

House Puts Soldier Vote Up to States

328-69 Decision Follows Defeat of Proposal for A Federal Ballot

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—In the face of President Roosevelt's blunt assertion that such legislation was a "fraud" on servicemen, a rebellious House passed and sent to the Senate last night a bill leaving the soldier-vote question up to the individual states.

The vote was 328-69. Meanwhile, the Senate today rejected a "states-rights" compromise measure proposed by a coalition of Southern Democrats and Republicans led by Sen. Robert A. Taft (R., Ohio). The vote, 46 to 42, marked the second time the Senate has beaten down attempts to change the pending legislation so that the soldier vote would be left up to the states, despite Senate passage some time ago of a "states-rights" bill.

Four Main Provisions

The measure enacted by the House provides:

- 1—The states to adopt legislation to enable servicemen to cast absentee ballots in any special primary or general election in war time.
- 2—The states to use printed postcards to allow personnel of the armed forces to apply for ballots.
- 3—Postcard applications must be distributed to servicemen outside the U.S. not later than Aug. 15, 1944, and to those within the U.S. not later than Sept. 15.
- 4—Military authorities must give ballots air priority.

Despite the President's forceful condemnation of similar legislation already passed by the Senate, the House made clear after a hectic 11-hour session its insistence on leaving the election machinery in the hands of individual states, some of which deny constitutionally the right to vote to anyone outside the territorial limits of the U.S. for any reason.

Administration forces, reeling under this smashing defeat in the House, pinned their last hopes for a uniform federal ballot on the Senate, where some ground already has been yielded.

Commenting at his press conference today on the soldier vote, President Roosevelt asserted that the responsibility for this was more up to Congress than to him.

Previously, he had challenged the House to "stand up and be counted" on the issue. The House accepted the challenge, and passage of the bill last night came with a roll-call vote.

Work to Keep Spain a Neutral

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—The United States and Britain are working together to see that Spain maintains real neutrality, President Roosevelt told his press conference today, commenting on American cancellation of February oil shipments to the Iberian republic.

Asked if the effort were succeeding, Mr. Roosevelt replied that frankly he did not know but he hoped it was.

(United Press quoted a Madrid report that Gen. Jordana, Spanish foreign minister, appeared to want to shape Spanish policy so as to make it acceptable to the Allies.)

The President said he was following the shifting political scene in Russia with great interest, although he could not immediately interpret the meaning of the latest Russian move giving diplomatic and military autonomy to the 16 individual Soviet republics.

He would not comment upon it, he said, until he learned more about it. The Chief Executive contrasted this attitude with that of persons who expressed opinions without true knowledge of the situation and pointed out that it frequently required more courage to say, "I don't know."

Convoys to Britain Now Safe

TORONTO, Feb. 4 (AP)—Every ship in an Allied convoy in the Atlantic now has almost a 100 per cent chance of getting through safely, declared Angus L. MacDonald, Canada's minister for naval services, in an interview today.

Small Growth Removed From Roosevelt's Head

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—President Roosevelt underwent a minor operation at the Naval Hospital Wednesday for removal of a small harmless growth from the back of his head.

He told his press conference today the operation required a local anesthetic and lasted half an hour. He was not permitted to smoke while it was in progress but the moment the surgeon had finished, he said, he yelled for a cigarette.

NW Reich Hit In Heavies' 7th Raid in 8 Days

U.S. Bombers Escorted To Targets and Back; Report Intense Flak

Striking their seventh blow in eight days at the German war machine, American Fortresses and Liberators attacked targets in western Germany yesterday. Details of the operation, including the specific targets, the size of the raiding force and the losses, had not been announced at headquarters late last night. Buffeted by a gale that at times reached a strength of 150 miles an hour, the bombers flew over a solid layer of cloud thousands of feet thick and in tempera-

2000 Heavies Against Reich

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (Reuters)—Gen. George C. Marshall, U.S. Army chief of staff, revealed in a speech before the American Legion today that more than 2,000 American heavy bombers were being used against Germany and occupied Europe.

tures plummeted to 45 below zero. Over the target, crews said, the clouds thinned out enough for some of the raiders to see smoke and flames billowing up from the bombed area.

Unusually heavy flak was reported over the target. Many pilots said that it was the heaviest they had met for months over Germany.

The raid was the third of the month for the U.S. Strategic Air Forces in Europe, Libs having hit the Pas de Calais area on Wednesday and Forts having pounded Wilhelmshaven on Thursday. The heavies were escorted all the way to yesterday's targets and back by U.S. and RAF fighters. Spitfires took them to the continent, then P47s escorted them to and from the target, and P38s and P51s circled the targets like watchdogs while the bombers went through their runs. Some of the bomber pilots said they did not see a single enemy fighter.

Capt. Everett Sargent, of West Concord, Mass., who is one of the few B24 Ploesti veterans still on operations, finished his tour yesterday. "There was a lot of flak," he said, "but the fighter support was so good that we couldn't have seen any German fighters even if they had been there. There is nothing so beautiful over Germany as our own fighters."

In the Wilhelmshaven mission Thursday, two of the leading Eighth Air Force Thunderbolt pilots shot it out for first place on the score sheet, headquarters disclosed yesterday.

Capt. Walker M. Mahurin, of Fort Wayne, Ind., destroyed an Me109 to bring his total to 16, and Maj. Walter

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—And Save the Ship to Boot

3 in Fort Refuse to Bail Out, Stay to Rescue Trapped Gunner

By Henry B. Jameson

Associated Press Staff Writer

A U.S. BOMBER BASE, Feb. 4—Because a ball-turret gunner was trapped and unable to jump from a blazing plane, three crewmen of the Fortress Canadian Club declined to abandon the ship and returned to rescue him. Then all four nursed the staggering plane home on two engines from a recent raid.

When the plane went into a steep dive with one engine out, the left wing enveloped in flames and the fuselage full of flak holes, the pilot, Lt. James C. Waggoner, 21, of Carthage, Tenn., ordered the crew to bail out.

All except three gunners and the pilot jumped. Then a distress call came over the inter-phone. "Ball-turret gunner to pilot. I'm stuck. Can't get out," said Sgt. George Agiasotellis, of Watertown,

Annihilation Faces Nazi Armies Trapped in Bend; Reds Drawing New Net Tight at Luga in North

\$300 Peace Bonus Assured; FDR Signs Compromise Bill

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—President Roosevelt signed today a compromise mustering-out pay bill providing \$300 bonuses for honorably discharged overseas armed-forces personnel, \$200 for those in service in the U.S. 60 days or longer, and \$100 for those with less than 60 days' service at home.

At his press conference, the President described the measure as an important step in the demobilization program. At the same time, however, he called for the adoption of other legislation to aid service men and women.

For example, he said, the government should make it financially possible for members of the armed forces to resume interrupted studies and to train themselves for peace-time jobs. He also urged social-security credits covering the period of military service and a system of unemployment allowances for discharged men and women.

The mustering-out bill, as finally drafted by a Senate and House conference committee which reconciled differences between the upper house's \$500 measure and the lower chamber's \$300 proposal, would pay gratuities, with certain exceptions, to all ranks up to and including the Army rank of captain or equivalent grades in other services.

In a statement issued after signing of the pay bill, Mr. Roosevelt said, "We must make our plans now and take all necessary steps to see to it that there will be good jobs awaiting our returning servicemen and women."

"But we must anticipate that there may be unemployment during the period of reconversion and we must, therefore, establish now suitable machinery for the payment of reasonable unemployment allowances to those veterans who are unable to obtain jobs within a reasonable period after their discharge."

U.S. Mops Up Kwajalein Japs

All 32 Islets Nearly Won As Vast Supplies Pour In; Losses Relatively Small

PEARL HARBOR, Feb. 4—American forces appeared to be on the verge of conquering the entire 32 islets of Kwajalein atoll tonight as men, tanks, heavy guns and supplies poured ashore for U.S. units annihilating a dwindling force of Japanese staggering under the momentous U.S. onslaught.

Already more than 1,250 Japs of one garrison estimated at 2,000 have been killed by Fourth Division Marines and Seventh Division Army troops who so far have lost 127 killed, 590 wounded and nine missing, it was announced last night.

Kwajalein's massive lagoon tonight was filled with hundreds of barges, transports and warships under an order by Rear Adm. Kelly Turner, chief of Navy forces in the operation, thus protecting them from possible attack by Japs subs.

On Roi and Namur Islands, Navy Seabees were working day and night to reshape the four vital airstrips practically plowed up by the terrific U.S. barrage which preceded the landings five days ago. Fighters already probably are using one of the strips, naval observers said.

Already the next move in the campaign has begun. Strong formations of Seventh Air Force Libs from bases probably in the Gilberts pounded Rogelap and Mili atolls in the eastern Marshalls. Not a single plane rose to defend the islands.

Flamethrower Use Protested

Squeamish Home Front's Plea for Japs Soundly Scored by Marshall

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—Gen. George C. Marshall, asserting that the people at home still failed to grasp the magnitude of the effort needed for victory, disclosed today that he had received "vehement protests" from some civilians because U.S. troops used flamethrowers to kill Japs.

These protests, he said, showed a lack of understanding "of the meaning of our death on the beaches of Tarawa."

Stressing concern with the home front in a speech to the American Legion, the Army chief of staff said his demands for "stern resolution" at home were pardonable "in one who has terrible responsibilities for the lives of many men."

He said that the great battle pending in Europe and the Marshall Islands thrust in the Pacific were only preludes to more action.

Mentioning the RAF night bombardment and the American daylight air offensive, Gen. Marshall said: "The people of Germany are experiencing the horrors of war for which they are responsible to a degree never before approximated in modern times."

"Berlin is now a shambles. Destruction of other smaller targets will require much less time."

Under-secretary of War Robert P. Patterson, also addressing the American Legion, echoed Marshall's sentiments on the home-front outlook: "This war is entering a crucial period and the National Service Act is the only means I know of gearing all the productive power of the nation behind the military blows we must strike against our enemies."

2,000,000 More Soldiers To Go Overseas in 1944

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—Declaring that more than 2,000,000 soldiers were scheduled for transfer overseas this year in addition to "staggering quantities of equipment," Rear Adm. Emory S. Land, chairman of the U.S. Maritime Commission, last night asked enactment of the National Service Act to guard against further delays in the realization of shipping production goals.

"Our armies are about to undertake their most hazardous mission," Land said. "Let us not hesitate to submit ourselves to the same procedure our soldiers have accepted without complaint—their country's simple request that they do their duty."

Marlene Eyes ETO

HOLLYWOOD, Feb. 4—Marlene Dietrich volunteered today to entertain United Nations troops overseas, and said she would "like very much to go to England." She has one more picture to finish before she can leave.

Pressure on Nikopol Swells; Vitebsk's Fall Foreseen

Remnants of ten German divisions surrounded inside a tightening ring of iron in the upper Dnieper Bend faced systematic annihilation yesterday as the Red Army in the north prepared to spring a giant trap around the Nazi base at Luga and swept into an eastern suburb of the important rail junction of Narva in Estonia.

From the Baltic front to the Crimea, Russian armies were reported advancing on eight fronts—pushing strong forces deep into Poland, hitting hard around Nevel and Vitebsk in the north and renewing the long battle for the vital manganese center of Nikopol on the lower Dnieper.

German withdrawal from Vitebsk, the Nazi hedgehog 75 miles northwest of Smolensk, was foreshadowed by a Berlin radio announcement of a Nazi retreat here before an attacking force of 120,000 Russians. "Vitebsk can no longer be regarded as a cornerstone of the German front," an enemy commentator declared.

Tell of Two Retreats

Col. Ernst Von Hammer, military commentator for the German News Agency, also announced Nazi withdrawals west of Novo Sokolniki, on the Moscow-Riga railway, where Russians under Gen. Popov have been on the offensive for a week, and between the Pripet and Beresina Rivers, where Gen. Rokossovsky's forces have been pushing toward Pinsk from Mazyr and Kalinkovichi.

The enemy disclosure that the battle for Nikopol had reached a new climax, with strong Soviet formations pressing from the south, indicated that Gen. Feodor Tolbukhin's Ukraine army south of the lower Dnieper was swinging into action again after a lull of nearly two months.

Moscow said the Germans trapped inside the Dnieper Bend ring west of Kirovograd were counter-attacking furiously. Commentators in the Russian capital considered the Nazis' chances of



Daily Express Map fighting their way free slight, since only one of the ten divisions is a tank unit.

A Red Star dispatch, likening their plight to that of the German Sixth Army at Stalingrad, said thousands of Nazis had become "groups of wanderers." There were no reports of large surrenders, however.

Members of the German high command staff were reported taken out by transport planes after small supplies of vital necessity had been brought in.

On the northern front the battle for

(Continued on page 4)

Sen. Lodge Quits To Rejoin Army

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (AP)—Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge Jr. (R.-Mass.) has resigned from the Senate to return to active service as an officer in the U.S. Army.

The appointment of a successor lies with Gov. Leverett Saltonstall, and the Boston Post said today that it was learned from an authoritative source that Saltonstall would resign the governorship and be appointed to the senate by Lt.-Gov. Horace T. Cahill, who would automatically succeed him.

Sen. Lodge, one of the five senators who toured the war theaters last year, holds a commission as major in the U.S. Army Reserve. He served earlier in the war with the First Armored Division in Libya. He went on the inactive list 18 months ago.

In a letter to the Senate's presiding officer, the 41-year-old senator said that in view of the impending "large scale ground fighting" he could best serve his country as "a combat soldier overseas."

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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Balkan Difficulties

Recent attacks by U.S. bombers on Sofia and other Balkan cities are significant, and their significance has not been lost on German military leaders or the quisling rulers of vassal Balkan states.

The recent raids may in fact be regarded as the opening of a new phase in the Mediterranean air war. Not the least important angle of this new phase is that by dropping bombs on the Sofia railway yards the Mitchell bombers of the Northwest Africa Air Force delivered a blow as much on behalf of the Red Army as for the Yugoslav and Greek patriots. This link-up with the Russian offensive is quite plain. Supply trains passing through Sofia feed, by way of Black Sea ports, those German divisions which are retreating towards Odessa, so it may well be that the Russian armies in the south of Russia will find their job made easier for them by these carefully planned attacks which may rob heavily engaged German troops of vital supplies.

At this stage it is impossible to say how much damage has been done; but traffic congestion at Sofia could, no doubt, largely throw out of gear the whole Balkan railway system and with it the whole supply system for German troops operating in South Russia.

This danger must be adding new fears to those already stalking the German High Command.

Drafting the Japs

American citizens of Japanese descent are going to be drafted. They'll be reclassified by their local draft boards and if they pass the Army physical they'll be called right up for induction.

The War Department says they're going to accept Japanese Americans in the Army because units already in combat have made such an excellent showing under fire. One battalion made up of Japanese-American GIs has been fighting with the Fifth Army in Italy and has won many commendations for its work.

This is another example of American Democracy in action and proves once again that the "melting pot" works swiftly and well.

Naming Planes

The Joint Aircraft Committee is going to simplify the business of naming military planes—especially American-built planes used by the U.S. Air Force. In the future the Committee says that the names of all the new war planes will follow these rules: Names of fighters will indicate speed, maneuverability and fighting characteristics, such as Lightning and Thunderbolt.

Bombers will be named to show size, weight, power, range or destructive characteristics and follow the Fortress, Helldiver lead. Seafaring terms will be used to identify patrol ships. Names of transports will imply transportation, range or load-carrying ability. Skytrain and Traveler are examples. Training planes will be named after educational institutions, places of training, or tuition terms; but not names of military or naval establishments. Harvard, Tutor and Recruit are examples.

And in the future, names selected by the Joint Aircraft Committee will consist of only one word which ruins a couple of good suggestions—Tokyo Clipper and Berlin Express for example. But name or no name, the early operation of the bombing service suggested can be expected, and we'll leave it to the committee to properly name the aircraft that does the work.

The Busy Bees

The War Department has tipped its hat to the WASP's—Women's Airforce Service Pilots—who have completed more than a year of military flying and have established new records for safety.

The WASP's current accident rate is .05 fatal accidents per 1,000 hours flying. That averages about 3,000,000 miles, or more than 125 times around the world, for every fatal accident.

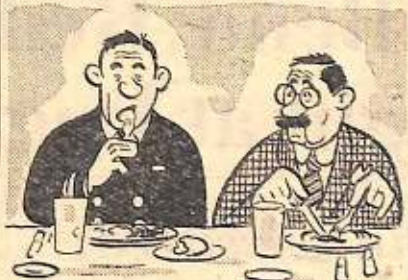
At the present time there are 900 WASP's in service, and they're flying nearly 5,000,000 miles a month. At first, the women pilots were used only for ferrying light liaison and training craft from the factory assembly lines to airfields in the United States. Today most WASP's still fly the lighter craft, but many of them ferry all types of military planes within the United States and Canada. They also do other non-combat jobs such as target-towing, courier duty, tracking, testing, and experimental work.

With the new record hung so high, the old wheeze that "a woman's place is in the home" seems a bit antiquated. Like the busy bee, women today are flying everywhere.

Hash Marks

Fun in the ETO. The Help Wanted Department recently received a letter requesting a certain nurse's address. Two days after this request was published the department received a letter from a sergeant, saying belligerently, "Anyone wishing to get in touch with Miss —; refer them to me!"

An American naval officer, attending a British banquet, proceeded in typical American fashion, using his fork in his



right hand—his left hand hanging idly in his lap. An English gentleman sitting on his left watched him eat this way for a while, then leaned over and asked, "Could I cut your meat for you?" The surprised naval officer thanked him, but stated that he could manage quite nicely. A few minutes later, the American finally put his idle left hand into action—to pass a dish. Whereupon the Englishman leaned over and whispered, "Oh, I'm so sorry—I thought you had lost an arm!"

Signs of the Times. For the first time in many a moon, the tobacco auctioneer is no longer a colorful figure on the Home Front. And it's all the fault of the OPA. At this year's burley auctions, prior to offering each lot for sale, the auctioneer announced the grade of the tobacco. Then the OPA prescribed the ceiling price. The buyers immediately bid the ceiling price and the auction was over. No more "hardheardollo—sold American!"

Our spy on the home front tells us this one. A young gal was working her way through riveting school selling Colliers—but all the boys wanted to take Liberties.

Confusion on the Home Front. Confusion is at its peak these days in the Civic Theater and Civic Opera House in



Chicago. The two theaters are alongside and patrons can enter either from the same cocktail lounge. Olsen and Johnson in "Sons O Fun" are currently at the opera house; while "Three's A Family" is at the Civic. A customer halfway through the latter show asked, "When do Olsen and Johnson come on?"—and another, wandering from the Civic Theater into Sons O Fun after intermission, said he thought the second act was a lot better than the first!

GI Philosophy: We are lucky in one way. The troops we have to fight through to reach Berlin are not Russians.

PRIVATE BREGER



"On this cake you will inscribe: 'Commemorating the fifty-sixth birthday of the Commanding General, Headquarters, European Theater of War Operations, United States Army!'"

Film Star Back to Army Clerk Job

That's Story of Sgt. Who'll Appear in British Movie

By Andrew A. Rooney

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

The United States Army has just gotten Sgt. John Stevens Sweet, of Granville, Ohio, back from a British film studio where he has been working for five months on a full-length feature production. He takes the part of an American soldier from Oregon—one of the few parts of the country he hasn't lived in—who is on leave in Canterbury.

The film, "A Canterbury Tale," will probably be released by its producers some time next month. Sweet was picked for the part when Michael Powell, who with Emeric Pressberger is producing the picture, saw him play the part of Francis Marion in the Army production, "The Eve of St. Mark," in London last summer.

Taking one of the four leading roles, Sweet represents a typical American, and the complete absence of any "average" characteristic in his personality makes him a pretty good "average American." He isn't handsome, but he has an American face, some acting ability, and he was intelligent enough to catch on to the movie-making business in a hurry.

In the three months Sweet spent on the outdoor set at Canterbury and at the main stages at Denham he was the studio's most persistent sightseer. From his inside track as an actor, he saw the same things that Hollywood tourists see for the first time. A two-hour wait on the set because of some technical hitch or a four-hour wait while other scenes were shot didn't bore Sweet the way it did the old timers. He wandered around making friends with make-up men, script-writers and stagehands, learning all he could about the little angles to the business.

Some Scenes Tough to Take

Outside scenes were difficult to take in England because perfect conditions were required and the chance of getting all factors just right at the same time were about the same as the chances of guessing the right numbers of a combination lock. If the sun was out there was a plane overhead to mar the sound track, and if the plane passed over before the sun went under another cloud, a truck passed over the bridge in the background and ruined the shot.

Often 15 or 20 seconds of film constituted a day's work for the large crew of technicians and actors, and if they got 30 seconds of good shooting in they considered it a good day.

The film is a unique attempt by a writer and a director (Emeric Pressberger and Michael Powell) to put across an idea and a feeling, more than a story. The tale is a simple one of four people who come together in Canterbury, and the director's aim is to get across a theme which whispers through the film that past and present are one.

It is an idea that Hollywood probably wouldn't touch with a ten-foot camera crane and if it comes off it will be a major success for British picture-makers.

Although Sweet admits that he has learned a lot in the tedious hours he



Sgt. John Sweet, who was loaned to a British film studio for five months to play a feature part in a picture called "A Canterbury Tale," discusses the script with Director Michael Powell in front of Canterbury Cathedral.

spent getting every ten seconds of the script on film to the director's satisfaction, he doesn't pretend to be a professional actor and he doesn't plan to stay in the business. He was graduated from Ohio State University in 1940. He wanted to teach then, his ambitions haven't changed any, and he doesn't think they will even if "A Canterbury Tale" is a hit back in the States.

Sweet claims that nothing really difficult was asked of him by "Mickey" Powell, the director, although there were several scenes where they sweated over him for hours until he put the scene across the way they wanted it. The sergeant, who is apt to have ideas on everything and a philosophy about most things, found that being natural in front of a camera was hard work.

"What you have to do," Sweet says, "is think about what you are supposed to be doing as though you were really doing it. All the little things you feel come out if you think of them hard. It's really amazing! I don't know how it happens, but if you really feel things it all comes out in your face and hands and gets on the film."

"Mickey Powell, the director and co-author of the script, got fond of the 'Bob Johnson' character—that was me—and gave me a lot of little breaks in write-in lines. The difficult parts, though, were put over by professional actors like Eric Portman and Dennis Price, two British top-notchers."

Few Yanks in Town

In Canterbury, Sweet had an American soldier's Valhalla. There had been so few U.S. soldiers in the town that British soldiers were still mistaking the GI blouse for an officer's and were saluting him.

The Army continued to pay Sweet his sergeant's salary while he was on detached service with the film company, but Archer Films, Ltd., paid all his expenses while he lived in Canterbury, and according to Sweet he had an ideal financial arrangement.

"When I wanted money," he said simply, "I asked them for it."

The picture cost the company somewhere around \$600,000 to make, and they

were prepared to pay the principal characters, including Sweet, substantial sums. As far as the Army was concerned, though, Sweet was simply doing another special Special Service job and wasn't eligible to accept any cash for his performance. When he finished the film they offered him \$2,000 for his services and said that if he couldn't accept it himself he could designate some organization to which the money would be given.

Sweet is not the man to stand short on an offer like that. He knew exactly to which organization he wanted the money to go. He designated the National Association for the Advancement of the Colored People, and if authorities will look the other way for just a minute while he slips the money past their monetary exportation laws, the NAACP will have the money.

Education Was Spotty

Sweet recalls that before he got to Ohio State his education was pretty spotty. "I think I skipped the sixth grade and then spent two years in both the eighth and ninth grades," he says.

"My father used to be a Baptist minister. Later a small Baptist College in Canada got him up there as president because he had shown such ability at getting contributions out of people."

"He left some money for the family when he died and my three sisters and two brothers all went to Denison College. The money was gone when it came my turn, so I worked a year before I went to Ohio State."

Sweet, now 28, is married and has a year-old daughter named Monrovia, after his wife.

"My wife's down on the sands in Miami vacationing with her family, and here I am a sergeant," he said. "I don't know what the hell I'm doing with a leisure-class wife."

The day after Sweet finished his work with Eric Portman, Dennis Price and the blonde Sheila Sim, the other principals in "A Canterbury Tale," the Army sent him back down to the basement of an office building in London to file Army correspondence. But he can still dream, can't he?



Ground Crew Baby

There's something akin to a human bond, As men watch a ship take off in the dawn. It's a love you'd never understand; What a Flying Fort can mean to a man.

To them, you see, she's a rhapsody, A powerful, thunderous symphony Of craft and speed and sweat and skill, An aery creation of human will; A thousand years of kings and courts And the minds of men in a Flying Fort.

Her voice is her bombs and spattering guns Her heritage, victories up by the sun, Her spirit, American, pioneering anew, Her mission, destruction, her soul is the crew.

That's why, to the ground crew, she's something more Than "just a Fort" as they watch her soar Away toward a fighter-and-flak-filled hell, That pilots and gunners know so well.

It's personal pride when they hear what she did Like a father's, whose son licks the neighbor's kid, She's a Dempsey, a Gerhig, a champ of champs, She's pennies the kids put in war saving stamps.

She fights her load through and comes back for more. Take a look at her side, at her bombing score.

To the ground crew guys they mean battle scars, Campaign ribbons pinned there by Mars. When she battles home from a long, tough ride, With a shell-torn wing, or a hole in her side.

You can understand the reason why There's pride in the heart of a ground crew guy. They're proud of the way she out-rose the flak.

Out-gunned and out-distanced a fighter pack. Like the mother whose ever-loving son Played in the ball game and knocked a home run

And her voice, the bombs and the cannons too, The pilot, the gunners, the whole damn crew Know that ground crews are guys that cook, And there's more to a "Fort" than you read in a book.

Cpl. Ellsworth B. Lawrence.

Allies Beat Off 4 Nazi Attacks South of Rome

Americans in Street Battle For Cassino; Rommel Is Reported in Italy

Four strong German thrusts against the Allied Nettuno bridgehead, described by Rome radio as "a major counter-thrust," have been smashed back with heavy losses, it was announced yesterday, as dispatches from Allied headquarters relayed the report that Field Marshal Rommel had returned to Italy to rally hard-pressed German forces on two fronts.

The fruitless counter-attacks, which may signal the opening of a decisive battle to decide the fate of Rome, came as American troops on the main Fifth Army front to the southeast fought with bayonet and hand grenade in the streets of Cassino to rout enemy forces opposing their penetration of the almost outflanked town.

Faced with the imminent loss of Cassino and an Allied breakthrough into the Liri Valley road to Rome, Marshal Kesselring threw his armies into a desperate struggle to smash the Fifth Army's bridgehead offensive.

Americans Beat Off Attack

In the area north of Padiglione, seven miles southwest of Cassino, three fierce German assaults were beaten back. The fourth attack, against Americans west of Cassino, was also repulsed, the U.S. troops capturing a number of prisoners.

Axis reports, speaking of German counter-attacks along the ten-mile German defense line between Cassino and Campoleone, said that wave after wave of Allied tank and infantry forces were being rushed into battle.

There was no confirmation of a Cairo radio report that Allied forces had broken Cassino's outer defenses and were forcing the Nazi garrison back into the inner part of the town.

Allied bombers strafed motor vehicles rushing German troops to the bridgehead front. Liberators hit railroad installations at Stimigliano, 20 miles northeast of Rome. The railroad at Sulmona, just behind the German lines on the Eighth Army front, also was raided.

As Americans advanced into Cassino from the north, in the four-mile stretch of the Gustav Line between Cassino and Terelle, French and Americans pushed on despite bitter opposition.

On the Eighth Army front, the British captured the mountain village of Torricella.

Austria Eats Chickens Before the Eggs Are Laid

GENEVA, Feb. 4—Austrians "are convinced the war will be over within two or three months and are spending all their money and eating all their reserves of food," a German frontier dispatch to the Gazette de Lausanne said today.

AFN to Give a Play-by-Play Of Football Game at Bristol

A play-by-play description of the Blues-Invaders football game at Bristol, with Cpls. Keith Jameson and Johnny Vrotsos at the microphone, will headline tomorrow's sports airings on AFN, kickoff time being 2:20 PM.

Earlier in the day, Georgians will be treated to news-letters from three towns—Atlanta, Gainsville and Savannah—on the "Your Town" program at 11 AM.

GI talent in Cpl. Svi Binkin's "Rhapsody in Khaki" will be heard at 5:30 PM from a Nissen hut theater in Ulster. The half-hour variety show will feature an orchestra dance band, songs by a Negro quartet, and a skit starring M/Sgt. Ralph Portnov, of Indianapolis, Ind., and Sgt. Haskel Woolf, of New York.

"Take The Air," Air Force-AFN program getting under way at 8:10 PM today, will include the personal appearance of Maj. Martin Willson, of Berkeley, Calif., and "canned" interviews with English civilians and Flying Fortress gunners recorded at the Eighth Air Force exhibit at Selfridge's in London.

Saturday, Feb. 5

- 1100—GI Jive.
- 1115—Personal Album with Helen Forrest
- 1130—Geraldine and his Orchestra (BBC).
- 1200—Downbeat with Harry James.
- 1230—Yank Swing Session.
- 1300—World News (BBC).
- 1310—Serenade.
- 1315—War Commentary.
- 1330—Hello, India—Special feature to the GIs in India.
- 1400—Happy Norman's Ranch House.
- 1430—Sign off until 1745 hours.
- 1745—Sign on—Spotlight on Alvin Roy and Program Resume.
- 1800—World News (BBC).
- 1810—GI Supper Club.
- 1900—Seven O'Clock Sports.
- 1905—Waltz Time, with Abe Lyman's Orchestra and Frank Tenn.
- 1930—Dinah Shore Program.
- 2000—News from Home—Nightly roundup of news from the U.S.A., with Corporal Ford Kennedy.
- 2010—Take the Air.
- 2030—GI Journal.
- 2100—World News (BBC).
- 2110—Remember.
- 2120—American Commentary—Raymond Gram Swing.
- 2135—All-Time Hit Parade.
- 2200—Xavier Cugat.
- 2230—One Night Stand with Harry Owens.
- 2255—Final Edition.
- 2300—Sign off until 0800 hours Sunday, Feb. 6.

Sunday, Feb. 6

- 0800—Sign On—RAF Theater Orchestra.
- 0830—Major Bowes Amateur Program and Program Resume.

Marshalls' Shells Crack Defenses and Jap Minds

NAMUR HQ, Marshall Islands, Feb. 3 (delayed) (Reuter)—Battle-hardened U.S. Marines were disgusted with the task of annihilating the remnants of Jap troops on this island. The Nipponese were hovering on the borderline of insanity, owing to the Allied bombardment and superior Marine firepower which crumbled their concrete pillboxes. They put up little fight.

"Only a few tried to break the encirclement," the Leathernecks complained.

Nearly every Marine had Japanese loot of some kind. Pornographic pictures were plentiful on the dead and captured Japs.

Nazis Running Blockade Sunk

Navy Tells of 48-Hr. Battle With Craft Laden With Supplies From Japan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—Three German blockade runners en route from Japanese ports in the Far East were spotted by planes and then sunk by three U.S. warships in a 48-hour running battle in the South Atlantic last month, the Navy Department disclosed today.

Laden with thousands of tons of rubber, tin, fats and strategic ores, the enemy ships were sunk by the destroyer Somers, the light cruiser Omaha and the destroyer Jouett, all operating under the command of Vice Adm. Jonas Ingram.

One of the enemy ships, the Weserland, fell to the Somers alone, while the other two, the Burgenland and the Rio Grande, were scuttled by their crews, their sinking being hastened by gunfire from the Omaha and Jouett.

Early in January another German blockade runner en route to Europe from Japan was sunk in the South Atlantic by Brazilian and U.S. naval forces.

Seeks to Place McCormick On Illinois Primary Ballot

CHICAGO, Feb. 4—William J. Grace, secretary of the Republican Nationalist Revival Committee, announced that he would file a petition tomorrow to place Col. Robert McCormick on the Illinois primary ballot as a candidate for the Republican nomination for president.

"I did this," Grace said, "in recognition of Wendell L. Willkie's challenge that 24 hours after a petition to put Col. McCormick's name on the primary ballot in Illinois he would file one for himself."

Col. McCormick is publisher of the Chicago Tribune.

Grim Reminder of Jap Brutality

The Jap way—COLD-BLOODED MURDER



This is the poster the U.S. Army is distributing throughout America as a reminder to U.S. citizens of the atrocities perpetrated by the Japs against the Allies.

Two Forts Collide in Storm; One Gets Back, Minus a Tail

A FORTRESS BASE, Feb. 4 (AP)—Roaring toward home through a blinding snow and rain storm, five miles over the North Sea, two Fortresses collided in midair yesterday but kept on going.

One Fort—with part of its tail sheared off and the tail gunner missing—drove on through 50-below-zero temperature, and limped into home base long after other planes of its formation landed. The fate of the other bomber is not definitely known. It was last seen struggling in the right direction, but crews of other planes said they feared it was forced into the Channel.

The Fort returning minus part of its tail was the Horrible Hanks, piloted by Lt. Donald Ahlwardt, of Danbury, Iowa. "We ran into soupy weather and had a break in the formation," he said. "I've never seen it closed in so much. Sometimes there was no visibility at all."

Ice two inches thick formed on the windshield of the Horrible Hanks. Suddenly, crew felt a "big bump" as their plane was sideswiped by another Fort.

"He just hit us and was gone before anyone could yell," Ahlwardt said. "The clouds simply swallowed him up. As soon as I felt the bump I drew the ship out of the way, but it was too late to save the tail."

The entire back of the plane, at the point where the tail compartment was riveted to the fuselage was slashed off as if hit by a giant meat cleaver. The framework of the inner part of the tail was exposed completely with ripped ends of wire trailing behind.

Russia - - - -

(Continued from page 1)

nearly evacuated Narva was in its initial stages, and the Stockholm Aftonbladet quoted a Leningrad radio broadcast that the Red Army had captured Castle Ivanogorod, on the eastern bank of the Narva river, and part of the river itself. Earlier, the Germans announced the suburb of Ivanogorod had been burned down "for strategic reasons."

A hundred miles to the southeast, Gen. Meretskov's troops advancing on Luga from Novgorod reached points 17 miles from the city to south and east.

The position of the Soviet front in Poland remained obscured by the absence of fresh news from Moscow, but German radio said that Red Army forces which occupied Rovno, 30 miles inside the 1939 Polish border, and Luck, 43 miles to the west, on the railway to Brest-Litovsk, had driven their spearheads far to the west. The radio said further Red reinforcements had been thrown into the battle.

Estonia Mobilized

Berlin radio said yesterday general mobilization had been ordered in Estonia to counter the Soviet invasion.

NEWS FROM HOME

U.S. War Cost To Be Slashed By 27 Billions

Shift to Offensive Has Cut Needs in Certain Lines, Stimson Declares

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—American war costs will be reduced \$27,000,000,000 through drastic cuts in projects ranging from the Alcan Highway to the supply of rifle ammunition, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson revealed in a letter to War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes which was made public last night.

Disclosing that the shift from the defensive to the offensive had reduced certain categories of war production, Stimson declared coastal defense costs alone had been cut \$5,000,000 because "the German fleet is no longer a threat and the Japanese show no inclination to risk their naval forces far from home bases."

Coastal defenses, for the most part, Stimson said, consisted of heavy bombers "striking from advanced air bases we have seized and Allied naval vessels ranging far out at sea."

Commenting on war savings, Byrnes said that the need for higher taxes and increased bond sales was not lessened. He added that the cut in expenditure showed "the Army does not spend money simply because it is made available."

A Smoke on the King

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (Reuter)—The "Kings of America"—more than 500 persons named King—sponsored a ceremony today at which ten British seamen received cigars presented on behalf of King George. The cigars had been collected in a drive started by two girls after newspaper reports that the King of England missed his cigars. The King arranged for the cigars to be distributed among British servicemen in the United States.

York Sights German Collapse

JAMESTOWN, Tenn., Feb. 4—America's number one hero of World War I, Sgt. Alvin C. York, who single-handedly captured 132 Germans, predicted that Germany would crack "just like she did in the last war once the big push gets underway. The Germans never were good when they lost the offensive."

Draft-Dodger Bergdoll Freed; Served 5 Years

FORT LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Feb. 4—Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, wealthy draft dodger of World War I, has been released from the Army Disciplinary Barracks here after serving almost five years of a 7½-year-sentence.

Bergdoll was a 23-year-old playboy in 1917 when he ignored a draft questionnaire and evaded arrest for three years. When World War II broke out, he returned to America from Germany and began serving his term.

Patriotism Should Guide Vote, a Governor Asserts

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 4—Gov. M. M. Neely has urged West Virginia voters to swap politics for patriotism in the November gubernatorial election. A Democrat himself, Neely said that conscientious citizens should vote for the Republican candidate if they "feel that a Republican will be of greater service in office to the American people."

Strike Over, Collectors Tackle Garbage Mountain

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 4—A 20-day strike of 290 city garbage collectors, during which 90,000 tons of refuse piled up in backyards, alleys and basements, has been ended.

Strikers agreed to resume work pending negotiation with the city on demands for a wage increase of 10½ cents an hour. The City Council has authorized a boost of seven cents.

Postoffice Shows a Profit Of \$1,332,849 for 1943

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4—For the first time in 24 years Postoffice Department revenues in the last fiscal year exceeded expenditures, Postmaster General Frank C. Walker told the House appropriations committee today. He said the profit amounted to \$1,332,849.

Terry and the Pirates

