



THE STARS AND STRIPES

Printed at The Times Publishing Company, Ltd. for U.S. Armed Forces, under auspices of The Information and Education Division, Special Information Services, ETOUSA.

THE B BAG



BLOW IT OUT HERE

World Security

To the B-Bag: The San Francisco security conference which will decide ways to enforce the world peace plan drawn up at Dumbarton Oaks is important because the U.S. will probably make its definite position known.

We have bombarded the enemy time and time again and now it's time to bombard the home front so much that the people will know that we aren't shirking our responsibilities in planning the peace.

Mar. 31, 1945

To the B-Bag: We cannot understand what purpose our Representatives have in mind when they admit satisfaction in being assured a voting power in the world security organization equal to 50 per cent of that of Great Britain.

If Britain and Russia claim votes for subsidiary governments, couldn't we just as reasonably claim votes for each of our 48 States on the same basis?

Uniform for Summer

To the B-Bag: We sure like the new WAC off-duty dress. It's lovely and looks cool and comfortable for Summer.

Why the hell can't we leave off the blouse and wear a class "B" uniform when it gets warm?—S/Sgt. D. F. Blankewsky, B. S. King, J. H. Harmon, J. A. Benitou, Sgts. Mike O'Toole and Lager, Cpls. W. A. LaCrove and J. Czukowsky, Pfc. Carlese and Dayton, BAD.

Governing Germany

To the B-Bag: I have read some of your letters about Dorothy Thompson and I'd like to toss in my tuppence worth. What we're looking for (Dottie and I) is a practical solution to the question "What to do with Germany?" and not a lot of gripes embodying idealistic schemes.

The first stage is S-5, whose purpose is to stabilize the conquered areas so our military operations will not be hampered from the rear.

In other words, we are choosing Germans who have the necessary executive abilities, who understand local conditions and who were not completely Nazified.

Doesn't it strike you that the job of picking these men would be much easier if we were to select them from the many Germans who have been influenced by our democracy rather than from Nazified German exiles in the States?

No one in uniform likes it when someone makes the remark that all GIs are jerks. The statement is about as true as the one going the rounds that the only good Germans are dead ones.

Hash Marks

Our spy at the front reports that the Allied armies rolling into Germany sing, "Give Up, Give Up, Wherever You Are!"

After reading some of Col. Stoopnagle's work, WAC Jean Brody has come through with a few dallanions of her own:

Briefsteak: "War-time beefsteak." Casualty: "Dead-broke GI."

Hollywood please copy. A New York lad who saw 705 movies in a year made this comment: "Most of them were lousy!"

A cynic's definition of a "wife": A woman who sticks with her husband



through all the trouble he wouldn't have had if he hadn't married her.

The slang-talking bobby-soxers have finally been beaten at their own game. Cpl. Bill Peterson, just back from the Pacific, was confronted by a teen-ager who quipped, "Hello, short and smooth. Let's rip a hip."

Comment by Sgt. F. X. Carlson: "After seeing the announcement of the Army's plan to show a movie on the Demobilization Plan, I guess we can call the film a TS Slip in technicolor."

Reminiscing about the Home Front, Sgt. M. J. Grille is a little worried about the 12 o'clock curfew. He wonders if, at midnight, the New York bartenders shout, "Time, gentlemen—please!"

Fun on the Home Front. A civilian hurrying home from work side-swiped a car in a lonely lane. He hurried over to



find a soldier and girl friend emerging from the damaged vehicle. "Gosh, soldier, I hope I didn't break your neck," the civilian gasped. "Nope," replied the soldier, "but you sure as hell interrupted it!"

The little moron tells us that an optimist is a guy who thinks his wife has quit cigarettes when he suddenly finds cigar butts around the house.

UP FRONT WITH MAULDIN



'Grab his pistol, Joe—I know where we kin trade it for some combat boots.'

An Editorial

Gutenberg Is Smiling Today

(Reprinted from the first edition of The Stars and Stripes published in Germany.)

WITH the publication of this free newspaper in Germany, another prop is knocked out from under the civilization Adolf Hitler promised would last a thousand years.

Had the German people been told the truth, National Socialism would have died within a decade. For Hitlerism and truth don't mix. One would have to go. Truth went for a while. But in the end Hitler will exit.

The Stars and Stripes, an Army paper, draws its news from many sources. Some are official, most are not. Much is written by its own staff, loyal to the tradition of a free press. Much comes from the rank and file of the Army.

In B-Bag the soldier speaks his mind with the gusto of a free man. That's how Ike Eisenhower wants it. His order—that The Stars and Stripes be free—is based on the belief that soldiers old enough to fight the war are old enough to face the facts.

To draw their own conclusions, freely reached, that in the end can be counted on to be correct. At times the news may seem irrelevant. At times, indiscreet. At times, unfortunate. But the end product is an informed people. And an informed people doesn't goose step to a dictator's tune.

Truth has kept America free. Freedom has made America



strong. Strong in many ways of peace. And, when threatened, strong in the ways of war.

Perhaps this free newspaper of a freedom-loving Army will, along with our bombs and bullets, make an impression on German hearts and minds. The Germans have

what it takes to win back their freedom. Good machinery. Good ink. Good paper and an heritage of good printing that goes back to Gutenberg.

All they need is the truth. Perhaps some day the truth will make them free.

Happy Valley Wears a Frown

Circular Ring of Men and Steel Tightens About German Industry

By Andy Rooney

WITH U.S. 1st ARMY IN THE RUHR, Apr. 8—The Allies' only round front is the ring of men and steel surrounding the Ruhr—the world's most concentrated industrial area.

With the strong 9th Army forces as a solid chopping block upon which the Ruhr is laid, Lt. Gen. Courtney Hodges' 1st Army is attacking from the rear side of the rich pocket to split it apart. The 4,000-square-mile area holds an estimated 100,000 German soldiers.

First Army units are attacking at points along a 70-mile front which extends one-third of the way around the almost circular pocket. The armies' offensive front runs

from 10 miles east of the Rhine to the German town of Brilon. German counter-attacks in the vicinity between Siegen and Siegburg indicate that the enemy, cut off from German Army HQ, does not know how deep the Allied ring about them is.

A list of the Happy Valley cities, so named by the RAF, because of the great concentration of German flak positions, reads like a month's target report for the Air Force. Essen, Dortmund, Hamm, Solingen, Gelsenkirchen, Dusseldorf, Duisdorf, and Wuppertal—more planes have been shot from the air over those neighboring Ruhr industrial metropolises than over any other area in the world. It is in those cities that Germany has produced the wherewithal to wage war.

Germany without one Ruhr city, Essen, could not carry the Army. Essen, the home of the great Krupp steel works, was the center of Westphalian coalfields, Germany's major fuel source.

It is possible that a clean-up of the Ruhr could take anywhere from a week to a month. The Germans in the pocket, while relatively disorganized, have at their disposal thousands of anti-aircraft 88s which they can use against advancing infantry and armor. The Germans have likely destroyed the stone bridges crossing the smaller streams over which Americans must travel to slice into the pocket, and dynamite charges set in V-shaped notches in large trees drop huge willows across the path of advancing forces when set off.

Captured prisoners have already reported that the men of one panzer unit have been ordered to abandon their vehicles, change into civilian clothes and make their way through the American lines.

Parts of the German 15th Army and the 5th Panzer Army, composing the German group have been reported in the Ruhr trap.

The Ruhr pocket is a war within a war and Hodges' 1st Army is fighting it out as a sideline to the main attraction which featured its dash across Germany.

Allied Strength Menaces Vital Nazi Harbors

Steel fingers of Allied armor today menace two vital German naval outlets—Bremen, once Germany's second largest port, and Hamburg, third city of the Reich and leading pre-war Continental seaport. Both have been blasted by Allied planes.

Bremen, although classed as a seaport, actually is on the Weser River, 46 miles inland from the North Sea, midway between Berlin and Arnhem, Holland. Its massive shipyards and industrial plants formerly supported a population of 300,000, later swelled by the importation of war-time captive labor.

Hamburg harbor, one of the most amazing industrial spectacles in the world before the war, is a scene of desolation. Covering six miles of the Elbe River waterfront at the western base of the Danish peninsula, the area is packed solid with wrecked U-boat pens, docks, giant cranes, derricks, elevators and other shipping facilities.

Matter of Speculation

Many of its 1,682,000 population were employed by industrial plants turning out a wide range of goods, including machinery, chemicals and explosives. How many of them are left is a matter for speculation, but as far back as 1943 it was estimated that 11 of the city's 40 districts were "Hamburgered."

Ironically, a third German city, Hanover, which was a part of Great Britain until 1837 (it had the same royal family) is reported to have been just about removed from the face of the earth by the RAF. In addition to its own scheduled raids, this Prussian city of 450,000 caught hell every time Allied bombers droned across the Channel on their way to Bremen, Hamburg or Berlin because it was handy.

A railway center surrounded by some of Germany's richest oil fields and representing nearly every type of heavy industry, Hanover lies a little more than 100 miles south of Hamburg and 150 miles west of Berlin.

AFN RADIO PROGRAM

Monday, Apr. 9

- 1200—Headlines—Duffle Bag. 1300—World News. 1310—American Sports Roundup. 1315—Music from the Movies. 1400—Headlines—Village Store. 1430—Let's Go To Town. 1500—World News. 1510—Melody Roundup. 1530—Combat Diary. 1545—On the Record. 1630—Strike up the Band. 1700—Headlines—Jack Carson. 1730—Eddie Condon's Jazz Session. 1745—Mark up the Map. 1800—World News. 1810—GI Supper Club. 1900—World News. 1905—Novatime. 1915—McGeer and Molly. 1945—Yank Bandstand. 2000—Headlines—Duffy's Tavern. 2030—Canadian Band of the AEF. 2100—World News.

- 2105—Your War Today. 2115—Top Ten. 2145—Johnny Mercer's Music Shop. 2200—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A. 2205—California Melodies. 2235—Fred Waring. 2300—World News. 2305—Merely Music. 0000—World News. 0015—Sign off until 0755 hours Tuesday, Apr. 10.

Tuesday, April 10

- 0755—Sign On—Program Resume. 0800—Headlines—Combat Diary. 0815—Personal Album. 0830—Dance Music. 0900—World News. 0910—Spotlight Bands. 0925—Music America Loves Best. 1000—Headlines—Morning After (Canadian Band of the AEF). 1030—Strike up the Band. 1100—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A. 1106—Duffle Bag.

