are distant seconds with 160. Glenn Carpenter, of Arkansas, follows with 158.

Cowley Stars as Bruins Drop Red Wings, 3-1

BOSTON, Mar. 3—The Boston Bruins again proved that they are the world's best hockey team on home ice by outskating and outgenerating the National Hockey League leaders, the Detroit Red Wings, 3-1.

Bill Cowley, great Boston center, considered the game's top playmaker, demonstrated again that he's also a plenty hot goal getter. He made all three Boston goals, two of which were unassisted.

After 14 minutes of hard, rough play by both teams, Bill grabbed the puck during the melee, circled the Wings' cage and laid a backhand into the corner. On the next faceoff Bill retrieved the puck and repeated the performance, circling the net and outfoxing the entire Detroit team to flip the puck between Goalie Mowers' pads.

Early in the third period Dit Clapper, captain and defenseman, fired a perfect pass from the blue line to Bill, who slammed the puck high in the net. It was Clapper's first return to duty since he suffered a mid-season injury. He made as much difference to the Bruins as Cowley's brilliance.

Urges Continuance of Sports

WASHINGTON, Mar. 3—Representative Samuel Weiss, of Pennsylvania, has urged in the House a clarification of the status of baseball, football and other sports for the duration of the war. He asked the House to "consider the tremendous effect upon morale of our armed forces" the continuance of sports can have. He added that every effort should be made to maintain them.

Mendoza Draws With Joe Marsh At St. Edmunds

Six Bouts on First Card At Red Cross Hostel

By Philip Bucknell

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

BURY ST. EDMUNDS, Mar. 3—Five hundred fight fans crowded the Red Cross club here last night to watch the first weekly boxing card sponsored by The Stars and Stripes.

This initial program here was a further expansion of the committee's athletic program, which represents a joint effort of the American Red Cross, Special Services and The Stars and Stripes to promote a complete athletic program for American servicemen in the British Isles.

The main event of the evening was between an RAF scrapper, Pvt. Joe Marsh, and Sgt. Frank Mendoza, of Lorado, Tex., who has appeared at the London Stars and Stripes bouts at the Rainbow Corner. A couple of small boys, with big hearts and plenty of technique, they went to a draw in a contest which gave the fans a demonstration of both American and English styles. The airman was the cleverer in the open, but Mendoza had the better of the clinches.

Hard-fought Victory

Sgt. Jim Galloway, of San Antonio, Tex., slugged his way through the handicap of a black eye to a much applauded victory over Pfc Arthur Deronen, of Biloxi, Miss. The second round of this bout had the fans up on their toes. Deronen came in swinging a mean right at Galloway's blind side, but the Texan knew his way around. Deronen hit the floor twice, but came up grinning.

Keeping to the center of the ring and refusing to be lured into the corners, full-blooded Chippewa Indian Pfc Harry Kettle, of Ponsford, Minn., had Pfc Tony Anguisani, of Bridgeport, Conn., running all the time in a hard-fought win.

Sgt. Tony Camerillo, of Los Angeles, had a prejudiced crowd roaring when he took MP Pvt. John Greenwall, of Philadelphia, to the cleaners. The MP took a lot of punching and was rough-handled in the clinches. Camerillo, who has fought ten amateur AAU bouts in Los Angeles, was too clever for Greenwall, but the Philadelphian showed a neat left and plenty of courage.

Referee Almost Loses

Bout four featured two more fighters who have appeared at the Rainbow Corner—Cpl. Kenneth Strange, of Amherst, Mass., who showed all the talents of a bulldozer, and Pfc Thomas Flanagan, of Jersey City. Although 20 pounds lighter, Flanagan got in and mixed it. Flanagan drew blood from Strange's nose early in the hardest fought three-rounder of the evening and pulled just enough heavy punches in the third round to come out on top at the end.

Two long, lean boys, Pfc Orbic Sizemore, of Heavener, Okla., and Pvt. Bill Chapman, of Wichita Falls, Kan., tore into the ring like windmills that didn't like each other, but in the first round Chapman stayed in a neutral corner and Sizemore waved to him from the center. They got hot in the second round and stirred up the air a lot. Sizemore got the nod.

In the last bout of the program Sgt. Frank Jones, of Cincinnati, the referee, nearly lost to both Pvt. Jim Eleazer, of Utica, N.Y., and Cpl. John R. Kilpatrick, of Childersburg, Ala. Thanks to a slippery pad of dogs, he kept going to give the decision to Eleazer. They laid into each other, showing no signs of mutual love. The two of them kept up a barrage of blows and those that connected hurt.

Basketball Results

- Temple 60, Ursinus 25.
- Georgetown 53, George Washington 30.
- Duquesne 49, Geneva 43.
- Michigan 53, Northwestern 40.
- Illinois Normal 52, Southern Illinois Teachers 45.
- Indiana State 45, St. Josephs 41.
- Westminster 59, Missouri Valley 29.
- Drake 51, Grinnell 33.
- Kansas 47, Missouri 44.
- Notre Dame 69, Wabash 42.
- Cornell College 54, Coe 53.
- Western Michigan 72, Wayne 29.
- Heidelberg 63, Findlay 59.
- Akron 52, Western Reserve 32.
- Washington 35, St. Louis 34.
- Wooster 69, Kenyon 25.
- Westminster 59, Missouri Valley 29.
- Northwest Missouri Teachers 65, Missouri Mines 34.
- Patterson Field 55, Earlham 41.
- Kent State 49, Baldwin Wallace 47.
- East Washington 44, West Washington 41.
- Eastern Oregon 58, Linfield 53.

LILABNER

OH, DEAR!!—I FORGOT TO TELL THE SERVANTS TO REMOVE THAT EXPENSIVE RUG! I SUPPOSE HE'LL MESS IT UP!

QUIET! —EVERY WORD IS BEING BROADCAST!

—THIS SUICIDE IS COMIN' TYO' THROUGH TH' COURTESY O' LIL ABNER, YOKUM!! DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES BEYOND MAH CONTROL, AH IS IN LOVE O' THAT GLAMMY BUSS STAR O' STAGE AN' SCREEN — FAVORITE O' MILLIONS—

WHOSE CHARM AN' BEAUTY HAVE-UH—CAP-TIV-AY-TED TH' HEARTS O' MOVIE-GOERS THROUGHOUT TH' WORLD — NAMELY YO'-LORNA GOON!! BUT—SINCE YO' DON'T LOVE ME — AH IS SIGNIN' OFF, FO'EVAH!!

WHEN YO' HEARS TH' SHOT, IT WILL BE EXACKLY TH' TIME AH IS DAID!! AH'LL BE DOWN IN A FLASH, WIF A CRASH!!

BANG!

Rangers Taught Lessons Learned on the Battlefield



Armed with rifles, tommy-guns, TNT and other weapons of destruction, Rangers, huddled in an assault boat, prepare for a landing as an explosive charge bursts in the choppy water.



Lickey-split, Rangers hurdle barbed-wire entanglements and ommph into a deep pit of mud—just part of the training given to America's equivalent of British Commandos.

Italy May Leave Russia to Hitler To Concentrate on Defense in Mediterranean, Neutrals Hear

Germany and Italy were believed in neutral capitals yesterday to have agreed that the Italian Army will concentrate on the defense of Italy and the Mediterranean, leaving the Russian front to Hitler.

Withdrawal of the Italian Eighth Army from the fighting in Russia, to rest and refill ranks, was announced Tuesday in Rome.

Meanwhile, two million Italian workers are expected to go to Germany soon as Italy's contribution to Hitler's total mobilization.

From Berne, dispatches said that Hitler and Mussolini had met last Wednesday, somewhere on the German-Italian frontier, in talks followed up by conferences in Rome between von Ribbentrop and Italian officials.

Commenting on the Ribbentrop-Mussolini conversations, BAA, German news agency, said they were "proof" that the German Foreign Minister had nothing to hide and were an expression "of the mutual confidence which exists between Italy and Germany."

American Seamen's Club Is Opened in Liverpool

LIVERPOOL, Mar. 3—A club for American merchant seamen, similar to the Red Cross service clubs, has been opened at 97 Islington Street here.

Opening ceremonies were followed by a dance, to which WRENS and girls of the British Civil Defense Corps were invited. The club has living quarters for 40 men, lounges, a snack bar featuring American coffee and other aids to the comfort of American seamen ashore. Another club will open at Cardiff soon. More are planned for other British ports.

A GI Cop, So Help Us, Teaches Square Dancing

BURY ST. EDMUNDS, Mar. 3—Square dancing, first introduced to this country by London's Mostyn Club, has spread. Out in deepest Suffolk an MP, Pvt. Arlie J. Biady, of Logansport, Ind., is converting the local folks to this fine old American custom.

He has the music, has rustled up a caller, and tomorrow the local girls will appear at the Red Cross Club to learn the finer arts of the hill-billy sport.

Foot in Plaster Cast, U.S. Pilot Raids Brest

A U.S. BOMBER STATION, Mar. 3—Capt. Haly W. Aycock, of Fort Worth, Tex., piloted a Fortress in Friday's raid over Brest with his right foot in a plaster cast.

Aycock was wounded in the foot on his first operational mission, but despite the Medics' frowns he has insisted on taking his plane on three subsequent and successful flights.

New Club at Bournemouth
BOURNEMOUTH, Mar. 3—A new Red Cross officers' club, with accommodations for 150 men, is being opened at the Ambassador Hotel here on Saturday. H. H. VanSant will be director, assisted by Miss M. M. Gibbons and Mrs. A. Price. Miss Ann Martin will be in charge of the information desk.

(Continued from page 1)
mud, hurdle barbed-wire obstacles, dart from tree stumps to niches in the side of a bluff. They encounter mines which go up close enough to throw the men to the ground. Machine-guns kick up the earth not ten feet away from them.

The Rangers bring up the mortars, lay down a barrage as the men up front move in from the left and right flanks. They near the objective, shattering targets up close with Tommy-guns. The "battery" is destroyed with grenades and sticks of TNT, and the withdrawal begins with the flanks dropping back under protective fire from the center. Back at the beach they take off under more mine explosions and machine-gun fire.

This is not fun. It's grim business with live ammunition flying all over the area. "Enemy" machine-guns are Bren guns manned by Commando officers who keep their fire within ten feet, or less, of the men at ranges of 100 and 200 yards. They haven't slipped—yet!

Plenty of Nerve

"These Yanks have plenty of nerve," observed one British officer. "They don't scare easily. We are often asked if they measure up to the Commando standard. Believe me, they do."

The Rangers are schooled by hard-bitten veterans of Dieppe, St. Nazaire, Lofoten Islands and other Commando sorties to Nazi-held territory.

Boss of this Ranger battalion is soft-spoken, lean, 36-year-old Maj. Randolph Millholland, former accountant from Cumberland, Md.

The requirements for a Ranger applicant place a great deal of stress on youth. He must have the physical characteristics of a 25-year-old if he is over that age. His vision must be 20-20, must be able to swim, must not be color blind and cannot have a removable bridge in his teeth.

Reveille at 7 AM is followed by calisthenics two hours later. Stripped to the waist in any type of weather, mostly bad, they toss a 200-pound log about the premises by way of loosening up.

Lockheed Technicians Help to Rebuild Church

BELFAST, Mar. 3—American civilian technicians of the Lockheed Overseas Corp. contributed £100 here to help rebuild blitzed MacRory Memorial Presbyterian church.

The new structure will contain a plaque in recognition of the technicians' generosity.

Legion of Merit Award

The Legion of Merit award, officer's degree, has been conferred on Capt. Dwight L. Meyer, Medical Corps, London Base Command, for "exceptionally meritorious service in the performance of duty from 4 March, 1942 to 21 July, 1942, during which time, as billeting officer of the Headquarters Command, ETOUSA, he arranged for the reception and billeting of all officers arriving in London, a task requiring exceptional tact, perseverance and attention to duty."

There are streams to be crossed by sliding over 100 feet of water on ropes, or crawling over single strands on their bellies. A slip means a plunge of 40 feet and an icy bath in the swirling tide.

Mountain-climbing, ascents straight up and descents straight down, swimming in mud, muck and swamp, clambering over barbed-wire entanglements—all part of the most ingenious assault courses that could be erected.

Sleep in Rain

The night problems are anything but picnics. Given a piece of deer meat and a slice of bread, the Rangers take off for 36 hours in the field, sleeping in the open, rain or otherwise.

There are the "speed marches," non-stop gallops of seven, 12 and 15 miles. Quick time at 140 steps a minute and double time are all that's allowed. The Rangers are proud of their record—two hours and 20 minutes for a 12-mile speed march. It bettered the Commando mark by 40 minutes!

Important, too, is the unarmed combat training that teaches Rangers the knack of killing men with bare hands or knives.

"We don't have 'sick calls' here," explained Lt. William N. Heffner, Rangers' 29-year-old medical officer from Northport, L.I. "And since we've been here there have been only four cases of bad colds and one accident. The colds were taken care of in quick order. The accident was caused by grenade shrapnel in a man's leg. He's OK now."

Gained 12 Pounds

"When the day's work is done we just about have time to dry equipment, clean weapons and go to bed," said Pfc Nick Albanese, of New Kensington, Pa. "You get pretty tired after going through this stuff. But I feel great. I've gained 12 pounds."

Returning the Commandos' compliment, the Rangers agree that "these British boys are hell on wheels. They're all swell fellows and it's good to train with 'em." This last statement from Sgt. Lynwood Belcher, of Martinsville, Va.,

who was in the Infantry for six years before joining the Rangers.

A veteran in this business is Pvt. Frank T. Lyons, of Philadelphia. He joined the Commandos and after being with them for seven months was taken ill and hospitalized. Before he was released his outfit went to Africa so he moved in with this crop of Rangers.

The men here form a strange collection. Their civilian trades range from embalmers and lens makers to welders, bank tellers, salesmen and truck drivers.

The embalmer, Pfc Walter R. Hedlund Jr., of Lowell, Mass., is anxious to embalm a flock of Jerrys with his BAR.

Grim reminders that Rangers, as well as Commandos, cannot afford to make mistakes are the several graves with tomb-stones that tell passers by: "This man forgot to examine his climbing rope."

"This man took up a position on the skyline."

"This officer put a bomb down a mortar the wrong way."

Amazed Commando Experts

Stories of the first group of Rangers trained here are eagerly told by instructors.

One concerns Pvt. Sampson P. Oneskunk, a full-blooded Sioux Indian from Cherry Creek, S.D., who amazed Commando experts with his knowledge of woodmanship.

If his name is unusual, so was his appearance. He was six feet, two inches and weighed only 150 pounds. When the Rangers maneuvered through the heavily wooded area, Oneskunk really showed them something by traveling noiselessly through heavy underbrush.

Suddenly he disappeared. A whole force of officers and men strained their ears but couldn't hear a thing for ten minutes or more. Then, Oneskunk revealed his position in a tree. To prove it wasn't an accident, the Indian repeated his performance, creeping up and stealing soldiers' rifles without being seen or heard.

When he left, Oneskunk hoped he would go to India where he believed the country was full of Indians. Instead, he went to Africa.

Three Dances a Week At Bournemouth Club

BOURNEMOUTH, Mar. 3—Three dances a week are scheduled at Granville Court, one of the three Red Cross clubs for enlisted men at this famous resort city.

Local bands provide the music on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday nights. Tomorrow night the club is holding a class in music appreciation. Provision has been made for tennis, volley ball or football on Saturday afternoon while there will be a "co-ed" basketball tourney Sunday afternoon, and a bridge tournament Sunday night.

Speaker of Commons Dies

Capt. Edward Algernon FitzRoy, Speaker of the House of Commons, died yesterday after an illness of two weeks. He was 73. It was the first time that a Speaker of the House had died in office since 1789.

Col. Keith Compton, 27, Heads Mideast Bombers

CAIRO, Mar. 3 (AP)—Twenty-seven-year-old Col. Keith Karl Compton, of St. Joseph, Mo., has been appointed to command the heavy bombardment group of the U.S. Ninth Air Force, it was announced today. He succeeds Col. George F. McGuire, who has been transferred to another theater.

Col. Compton, holder of the Air Medal and DFC for successful attacks against Italian objectives, took part in numerous raids on Europe from England. While in Britain the King visited the American bomber unit and showed great interest in Col. Compton's plane "Peggie Ann," named after his baby daughter.

Mostyn Square Dance

There will be square dancing at the American Red Cross Mostyn Club tonight at 8.30 PM. S/Sgt. Roy W. Gill, of Port Jervis, N.Y., will play the fiddle.

Blondie

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

by Chic Young

