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For U.S. Armed Forces

TWO FRANCS

Russians Swamp Faltering Nazis In South Ukraine

Victorious Reds Head For Lower Dnieper; Threaten Crimea

LONDON—The dam of German resistance in the southern Ukraine broke this week and a flood of Russian troops and armor poured through the breach, sweeping the Dnieper bend area and pouring toward the river's mouth and the Crimea.

Hardly before the echo died from Moscow's guns saluting the Red Army triumph at Dniepropetrovsk Monday the Russians had crushed the Wehrmacht's defense lines in the neighborhood of Melitopol in one of the greatest breakthroughs of the war. North, west and south, the Soviets dashed ahead, reaching toward the lower Dnieper and threatening to cut off the Crimea within a few days. Soviet spearheads were only 30 miles from the estuary of the Dnieper where it flows into the Black Sea, and thousand of unburied German dead on the Nogaisk steppes gave testimony to the speed of the Nazis' retreat.

PRESSURE ADDED

The armies thrusting northwest from Melitopol were adding to the pressure around the Dnieper bend mining and rail center of Krivoi Rog, 80 miles southwest of Dniepropetrovsk. Russian units have already entered the suburbs on the northwest fringe of the city, and are being followed by other columns pressing in from three directions.

Except for the garrison defending Krivoi Rog in a delaying rear-guard action, the Germans are now fleeing 20 miles south to Apostolovo, another rail junction which offers only slight hope of transportation to a safer area in the west.

NO RESPITES

Everywhere in the southern Ukraine, hardhitting Red Army mobile formations were countering enemy attempts to organize new defensive stands or attacks. Storm-ovik divebombers apparently had all but rid the skies of Luftwaffe opposition and were taking a heavy toll of soldiers ranging over the steppes, the Soviet Air Force this week destroyed transports by the hundreds and wrecked so many roads that the pile of abandoned German equipment was reaching staggering proportions, correspondents reported from the front.

Only around Kiev were the Germans holding off the growing Russian superiority. Entrenched behind strong fortifications, the Nazis

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President Asks Funds To Send Vets To School

WASHINGTON — President Franklin D. Roosevelt this week urged Congress to authorize financial aid to men and women of the armed forces who wish academic education or vocational training at the end of the war.

Mr. Roosevelt said that the Federal government should make it financially possible for anyone who has spent a reasonable period of time in the services since Sept. 16, 1940, to spend up to one year in "a school, a college, a technical institution or in actual training in industry so that he can further his education, learn a trade or acquire the necessary knowledge and skill for farming, commerce, manufacturing or other pursuits."

For specially qualified ex-servicemen and women, the President suggested, the period of government-sponsored education should be extended an additional one-to-three years.

"This assistance from the government should include not only the cost of instruction but a certain amount of money for main-

tenance," the Chief Executive asserted. He was reported as advocating, for those without income, approximately 50 dollars a month for a single man, 75 dollars for a married man and an added ten dollars for each child. Federal loans up to 50 dollars a month might help to solve the student's financial problem, he said.

One of Mr. Roosevelt's chief arguments in favor of his post-war educational program was that "it costs less per year to keep a man at school or college or training on the job, than to maintain him on active military duty." The committee which the President commissioned to study the subject of schooling for veterans estimated that it would cost 900 dollars a year to maintain a student, 1,500 dollars a year to keep an enlisted man on duty, without considering ordnance and overhead.

"One incidental benefit of permitting discharged veterans to put in a year or more of schooling or training should be to simplify and

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Liberators Stop To Pray



Allied soldiers and Italian civilians and soldiers packed St. Januarius Cathedral in Naples, Sunday, Oct. 17, to attend a Mass celebrating the liberation of the city. —Photo by Army Pictorial Service

Foreign Policy Unity Weather Retards NAAF Activities

(From The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau)

PHILADELPHIA — Secretary of the Navy Frank Knox this week proposed that in 1944 the Republican and Democratic conventions adopt substantially identical foreign policy platforms, declaring that the question of the United States' relations with other nations, particularly our Allies, should not be made a political campaign issue.

Mr. Knox said the two parties had a chance to make a "great common contribution to our success in the war and very probably to our successful conduct in international postwar relations."

"It would mean a great step forward for democratic government if this plan could be adopted. It might easily provide us in the future with a method of handling international questions which would equip us with what we've never had—continuity of a foreign policy. We will certainly never get that as long as international re-

lations remain a football of partisan politics."

He added that discussion of foreign policy as a campaign issue "can only do injury instead of good" to the war effort.

"When we enter discussions with another nation, we should present ourselves not as partisans of one party or the other but as a whole people united in our proposals touching our relations with other nations. Partisanship, especially in war, should end at the water's edge, and we should confront the rest of the world united and undivided."

Mr. Knox and Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson are the two Republicans in the cabinet.

Coal Mine Tieup Referred To FDR

WASHINGTON — The critical coal mine strike problem, already involving 40,000 workers in nine states, this week was referred to President Roosevelt by the War Labor Board after John L. Lewis, United Mine Workers president, in effect rejected a compromise plan by the board for settling the wage dispute.

The board's action was understood to mean that the mines would again be placed under government operation with the miners subject to the criminal penalties of the Smith-Connally Act if they continue stoppage.

WLB earlier turned down the Illinois agreement which union leaders had hoped could be applied to bring the miners back to work. The Illinois agreement called for a basic daily wage of 3.50 dollars. The board declared, however, that it would accept a compromise wage proposal of 8.12 dollars, a minimum daily increase of one dollar and 12 cents. In a telegram to district union leaders, Mr. Lewis said he considered the compromise plan to be equivalent to a reduction in the basic wage rate.

The President is expected to intervene to prevent the general strike which threatens as a result of the inability of the miners and WLB to reach a wage agreement.

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Oct. 29 — During a week in which poor weather hampered operations—Flying Forts were grounded six days out of seven—NAAF planes concentrated on the support of Allied armies driving toward the German defense line in central Italy, and dealt hard blows at enemy communications by hammering the network of roads, railways and airports around Rome. Enemy air opposition was spasmodic.

Italian-based Mitchell's carried on the campaign against the Luftwaffe in the Balkans with heavy raids on airfields in Greece, Albania and Yugoslavia. Fighter-bombers spanned the Adriatic to harass German shipping carrying supplies to Yugoslavian ports for use against patriot armies.

In their only attack of the week, the B-17s, accompanied by Liberators, flew over the mountains to blast railways and bridges in southern Austria, the first NAAF

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Allies Set Stage To Assault Nazis In Italian Hills

Foe's Delaying Action And Heavy Rains Slow Advances

ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Oct. 29 — The stage was set today for a determined Allied drive to break through the fortified line of hills in which the Wehrmacht has entrenched itself along the narrow waist of Italy. Harassed by constant pressure from the oncoming Americans and British, pursued by Allied planes divebombing them relentlessly when the weather permitted, the Germans completed their withdrawal to prepared defenses throughout the week and then turned round to give battle.

Following his usual strategy, the enemy launched attack after attack to slow up the Allied troops, particularly in the American

LONDON—Field Marshal Albert Kesselring has been relieved of his command in south Italy and is being sent to an air command on the Russian front, Reuters said yesterday quoting neutral reports.

Kesselring has been succeeded, it was reported, by General Heinrich von Wittinghoff, formerly commanding a German army group in South Italy under Kesselring. He is 50 years old and a tank expert. According to Reuters, General Wittinghoff assumes command of the new German 10th Army, composed of the 15th, 16th and 26th Panzer Divisions, the Hermann Goering SS Division, the 3rd Panzer Grenadiers, the 29th Motorized Division and the 1st Parachute Division.

sector. Each of these was easily beaten off, and the way cleared for further gains. By the week's end, torrential rains were adding to Allied difficulties, and fighting increased in intensity as flat ground was reached, permitting extensive use of tanks. The Germans were even sending up some planes to oppose Allied advances.

Resistance was expected to grow heavier as the Allies came to grips with the main enemy forces. The Wehrmacht has no choice but to defend this line as best it can. Once the Allies scale these heights — forming the best defensive position this side of Rome—the Germans will find it increasingly harder to stop them.

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All Home Folk Know Is What Columnists Say

By T-Sgt. JOHN M. WILLIG
(Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

NEW YORK — The American public seems to be turning more and more to the editorial pages and columnists of its favorite newspapers. You notice it in several ways—by watching people on the subway, streetcar and bus, by reading letters to the editor in the papers themselves taking issue on editorial statements and by conversations with people who quote editorials to support their arguments on any and all subjects.

Part of the increased editorial interest may arise from contradictory and involved news, both from abroad and from Washington, which editorials and columnists attempt to analyze and simplify. But part comes also from the fact that personal journalism is coming back. More bylines appear on stories than before the war and personal treatment of the news is becoming more popular than impersonal reporting.

There's no doubt that editorials have done much to stimulate and crystallize the public's thinking on

important war issues. This week editorial comment in the nation's press centered chiefly on the Moscow conference and the simultaneous onward roll of the Red Armies and on the lengthy Senate debate on postwar foreign policy as embodied in the Connally resolution.

Most of the press agrees on the need for some expression of policy by the Senate but, like the senators, disagrees on the precise wording of that expression.

The New York Times says that while arguments for stronger and more concrete wording of the resolution are all to the good, it would prefer a general resolution adopted by nine-tenths of the Senate at the end of a single week's debate to a specific resolution approved by a narrow squeak at the end of a month's struggle. "Strong approval of the main principle of international cooperation is what matters now," the Times says.

Out in Texas, Sen. Connally

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Flashes From The Italian Front Lines

"IT WAS EITHER HIM OR ME, and it turned out to be him," was the way 1st Lt. Allan C. Chase, Fort Worth, Texas, philosophically described a victory over an ME-109 this week. Lt. Chase was flying in a formation of P-38s covering Marauders on a mission against rail lines in central Italy. Ten to 15 German fighters jumped the P-38s and one dove on the tail of a friend of the flyer. "I turned, opened up, saw my tracers go into his cockpit and fuselage."

FLIGHT LIEUTENANT G. J. BLACK, Cardiff, England, a Desert Air Force pilot, sat down and began reminiscing a little this week on the occasion of the anniversary of El Alamein. "Work is a hundred times easier now," he said. "We used to meet plenty of enemy fighters and it wasn't a picnic. These days we have to search for enemy aircraft and when they join battle, they seem to do it in a half-hearted way. Their morale seems to have suffered and with it their striking power."

POETIC SPEECH WOULD SEEM to be a particular characteristic of Australian flyers, judging from reports which came from a Kitty-bomber base in Italy after a raid against enemy shipping off Yugoslavia this week. Said Flight Officer J. C. Sergeant, Brinkworth: "We saw a barge burning fiercely in mid-channel, set alight by one of the preceding squadrons. The scene was most picturesque. The rugged cliffs with a sheer drop of 5,000 to 6,000 feet, the tiny villages perched on the water's edge and the many islands looked most peaceful." Flight Officer, I. H. Roediger, added: "The sun was getting low, and there were feathery trails of smoke in the sky as the guns blazed away."

LITTLE HAS BEEN WRITTEN of Italian bravery. Professor William Gargiulo, of the faculty of Naples University, tells of this courageous action: "Following the uprising of the Italian garrison at Nola, east of Naples, the Germans ordered the officer commanding the Nola garrison to select 12 officers to be shot in reprisal. Said the Italian colonel: "I am the first. You choose the rest."

SGT. JOSEPH J. DAY, OF CHICAGO, was recounting the deeds of his half-track "Head Hunter" and its crew of nine men. Yes, they were in the first assault wave at Fedala, at Licata, at Salerno. For six days and nights in Italy they had served as infantrymen, proving their name—"combat engineers." "You guys done anything else news-worthy?" asked the correspondent. "No, guess not," replied Day. "The hell he hasn't," snorted Pfc. Stephen Simoni, also of Chicago. "You're looking at a guy with a DSC!" And he pointed to the modest Sgt. Day.

EVEN UP FRONT the soldier must take his "booster" shots. "Disease does not take a holiday during combat," said Capt. Philip S. Pevan, Detroit, in charge of an airborne dispensary. "So during a lull I get out the hypodermic," said the captain. "And go to work," exclaimed his medical aids, Cpl. Howard S. Pearson, Cohoes, N. Y.; Pfc. Ralph C. Burrill, Ayer, Mass., and Pfc. S. W. Rosenblatt, Pittsburgh, Pa. Right about then the first wounded of a time-bomb blast in Naples began to arrive and shots were forgotten.

A VETERAN P-38 GROUP, commanded by Lt. Col. George M. MacNicol, Memphis, Tenn., has completed 500 combat missions. In that time it has scored 319 victories, with another Memphis resident, Maj. Hugh Muse, Jr., chalking up the latest by shooting down an ME-109. The group, which has operations in the Mediterranean, is now operating in Italy. In addition to maintaining a four-to-one advantage over the foe, the P-38s have also sunk eight Axis merchant vessels. The group aces are led by Lt. William J. Sloan, Richmond, Va., with 12 victories, and F-O Frank Hurlburt, Charlotte, N. C., with nine.

THE REGIMENTAL SCOUTS were assigned to contact the enemy, but for S-Sgt. Randolph Vrana, San Francisco, the contact was closer than desirable and might have been fatal if it hadn't been for Sgt. Keith L. Taylor, Council Bluffs, Iowa. As the scouts crawled forward ten yards, Sgt. Vrana suddenly looked up into the barrels of two machine pistols and a Mauser in determined Jerry hands. The Germans asked Sgt. Vrana where his comrades were and in a loud voice the sergeant replied: "I don't know where my comrades are." Knowing that Sgt. Vrana was in trouble, Sgt. Taylor crawled forward, took out his pistol and fired two quick shots at the man with the Mauser, one each at the two with machine pistols. Two Jerries hit the dust and the third made for the woods. "I'm going to return the favor some day, Keith," Sgt. Vrana said afterwards. "I hope you never have to," replied Sgt. Taylor.

INTO THE AMGOT HEADQUARTERS at Naples one day came a weeping Italian woman who claimed to be a widow of an Italian soldier "killed" in battling the Americans in Sicily. She wanted a pension, she said; in fact, she demanded a pension. Just as the AMGOT official began a polite refusal there entered an Italian soldier, who, claiming to be the woman's husband, firmly led her away.

NAAF RETARDED

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visit to the area since Oct. 1. It was announced today that photographs of the attack showed considerable damage to marshalling yards and rolling stock at several rail points.

DIVE BOMBERS ACTIVE

In Italy, Allied dive bombers screamed over enemy troops hour after hour to take a heavy toll of Germans withdrawing to their mountain line. The attacks increased in intensity until by the middle of the week Allied fighters came over in steady waves every ten minutes.

Fighter-bombers and Mitchells struck at enemy positions from the Tyrrhenian Sea to the Adriatic. Enemy-held towns were blasted daily—particularly Formia, Gaeta and Terracina, on the coast above the mouth of the Garigliano River. The United States Navy stepped into the picture Wednesday night when a cruiser and destroyers coordinated their bombardment with an aerial assault of the region. The constant battering of the Gulf of Gaeta was designed to soften the area for an eventual 5th Army breakthrough to the Garigliano River.

AROUND ROME

The Rome communications system was again the target of bombers and fighters as the NAAF smashed the arteries from which supplies are sent south to the German armies. RAF Wellingtons made the most northerly flight of the week in Italy when they struck for the first time at the marshalling yards of Pistoia, 21 miles northwest of Florence. Invaders ranged as far as 60 miles beyond Rome to strafe the airdrome near Foligno.

Mitchells and Marauders, trailed by P-38s, bombed railway tracks and bridges surrounding the capital city, particularly Orvieto, 45 miles north of Rome, and Terni, the terminus on the Rome-Florence railway. The closest raid to Rome was yesterday's fighter-bomber swoop at the landing grounds of Littoria, 10 miles south of the city and well within sight of its inhabitants.

BALKAN PERSON GETS

The Balkan airfield included the Eleusis airfield at Athens, Salonika Sedes and Megalo Mikra airfields at Salonika—both in Greece—the Tirana airfield in Albania, and the Podgorica landing grounds in southern Yugoslavia. This was the first attack on Podgorica by the Mitchells and the Lightnings, while the Salonika fields had not been visited since Oct. 15.

It was announced during the week that the Germans had made two light raids on Naples last Thursday and Saturday nights. The first attack caused no damage and few bombs were dropped. During the second, Allied planes shot down three JU-88s, while ack-ack crews got four.

The latest count of enemy aircraft found in Italy revealed that the number has risen to 1,320, all destroyed. The total is now well above the Axis planes found on all fields in Sicily.

Allies Batter Japs On Flanks, In Middle

ALLIED SOUTH PACIFIC HEADQUARTERS—On both flanks and in the center of their sprawling, crescent-shaped line in the South Pacific the Japanese were rocked this week by solid, telling punches on the ground and from the air.

American amphibious forces climaxed the week's fighting by forcing a Navy Day landing on Treasury Island, 30 miles south of Bougainville Island, anchor point of the Japanese left flank in the northern Solomon Islands.

The operation was said to have

been carried out with little land or air opposition, which is partially explained by the fact that the two principal Jap airfields on Bougainville—Kahili and Kara—were knocked out earlier in the week by repeated Allied bombings.

Westward, on the enemy right flank in the hills above Finschhafen, New Guinea, Jap ground forces were twice decisively beaten. Once they launched four separate attacks in a single day in an attempt to cut through Allied lines to the sea. Each time they were stopped cold by jungle-fighting Australians who finally drove them back into the hills beyond the points from which they had started.

The other heavy land action took place when Allied ground forces jumped forward on the offensive to drive the enemy out of Katika, a village within artillery range of Finschhafen which the Japs had taken only a few hours before. The Japs fell back, leaving on the battle field 510 dead.

Allied heavy and medium bombers threw a Sunday punch at the chief Japanese stronghold on New Britain with a two-day assault on airdromes and supply dumps in the Rabaul area. Targets were the fields at Rapopo, Tobera and Vunakanau which were being used as bases for reinforcements and supplies flown in by air. More than 125 enemy aircraft were destroyed on the ground and in the air during the 48-hour attack.

Proof that the enemy still had aerial striking power were the 70 interceptors which attacked one formation of medium bombers on the New Britain raids. But the bombers came out of the hour-long running battle with colors flying—45 enemy planes shot down as compared to four bombers lost.

RUSSIANS SWAMP

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troops flanking their city on the watched the grim tide of Soviet north and south, but the Wehrmacht was not strong enough to leave the gates and give battle on the plains before Kiev. Here was starting the same type of pincers movement that has proved a nightmare to other German bases during this campaign.

North of Kiev, the status of Gomel was something of a mystery. No word has come from the Soviet forces who blasted their way into the city more than two weeks ago, but it may be assumed that these spearheads either retired or were wiped out, since heavy rains prevented the advance of supporting troops.

The stalemate on the central sector was not unexpected. The autumn weather there has always been a greater problem than in the Ukraine, where the rains are more likely to be heavy in the spring. The skies may be clearing, though, in White Russia. Breaking a long lull on the front northwest of Smolensk, the Soviets made small gains at the end of the week toward Vitebsk and were now only 18 miles away.

Eisenhower Cheers Soldier Show

Between trips to the front General Dwight D. Eisenhower took time out in Algiers this week to go to the first show he has seen since the war began. The show the Allied Commander in Chief took in—roosting a dinner date in order to have enjoyed the show—was "Yardbird Revue," an enlisted man's production now touring this theater. With General Eisenhower were Lt. Gen. George S. Patton, Jr., 7th Army commander and Lt. Cdr. Harry C. Butcher, personal aide to the Commander in Chief.

General Eisenhower was reported to have enjoyed the show immensely. He got his biggest laugh from a comedian—Pvt. Chick Dent—who sang out, "Hi, Ike!" After the performance General Eisenhower visited the soldier-actors backstage and told them: "All officers admire men who do their job well."

ALLIES SET STAGE

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It was even considered likely that reinforcements would be sent down from above Rome to strengthen their stand. Some observers said that the German might be considering a large-scale counteroffensive in Italy.

Yesterday the Yanks kept punching away at the wedge they have driven into the weakest part of the German line. In the center of that line the Yanks have now battled their way over the hills to a semi-circle of points less than 10 miles from the road junction of Teano. Once this area below the hills is cleaned up, the Americans can fan out in two directions along the roads that lead through the hills to Rome. On the left they are fighting toward the valley of the Garigliano River on the west coast, a maneuver which threatens the German manning the coastal canal above the Volturno and the Massico ridge behind it. This portion of the 5th Army line saw little action during the week, yet the enemy position was becoming increasingly weaker with the Americans advancing on their flank.

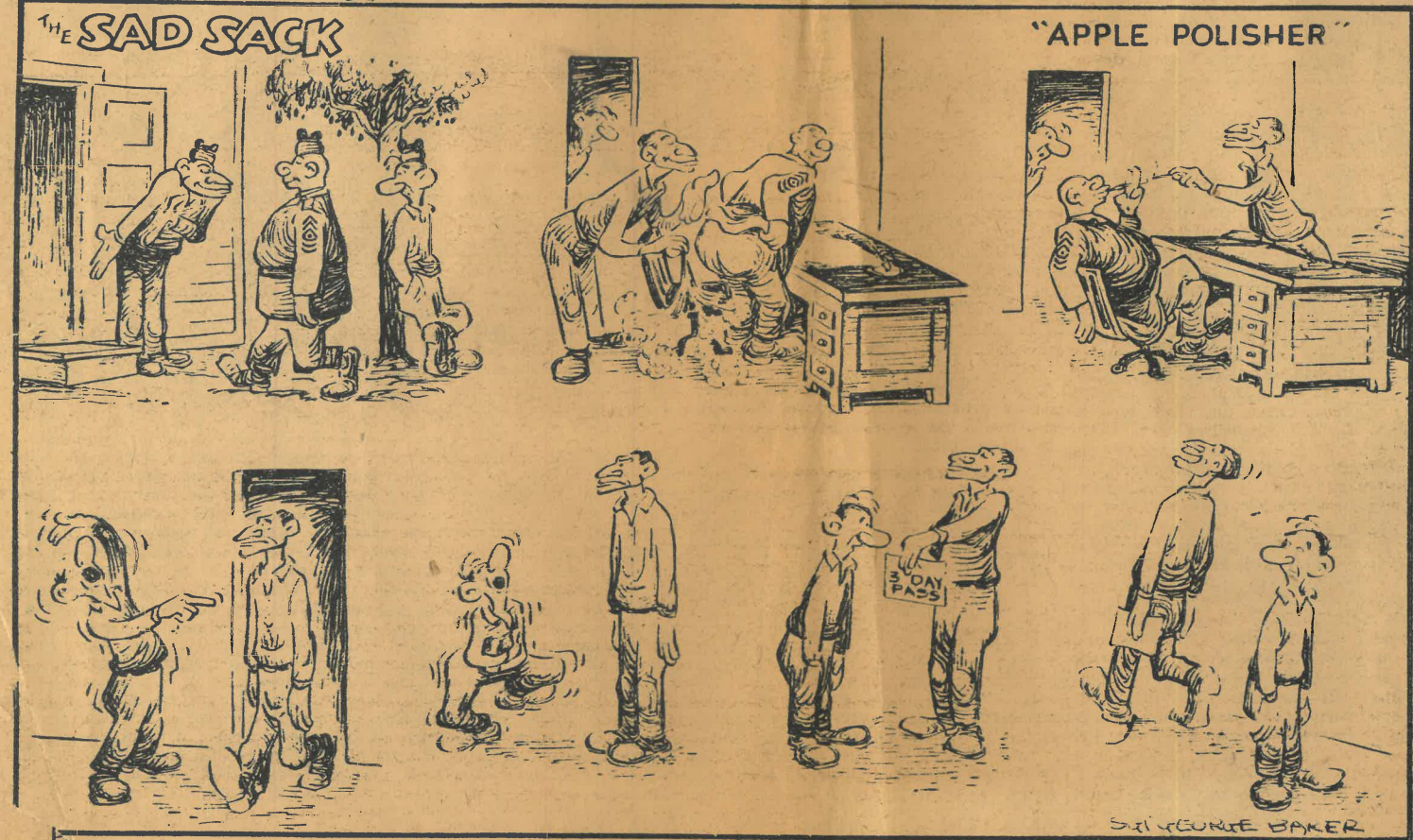
MOVE SWIFTLY

To the north across the valley of the Upper Volturno the Yanks moved swiftly through the hills to within ten miles of Venafro, pivot of the German defense line 83 miles from Rome. High hills and the winding Volturno still separated the troops from Venafro.

In the central sector, where opposition remained stiff all along for the British and Canadians, the enemy was dead set on keeping the 8th Army from using the important roadway running from Vinchiature to Isernia, key point in the enemy's communications. Along the road itself the British progressed as far as Boiano, 15 miles from Isernia. But most of the fighting was for the high ground dominating the road. In the mountains the British were slowly pushing the Germans back and strengthening their grip on the road. In its latest advance yesterday, the 8th Army took Molise, 2,600 feet high.

CLEAR RIVER

The right flank of the 8th Army clambered over the hills toward the Trigno River. In the early part of their drive, the British pushed clear across the river and set up a bridgehead where the east coast road crosses the Trigno. Throughout the week they dodged heavy shellfire to widen the bridgehead and pour men and supplies across. Yesterday they had advanced two miles north of the river at that point and were locked in a fierce struggle in the San Salvo area.



Moscow Parley Puts Decisions Into The Record

MOSCOW—A man whose name at birth was Scriabin presided this week at a white round table in the Spiridonovka Palace within the walls of the Kremlin here. With him at the table, decorated with the flags of the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain, sat Secretary of State Cordell Hull and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden. The man whose name was formerly Scriabin was Russia's Foreign Commissar and he was meeting with his two English-speaking guests to discuss ways and means of shortening the war and settling the peace.

OLD BOLSHEVIST

The man born Scriabin was an "Old Bolshevik" who came into power with Nicolai Lenin, Joseph Stalin and Leo Trotsky. Like Stalin (born Djughashvili) and Trotsky (born Bronstein) he adopted a revolutionary pseudonym. The name he chose was Molotov, from the Russian word molot, meaning hammer. At 53, Vyacheslav M. Molotov can look back on long years of service to his friend Stalin. Reserved, shy with strangers, he lives quietly with his wife in a three-room apartment in the Kremlin. In the next apartment lives Joseph Stalin.

Until 1930, when he was made premier, V. M. Molotov was little known. In that post, which Stalin took for himself when war came, and as Foreign Commissar he has seen Russia through some of her most difficult days. Now his job is to formulate with Messrs. Hull and Eden a policy which will bring the three greatest Allied powers into a closer, friendlier relationship.

NEWS SPARSE

News of the ten meetings which the three foreign ministers have thus far held in the room where the walls, the curtains, the furniture, even the ashtrays are white has been notably sparse. The topics under discussion are so significant to the future of Axis and Allies alike that secrecy must be preserved. But if the Soviet press and the foreign correspondents in Moscow were right, the meetings were going well. Decisions made verbally among the conferees were being put on paper as the week closed. When they would be announced to the world remained uncertain.

The press emphasized that Moscow officialdom has formed a high opinion of Cordell Hull, who was making his first trip to Russia's capital. This week he had his first interview with Marshal Stalin. Anthony Eden, better known in Moscow, has seen Stalin twice. Whenever Stalin has seen the visitors from Washington and London, Mr. Molotov has been present. His advice, according to Moscow correspondents, means much to his chief.

Blast In Copenhagen Brings Curfew Back

LONDON—A state of emergency has been declared in Copenhagen, capital of Nazi-held Denmark, the German Overseas News Agency announced last night.

The measure was imposed following an explosion in a Copenhagen restaurant which killed three Germans and injured a number of others. This latest outbreak of violence in the shackled country also resulted in the reimposing of a curfew in the capital.

Yanks Write Model German Communique

LONDON—Officers of the U.S. 8th Army Air Force in Britain amused themselves this week with composing a "model German communique." The "model," based on the kind of communique the Germans have issued since the RAF and USAAF began to pound German-held Europe, read like this:

"Large formations of huge American bombers attempted to penetrate western Europe today but were driven off by hordes of our brave fighter pilots. Four hundred enemy bombers were shot down. Three of our fighters were lost.

"One of our cities is missing."

The Road Back



Kiev Rich In Lore Of Russia's Birth

On the broad plains of the middle Dnieper, a fierce battle has been raging spasmodically for more than a month. The battle is for Kiev, which is both the key to complete Russian victory in the Ukraine as well as the basis of the Wehrmacht's slight hope that it may some day regain the initiative in Russia.

Outflanked and nearly encircled, Kiev will still be no easy prize for the Russians to pluck. German guns on the heights, 300 feet above the river, can bring any frontal attack to grief. Strong fortifications protect all approaches to the city. But the Russian strategy has paved the way for a large-scale assault by cutting all railways leading north and south from Kiev. Deep bridgeheads have been forced on both flanks, and the Russian wedges gradually dug inland. A giant pincer movement seems certain to develop when the Soviet armies in the north and south close in to surround the city.

IMPORTANT OBJECTIVE

Important as it is tactically, Kiev means more than a military bastion to the Russian people. Soaked in the tradition of a thousand years of recorded history and hundreds more of legend, Kiev was the logical foundation for the new pride in Russian traditions developed by the Soviet Union since the war began in 1941. Soviet Russia's history dates back only to the 1917 Revolution, but Kiev was a city of churches and culture when London was a struggling village in the forest. To build up the solid cooperative spirit that has knit the Russian people against the German invader, the leaders turned to Kiev for its historical background as the "mother of Russia."

Kiev was the Russian home of the Greek Orthodox religion—Prince Vladimir was converted there in 988—and the beauty and number of its churches has always been great. Once described as the city of "400 churches and eight markets," Kiev has retained its spiritual significance in spite of Soviet attempts to discourage religion, and the common people find in its name a link with a glorious past on which they can base strong nationalistic ideals.

EASTERN CULTURE

It was in Kiev that the backward Slavic tribes first learned about government from the Vikings. Byzantine merchants mingled there with Scandinavian traders in the 9th and 10th centuries, bringing to Europe a strong touch of the East, still visible in Kiev's magnificent domes and ornate church and public buildings. Con-

tact with Constantinople became stronger and the Eastern influence increased.

The Slavs gained more power in their own land and assimilated their foreign governors. Kiev's domain spread from Estonia to the Balkans and in the 12th century the city was known as Kiev the Magnificent, a reputation that has never fully faded even in the darkest days of its history.

The shinking splendor of Kiev ended suddenly in 1240 when the Tartar horde swept in from the east under a nephew of Genghis Khan. Five years later, the Tartars sacked Kiev again, and left it a poor village. For 300 years, the city and the province were kicked around between Tartar and Lithuanian rule and later Polish domination. But in 1686 Kiev became a part of the Russian state whose capital was Moscow.

POSITION REGAINED

Development of agriculture on the rich steppes of the Ukraine spurred the growth of the city, and the establishment there of Russia's strongest Dnieper fortress started Kiev on the road to importance again. Kiev regulated production in all Russia and regained its position as the great trading and commercial center of the empire. With the growth of the city's power, the Church increased its strength and Kiev regained its position as spiritual leader of all Russia.

A strong nationalistic movement based on the great past of Kiev formed a republic during the 1917 Revolution the beginning of the bloodiest three years in the city's history. In quick succession the city was held by the Central Rada (nationalists), the Kiev Soviet, the Red Army, the German Army, General Skoropadsky, Petilura (a former Rada leader), the Red Army, General Denikin, the Red Army and Polish troops until the Soviet Union gained final mastery in June, 1920.

INDUSTRY RESTORED

In the 20 years that followed, Kiev never cleared up all the traces of internal strife, but industry was restored and new manufacturing introduced. The ravages of war were growing dimmer when the German armies blitzed the city again in the summer of 1941. For two years and more, the Wehrmacht has held Kiev.

But now the Russians are on the outskirts of their proud city. Red Army men are within plain sight of the golden dome of St. Sophia cathedral, which glistens in the bright autumn sun.

Balkan Patriots Ask Allied Help To Stem Rommel

LONDON — Partisan successes were reported from Yugoslavia this week, but the communiques of the People's Army of Liberation have given increasing mention to the growing power of the German armies, have spoken of Nazi advances and patriot withdrawals.

Most ominous news to come from the embattled Balkan nation concerned the all-out offensive opened in Slovenia by strong German forces under Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, who was apparently pushing out in steely determination to rid the entire province of organized resistance.

Partisan retreats also were re-

portedly made in Montenegro, where the combination of Nazis and Albanian quislings was too much for the Yugoslavs. There were other reverses, too, at Brcko on the Save River, where the patriots took the town, then lost it to overwhelming German reinforcements.

Nazi troops have landed on the peninsula of Pelyesac (also known as Sabioncello) at the southern end of the Dalmatian coast and have succeeded in establishing a bridgehead, a Partisan radio broadcast announced Friday. However, a German force which tried to land further north on the island of Brac Brac (or Brazza), facing the important Adriatic port of Split, were wiped out.

PLEAD FOR HELP

Partisan leaders, darily visited by Dan De Luce, Associated Press correspondent, pleaded with him to tell his countrymen of the urgent need for Allied troops to cross the Adriatic. They asked for food and medical supplies for areas faced with starvation and disease, but above all they begged for more arms. They said there were many men in Yugoslavia who wanted to fight, but had no guns and there were men opposing German machine guns with squirrel rifles.

Significantly, De Luce told how the Army of Liberation, once a guerrilla group, has grown into a highly disciplined and idealistic force with great enthusiasm and no barriers of religion or politics. He described Catholic priests raising the clenched fist in greeting to the patriots. He said businessmen called the Partisans, once labeled "Reds," sincere warriors deserving cooperation.

GOOD WITH BAD

There was good operational news from Yugoslavia as well as bad. The steel town of Vares, 20 miles north of Sarajevo, fell to Partisans who shattered the German garrison after 12 hours of savage fighting. Army of Liberation forces had taken the town of Ivanic near Zagreb but were in danger from powerful German counterattacks.

The report from the Army of Liberation headquarters that the Chetnik forces of General Draja Mihailovich were bitterly clashing with German troops in Montenegro had a double importance: (1) It gave support to heretofore unconfirmed reports of a Mihailovich offensive and (2) it bolstered the hope that the formerly antagonistic Partisans and Chetniks would put aside their differences in the struggle against a common enemy.

Air Loss In Europe Under Five Percent

WASHINGTON—Eighth USAAF air losses over Europe since operations began July 4, 1942, are under five percent, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson told his weekly press conference, adding that the same average also holds true for the RAF.

Releasing the final figures on the July 14 raid on the ball bearing works at Schweinfurt, which cost 60 Flying Forts, Secretary Stimson said that a total of 186 enemy planes were destroyed and 27 more probably destroyed.

Reviewing the other war fronts, the Secretary said that in south Russia the Germans face a defeat which might reach the proportions of a military disaster.

Cargoes Of Food Arriving In India To Break Famine

LONDON—Thousands of tons of foodstuffs began to reach famine-stricken India this week. The British Food Secretariat revealed here that large numbers of merchant ships, laden with grains, are arriving at Indian ports; in Australia Prime Minister John Curtin said he was sending wheat.

The relief which these ships of mercy were bringing was sorely needed. On Calcutta, populous capital of the province of Bengal, starvation had laid heavily its grisly hand. The city's million and a half daily witnessed or enacted thousands of separate dramas of tragedy and desperation. Heads of abject families sold their daughters for pitiful sums; men committed suicide so that their families' food supplies might last longer.

Authorities reported that a horde of 100,000 hungry people roamed the city and hundreds had weakened and died. It was the same in the province of Bombay and Madras.

Japan's capture of Burma has denied India regular import of 1,500,000 tons of rice, but some observers say that medieval farming methods and a tremendously growing population were even greater causes of starvation in a land where famine has always been the people's spectre.

Old Roman Warning Timely For Nazis

NEW YORK—Historians recalling Teuton raids on the city of Rome during the early part of the Christian era this week dug out a letter written by the celebrated Roman general Belisarius to a marauding Teuton chieftain. The letter, addressed to a distant ancestor of the Nazis, but still timely, read:

"It is the act of men experienced in intellectual and civil life to decorate towns with beautiful works; the action of the ignorant to destroy these monuments. . . Beyond all cities Rome is a monument of the virtues of the world to all posterity, and a trespass against her greatness would justly be regarded as an outrage against all time. . . Destroying Rome thou wilt lose not the city of another, but thine own."

In this war President Roosevelt has said that the safety of Rome, as in the days of the Teutons, depends wholly upon the occupying Germans.

Germans Can't Collapse, 'Cause Goebbels Says So

LONDON—German Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels was haunted by the ghost of 1918 this week.

He was so haunted, in fact, that he devoted most of a weekly newspaper article to show how the German collapse which ended World War I, just couldn't happen again.

"It is not possible to compare today's position with that of November, 1918," he declared. "Military positions in the west, north and southeast of Europe, which in 1918 formed bases for the enemy's strategy, are today in our hands." There will be no German breakdown this November as there was in 1918, he solemnly added.

But Goebbels admitted there was a couple of war developments which worried him. One was what he called "the gigantic peril" on the Russian front and the other was the Allied air assault on Germany.

Regarding the Allied air campaign, Goebbels averred that this was the burden of the German people and they just had to bear it. He assured his readers that it was possible that the assault would be checked. But he didn't say how.

What keeps the German people in the war, he said, was their knowledge of the vast possibilities of victory and the example of the Fuehrer's "strength and obstinacy."

THE STARS AND STRIPES

Weekly newspaper of the U. S. Armed Forces published in the North African Theater of Operations

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Mail Call

TO SERGEANT LEWIS

Dear Editor:
Those courageous senators who recently braved the dangers of war to come and see us and who afterwards proposed that we be given a nice long vacation, would no doubt be very pleased (and so would Hitler) at the quick endorsement their plan received from S-Sgt. Robert Lewis in Mail Call, Oct. 16.

The sergeant, it seems, is worried about his morale, that very important thing which we didn't know we had until we entered the Army.

What are we, anyway? Soldiers or a bunch of spoiled and pampered brats who mope and sulk because we cannot fight this war while living at the Astor and eating at the Ritz? Is our cause so much less than that of the men who fought to the last ditch on the frozen plains before Moscow and Stalingrad, or the women and children of London who so doggedly fought for their little freedoms where there was no gleam of hope to be seen anywhere?

It might be well to remember that if we had followed the advice of some senators, we would now be fighting this war alone, with no air bases in England and no Russian Army tying up the greater part of Germany's might.

-T-5 John Powell

PVT. THOMAS FLOOD

Dear Editor:
Since it will be nearly impossible to determine just who was the first Rochester soldier to land in Sicily and thus be the real claimant to Mr. Levin's 100 dollars, I would like to suggest that to save a lot of arguing the money be turned over in some way to the family of Pvt. Thomas Flood, Rochester.

Pvt. Flood was killed in action en route to Sicily while preparing to disembark for the beachhead.

Puptent Poets

MADemoISELLE

Mademoiselle has a lissom grace,
A most adorable kissable face,
Two captivating, bewitching eyes,
Enchanting motion in her thighs.
No lips could be more lovely to kiss
And I'd have kissed them, except for this:

My Mademoiselle has mere and pere
Three watchful soeurs and seven freres,
And where my mademoiselle might be

There also is her family.
Full seven nights did I woo intense
With wary eye on the audience.
Her lips and eyes smiled always
"oui . . . oui . . ."

But right on hand was her family.
Oh, what an aggregate sight we made
We fourteen out on a promenade!
Mere, Pere, and freres . . . the sisters three,
With not one minute of privacy.

-Capt. S. S. Gessey

WHAT FOR

Not for the glory of old-time battle,
Not for the hurtsman's love to kill,
Not because we like to destroy.
Or joy in storming a barren hill.
But that our flag may wave forever,
That our homes be a free man's right,
Then Americans may laugh and love,
These are the things for which we fight.

-Victor V. Scott, S 1c

OBEISANT

What matters if my motor sputters
and pops,
If the plane catches afire, starts to burn?

What matters if my propeller suddenly stops,
If the controls break, can't make a turn?

What matters if a wing flaps loosely in the wind,
I wouldn't worry . . . I'd just sit and grin.

Why worry when you have on your back
A parachute tested and found true?
Why worry when you know your pack

Is guaranteed to open when used by you . . .
Of course, if I should ever use mine
And it doesn't open at the right time,

While falling hard and fast,
To disintegrate upon the grass,
I'll shut my eyes and quickly quote
This, the last poem I ever wrote.

-1st Lt. J. Bernard Knighten

FOREST RANGER IN KHAKI

For want of memory, why these
Ghostly visions of pine trees?
Are these dreams the pines I knew in yesteryear?
Tall, silvery Whites, shaking
Snows upon the shore?
Or homely, scraggly Jacks,
The lumberman's nightmare?
Today, the pines are far away,
But they'll be mine again some day.

-T-Sgt. James M. Johnson

Of All Things

Soldiers Of The Reich
Prisoners Of The Allies,
And Barber's Challenge

Soldiers of the Reich

The current Congressional debate over the drafting of fathers, whatever else you might say about it, would sound pleasant and good-tempered compared to what might have been going on in Germany at the same time—if Germany had a Congress. Hitler's manpower problem has now reached such a state that a gentleman of 59 years, with no teeth, no hair and eyesight that distinguishes only large elephants and mountains is considered 1-A draft material. Children of servicemen back in the States, considering the Nazi draft of 59-year-olds, may be expected to challenge the youth of Germany: "I bet my father can lick your grandfather." And offer good odds in the bargain.

Prisoners of the Allies

German prisoners, ever since the first one arrived in the first Allied stockade in Tunisia, have provided a kind of running commentary on the mental and physical health of the Reich. In the beginning, the German prisoner was cocky, confident of the Fuehrer and Vaterland, and inspired by such thoughts as: "You may have Gafsa, but we have Algiers and Oran." As the Lebensraum of Tunisia began to close in on him, he began to complain of severe headache caused by Allied artillery and bombing. In Sicily, in answer to interrogation on the state of Nazi Germany, he had few answers, most of them coupled with a shrug of the shoulders and the simple statement: "Germany will win."

In Italy he is repeating this theme, over and over again, and, when faced with the facts of his diminishing battleground, he says something like this: "Tunisia doesn't matter. Sicily doesn't matter. Naples doesn't matter. But you will never get to Germany."

Be that as it may, with Allied bombers getting to Germany in round-the-clock visits, many of the German prisoners are arriving in the United States. Two reports have come in this week on what they are doing there. One, from Benton Harbor, Mich., says that several hundred of them are quietly working at the grape-processing plants and helping to harvest the Michigan fruit crop. Another report says that many of the prisoners, who receive small monthly allowances and additional money for farm labor, are buying U.S. War Bonds through a voluntary payroll induction plan. They seem to know a good investment when they see it.

Barber's Challenge

Last week's flattering comment on a GI barber shop created and run by T-4 Raymond L. Ashing and T-5 Otis Bendicson has raised the dander of a seaman first class named J. R. Charles, a sensitive barber. Now in his second war, Charles is about 45 years old, has gray hair in generous quantities and says he's barbered for movie stars in Reno, Nev., for Ziegfeld girls and Mrs. William Randolph Hearst on Fifth Avenue, and for half the merchant marine on the Grace Lines and the United Fruit Lines in the days before Pearl Harbor.

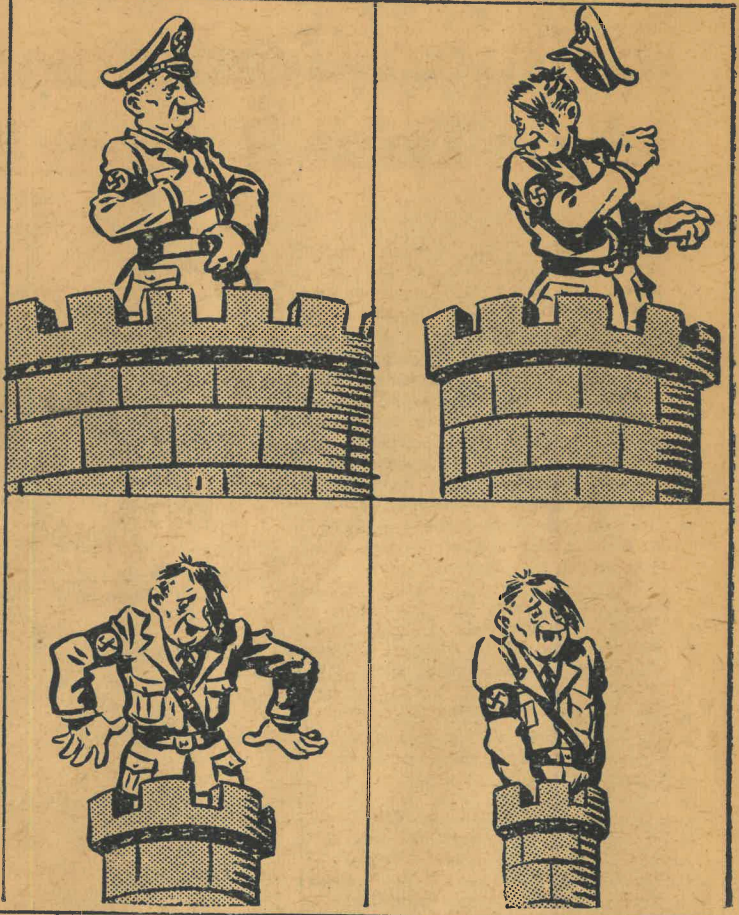
"Charles doesn't give GI haircuts," he says with scorn. "Charles doesn't do work like an ordinary barber. Charles has the real hairdresser's technique and every haircut is molded to the head."

In the Varga Girls' Center and Penthouse Barber Shop, an establishment he built on top of a villa near naval headquarters in North Africa, Charles is king. His patron saints are General Dwight D. Eisenhower and Lt. Gen. Joseph Stilwell, whose pictures adorn one wall of his shop. On the other wall he's assembled as many Varga girls as the average customer can absorb in one sitting, including the "Bugle Girl" who is now being challenged by the United States Post Office.

"This is nothing," says Charles. "It is the barbering that counts. Charles is a great barber," he says. "Captains leave their ships to come to the Varga Girls Center to get a molded hair cut. Charles, who has glorified the Ziegfeld girls with his barbering, now wants to glorify the Wacs."

-M.L.

The Shrinking Fortress



(With thanks to Russell, Los Angeles Times)

STRATEGY OF DEFEAT

Nazi Chiefs Must Pick Best Way To Lose War

Britain's General Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, no man for rash speaking, twice last week said that the war had entered its final phase. He cautioned, as have other Allied leaders, that the final phase might be long, but of eventual triumph he was certain. That is the universal feeling on the Allied side—from Moscow to London, from Washington to Chungking. Ours is now the strategy of victory.

What of the Nazis, named the No. 1 enemy under that Allied strategy? Do they, as well as ourselves, dream of victory? After defeats in the Atlantic, in North Africa, Sicily, Italy and, above all, Russia, do they still hope for eventual triumph? Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels, the Nazi propagandist, says a German who even contemplates defeat will lose his neck. But the major theme of Nazi discourse to the German people today is: "Hold on, hold on."

No Fools

There is reason to believe that the German generals and the German politicians, who are no fools, have given up hope for the kind of all-out victory that seemed within grasp in the summer of 1940. Militarily, Germany is now strictly on the defensive. Her factories and communications systems have been battered, beyond hope of complete repair, by the bombs of the RAF and the USAAF. She has lost her principal ally in Europe. She has lost many thousands of her finest soldiers in North Africa, in southern Europe, in Russia. How can the Germans, then, think in terms of victory? How can they go on fighting so bitterly, desperately wounded as they are?

In the last war the Germans gave up the fight almost immediately after they were compelled to yield the offensive. As late as mid-summer, 1918, they were still the attacker in France. By November, they were through. In this war the Germans have not really been on the offensive for a full year, though they did try a large-scale attack (it collapsed almost immediately) in Russia this summer.

Hit and Run

For 12 months the Germans have counter-attacked and retreated. They have seen the Russians break through lines which Berlin had proclaimed impregnable. They have seen British, Americans and Canadians break through the walls of Fortress Europe. They have seen the Fortress shrink. But they have gone on fighting. They are not, apparently, like the Germans of the last war. They seem to have something which the Kaiser lacked—a strategy of defeat, a strategy aimed not at winning the war but at losing it as profitably as possible.

Over and over Goebbels tells the Germans that if they lose, they face annihilation. Germany, he says, will be destroyed as a nation, German families broken up, millions of German men, women and children put to death by the outraged Occupied Countries.

To back up Goebbels' words—and the German has no way of knowing whether they are true or false—there is Himmler's Gestapo, with its expert headmen and its 600,000 well trained SS youths who spy not only on civilians but on possible dissenters in the Army. The Nazis seem to have effectively barred every door through which they might be kicked out.

Long War

On the war fronts the strategy of defeat seems to be based on the following hopes or possibilities. The first is the Nazi dream that the Allies may yet weary of a long, long war. The Nazis know, as well as we, that Europe has been at war for more than four years. They know that in spite of everything they still have a well disciplined, expert army. If they can keep that army in the field indefinitely, the Allies, may yet consider some kind of negotiated peace out of sheer fatigue.

The greatest triumph of the strategy of defeat so far has been the Nazis' ability to convert a war machine built for offense into a war machine brilliant at defense. The Luftwaffe must concentrate less on bombing than on fighter defense, but its doggedness is tremendous. The Wehrmacht must concentrate on minelaying instead of blitzkrieg, but its powers of resistance are still immense. The U-boats are said to be planning another campaign despite all the advantages the Allies now hold at sea.

Another Hope

They have still another hope—a separate peace with either Russia or the United States and Great Britain. That is why Nazi propagandists have worked so hard to play up the Bolshevik bogey for the benefit of the western Allies. That is why their propagandists have worked so hard to persuade the Russians that the Allies will prove false after the war. That is why they hope that the current Moscow conference will fail to settle Allied differences.

If the Nazis can split the United Nations, they may yet be able to win a negotiated peace, a peace which will enable the Nazis to rebuild their strength and one day make another bid for world power.

The strategy of defeat will fail, just as the Nazi strategy of victory failed. But as long as it can be kept going, the war will continue.

H.H.L.

OF PEOPLE BEATEN...

Belgian Commandos Training For That Return Engagement

By Sgt. PAUL S. GREEN
(Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

The officer in British battle dress held up the rope. It was a thick rope, about six feet long, and had a chunky piece of wood attached to one end.

"This rope can be used for almost anything," he said, running it through his fingers. "Climbing trees or walls, as a rope ladder for getting across a river, or even..." He curved the rope into a loop, "to hang somebody."

A look came into his eyes, and you couldn't miss its meaning. He'd like to get a Nazi neck into that noose.

The officer in British battle dress who spoke English with a French accent was Belgian, the commanding officer of a crack unit of Belgian Commandos who have recently arrived in North Africa. His men were quartered outside a large African city, where they were continuing training.

Rope Trick

At that moment a group of sturdy Belgians in brown British fatigues had a double length of heavy rope stretched from a high branch of one tree to another 50 feet away. One by one they clambered up the tree, looped their six foot rope around the heavy rope, let go and flew through the air.

"We call that the death trick," resumed the officer. His name was Capt. Georges Danloy. "You wonder why it is called that? Last Christmas while we trained in England the rope was hung over a high distance, greater than this, with sharp rocks below. An officer slid down the rope, it snapped, and he fell 40 feet to the rocks. Eight months later he came out of the hospital."

These Belgian Commandos are all experts in their line, specialists in the art of sudden death to Nazis. They're a picked lot. They have all suffered much and traveled far to join the unit they hope will return them to home and family.

Fled To Britain

For them May 10, 1940, was Pea. Harbor. On that day the Germans fell upon their country, and by May 28 it was all over. These Belgians had fled to Britain by any route they could take.

Sgt. Noel de Deken is a typical example. A good-looking youngster of 22, he was in the Belgian Army in 1940. Badly wounded near Dunkirk, he was captured and taken to a German hospital in France where he lay for four months. He finally got the doctors to believe his leg was no good any more.

"So they let me go back to Belgium," he related. "They thought I could never fight again. But they were wrong. The French people helped me through France, then it was over the Pyrenees and into Spain. Franco's men arrested me, and kept me locked up for a whole year. But they finally let me go, and I went to Portugal, then to Gibraltar, and finally to England."

Volunteers

Practically all of them have been in England for three years or more. First they joined the Belgian regulars, a few of them went with the paratroopers, and when the Commandos were organized last year, they volunteered. After passing stiff tests, they received Combined Operations insignia—a circle of red on a field of black, with an anchor standing for the navy, a Tommy gun for the army, and an eagle for the air corps.

They went through their assault beach training on the English coast, where they held maneuvers with American soldiers. In the wild Scottish moors their paths crossed with American Rangers.

Pvt. Frank Deblock is one exception to the rule that all Belgians can speak French. He doesn't know a word of it. English is his native language and he sounds like an American. Born in Belgium 23 years ago, he came to Canada when he was six months old. All his life he's lived at London, Ontario, 120 miles from Detroit.

But the most colorful man in the outfit is a soldier of fortune, Adjutant Guy d'Oultremont. Most of his 33 years were lived in Paris, where in 1935 he decided to enlist in the Chinese Army.

After serving as an instructor, he was commissioned a major, and had many fights with the Japs in south China. When Belgium was



overrun, he traveled half way around the world to join up with his countrymen.

Unlike the other Belgians, d'Oultremont knows more about the Japs than the Germans. In fact, he has fought with the Germans rather than against them, since in the latter 1930's many German officers aided in the training of the Chinese armies. One of the staff officers in Chungking at the time was a certain Colonel von Falken-

nausen. Today the Nazi military governor of Belgium is that same von Falkenhausen, now a general.

When the war is over, d'Oultremont hopes to return to China. But before that time he has a date he must keep with General von Falkenhausen in Belgium. The other Commandos want to get home, too. They've been away for more than three years, most of them spent in training, and now they'd like to see some action.

On A Slow Train Through Africa

By S-Sgt. JACK FOISIE
(Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

The dew was sparkling on the rails as number 6005 pulled out of the switchyard. She was three hours behind schedule.

"If we operated this way back in the States—" muttered the American yardmaster, Lt. Francis E. Harrison, as he swung aboard the caboose.

"We wondered at first why the French did so much switching. And then we caught on—they have to distribute the brakes evenly," Lt. Harrison said. "You can tell the brake cars by the cupola, that little tower sticking up above the roof. That's where the Arab brakeman sits."

"Our American cars have air brakes. The engineer likes to see plenty of them behind him, just in case the Arab brakemen fall asleep on the job. We have five cars of air on today. Not bad," exclaimed the lieutenant, who railroaded 21 years for the Chicago Northwestern before joining the Military Railroad Service. Brig. Gen. Carl R. Gray, former operating superintendent of the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railways, is director-general of the MRS in the North African theater.

The "Oh-Five," its 29 cars carrying 496 tons of American and French military freight, stopped briefly at Maison Carree, then straining to gather speed—entered the main line.

Sgt. Frank F. Hopp, the engineer, peered distantly down the right-of-way. He had been arching his neck out of cab windows for 26 years for the Pennsylvania Railroad. He had run an engine in France during the last war.

Fireman Frank W. Tommey, four years with the Southern Railway System, his freckles camouflaged by coal dust, was feeding the firebox, shoveling England-produced coal with gusto.

"No automatic stoker on these babies," grinned Hopp. "Red's lost 26 pounds in the past couple of months."

"Any name for this locomotive?" I asked.

"I don't call it nothing—that is, nothing you can print," muttered the oldtime railroader. He explained that, technically speaking, the

engine was a 2-8-0 Consolidated from Lima, Ohio. It is a standardized engine built for the American Army overseas.

The "Oh-Five" rounded the bend and Red sang out the signal: "Red disk!" Hopp nodded acknowledgment and whistled for brakes—"Four short blasts for moderate pressure, six if you want to stop in a hurry." Red disk means to slow down and stop at the yard limit.

All signals on the French railroad are on the left-hand side of the track, making it necessary for the fireman to call them to the engineer. This is one of the chief differences between French and American railroad operation. Another is that all signals in North Africa are manual instead of electric; thus, trains cannot proceed from a station without getting the personal "enroute" (go ahead) signal from the "chef de gare" (station master.)

"This is what slows us down so much," chattered Red. "The GIs always joke about us stopping at every crossing. Well, that's why."

The "Oh-Five" was approaching a 2.3 grade—steeper than anything in the states. A French "pusher" engine hooked onto the rear to help the Yank locomotive pull the load up the grade.

Red and Hopp and conductor Pfc. Charles T. Richards, once of the New York Central, left the train at the next stop and a new crew took over: Sgt. Asa S. Alstott, of the Chicago and Illinois Midland; Pvt. Howard A. Butts, of the Baltimore and Ohio, and Sgt. George W. Hargrove, of the Pacific Electric. "A railroad man has no home town, only a line," philosophized T-Sgt. A. W. Arnall, of Western Pacific, now the assistant trainmaster on the Algiers-Beni Mancour run of the GI line.)

Capt. Albert Spear, of the Missouri-Pacific, also climbed aboard the caboose. He is commander of the operating company. Lt. Col. Ernest M. Price, of the Northern Pacific, commands the battalion, which also includes road and rolling stock maintenance companies. The run from Menerville to

... BUT UNCONQUERED

Corsican Youth Avenges Pals Who Died In France

By BILL BRINKLEY
(Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

SOMEWHERE IN CORSICA—The Corsican youth had killed more than 80 Germans in the last 13 days. The first had been standing a sentry post near a house on Corsica's eastern coastal road. Inside the house were 40 German officers and men.

On a moonless night the Corsican slipped up behind the sentry, jammed one hand into the sentry's mouth and with the other drew his 12-inch knife deep across the German's throat.

The sentry gasped and fell dead. The Corsican wiped the blood from his right hand, pulled three grenades from his pocket and with steady aim threw them directly into the house of 40 Germans. There were fragments of their flesh left here and there.

He wrote his name out for me, Antoine Barraza. He was 24 years old—very handsome, with a lean face, bushy eyebrows and a great shock of black hair which made him look considerably like Robert Taylor. His eyes were deep brown, cold and serious.

Knife At Side

I first saw him standing at a juncture outside Ajaccio where the road turns north to Corte. He had just visited his family and was returning to the headquarters of his outfit, the dashing French Bataillon de Choc, at Vivario in mid-Corsica. His long knife swung easily at his side. He wore bright blue wool pants stuffed into leggings. He had on an American GI shirt and overseas cap. He carried the "mitraillette" the automatic stirrup gun of the Corsicans.

Both of us had missed by a few minutes the daily train that crosses the island from Ajaccio to Bastia. But Antoine and I decided it would be quicker to walk or hitchhike.

Antoine never smiled. He was pleasant and now and then would whistle some bars of the William Tell Overture. But he just didn't smile. Once I mentioned the word "German" in French. His dark

eyes flashed fanatically. His face flesh tightened. He repeated the word and spat on the ground.

Here, obviously was a man beyond the enemy-against-enemy aspect of fighting. He seemed filled with some special hatred of Germans. I kept wondering what had brought him to this stage.

But he was a man with whom one didn't simply come out and ask baldly, "Why do you feel as you do about Germans?"

So we talked of pleasant things. I knew by his whistling he must like music. It turned out he especially liked Ravel.

On Stage

"I would go to concerts much in Paris," he said.

"In Paris? I thought your home was in Ajaccio."

"It is my home," he said, absently pulling a blade of grass and sticking it between his bright even teeth. "I went to Paris to go on the stage."

That gave a lead. He was well acquainted with the works of nearly all the American and British playwrights. He had been a promising actor in Paris when the war came on.

"I, along with several of my friends," he said, "quit acting to go into the French army." He bit off the last hunk of bread and, when he done with it, continued, his voice lowered and his eyes looking straight ahead.

"We actors were not bad fighters. All of my friends and I got into one company. We did pretty well for awhile. Then one mucky night on the western front we got sacked off. Except for three of us my whole company was killed."

Friends Killed

"All my friends were killed. I saw them all die. Some were just shot to pieces and died all at once. We found parts of bodies to make graves for, an arm of one friend, a leg of another. Some of my friends were very badly wounded and lived for a few days. Then died."

"I was lucky. I lived. I don't know why I lived but I lived. Or maybe I was unlucky that I lived. I keep seeing those friends of mine dying. Every day and every night I see them. Right now I see them. Every time I see a German I see them especially and then something happens to me. I want very much to kill that German. I have to kill them. Perhaps it is bad that I feel as I do but I feel that way. I do not know. Everything is bad. Or maybe it will be good. Until the war is over I want to kill Germans. Then I am willing to forget."

Escape

He had escaped from France after his country fell. He worked and hid his way to Corsica. There he joined the Patriots, the dauntless group formed months ago to liberate Corsica from the Axis. Day and night he trained himself in the use of explosives, knives and other instruments of sudden death. When the Free French came, he was ready. He joined the Bataillon de Choc.

He asked for jobs in which he would operate personally against Germans. After the knife and grenade tasks he received near-suicidal assignments of wiping out German machinegun nests near Bastia. He worked on Corsica's mountainsides, hiding in the maqui and, when the moment came, hurling a quick grenade or Molotov cocktail or jumping out for a spraying job with his mitraillette. He had ended the lives of the personnel of three German machinegun groups.

"I want very much to return to France," he said, pulling up a blade of grass and biting it off. "I want to fight where my company fought before."

He picked up his mitraillette. We walked down a small hillside of maqui and out onto the highway to hitchhike north. Antoine began whistling the William Tell Overture.

They Say...

ELMER DAVIS, OWI director: "If Hitler were put aside, the U.S. would no longer have the advantage of his intuition."

LT. JOHN MASON BROWN, briefing Navy personnel on censorship of mail:

"Wasn't it foolish, wasting all that time learning to write?"

LOST AND FOUND

Miss Bette Lee Harsel, University of Missouri, '43, the beauty featured this week, writes to her soldier boy friend somewhere in Africa, Sicily or Italy: "I do hope, though, that—after the war—you will find a little time to stop in St. Louis and go on that picnic we had a date for—remember???(ha!)" Is there a soldier in this theater who stood, Miss Harsel up?

The other young lady is waiting at the gate for the return of some soldier. There is no clue to her identity.

Brothers writing in to locate one another this week are Pfc. Frank L. Turley, Cpl. Stanley E. Turley; Pvt. John Leech, Bill Leech; Pvt. Leonard Sumkin, Cpl. Murray Sumkin; Pvt. Sol Berkowitz, Jack Berkowitz; Pvt. Sam Bress; Pfc. Louis Bress; Pfc. Henry Niquette, Sgt. George Niquette; Pvt. Daniel Cooperstock, Pvt. Samuel Cooperstock; Stephen Marino, Vincent Marino; and Mr. Peter Esposito, of the Bronx, is anxious to hear from his brother, S-Sgt. Frank M. Esposito, member of the "Hell From Heaven" Fortress squadron.

T-5 John W. Walters is seeking his brother-in-law, Lt. Ed A. Timmons. LAC J. W. Ball, wants his brother-in-law Gnr. Joe Newell to drop him a line.

Cousins trying to contact one another this week are Pvt. William D. Heckman, Pvt. Marvin W. Heckman and Pvt. David G. Evans; Lt. Paul F. Bolstad, S-Sgt. Owen Bolstad; Pvt. Herman D. Christian, Cecil Patient and Francis Speagel; Pvt. Harlow Stone, Elbert Stone; Pfc. Norman Krakower, Capt. Hyman Levy; and Padre Vincenzo, Palermo, once of Caltanissetta and now at Convento Baida, Bocca Di Falco, is looking for his cousin, Charles Russo, a soldier-chauffeur in a unit believed stationed in Sicily.

Sgt. Emmett G. Springer writes that the mother of Cpl. Lawrence Bub L. Crotte has not heard anything from her son since early May. Sgt. Springer is anxious to locate his home town friend, Crotts, and will appreciate any assistance. Other friends trying to reestablish contact this week are S-Sgt. Joseph J. Salach, Mr. Jim Wellard; Pvt. Harris Recouley, Lt. Alys Louise Salter; Pfc. W. Mac Naughton, Ensign George E. Bud Drake; Pfc. Stanley Danizewski, Stanley Dmochowski, last known to be in Aruba, DWI; S 1c Henry



Bette Lee Harsel



Patiently Waiting

J. Melander, Paul Welch; Wac T-5 Mary E. Oliver warns Murray Gaithchaite to send home his correct APO.

Sgt. J. Caulfield of the Royal Armoured Corps is attempting to locate his American cousins, who are of the family of William Elliot. Mrs. Elliot was before her marriage Mary Caulfield, of Bigrigg, Cumberland, England. Armand A. Chaussé wants Lt. Rogers P. Ber-

nique; Pvt. Sol. Novick, Capt. E. M. Cane; Cpl. R. B. Malloy, Jr., Lt. Edwin B. Counerat, Jr.; Sgt. V. A. Ferguson, Branch K. Rives, USNR; and Nurse Lt. Angelo Femino is seeking her schoolmates Lt. May Dell Taylor and Lt. Mildred Sturratt.

K. Robinson, Ministry of War Transport, is trying to locate his peace-time friend John MacIlroy, who resided in New York City before joining the Air Forces; Cpl. Fred Yates, RAF, T-5 Noel Rosen, USA; Sgt. F. K. Jones, John Lunney and Lt. Mary Frazer; Pvt. J. W. Three, Sgt. Tom Evel, RASC; Cpl. James Goffney, Thomas Sheridan, CG and Charles Irwin, USN; and will the man who mailed six photos of a soldier to APO 762 please claim same?

"I would appreciate it very much if I could use up a little of your space to find the best pal I ever had. He is Pvt. Ruben E. Jacobson. Thanks. Pfc. Bill W. Amos."

Pvt. Thomas R. Curry wants Pvt. George Dewland; Sgm. H. Edwards, Pvt. George Henehan; Pvt. William M. Shepard, James R. Swain and Walter L. Master; Cpl. H. M. Meidhof, Sgt. Nick Fea; Cpl. Jim Samuelson, Cpl. Fred H. Claudon; Sgt. G. Newton, Y 1c Bill Morgan; Pfc. Morton J. Kelley, Lt. Robert J. Bowen; and S-Sgt. Clyde J. Perry, Pfc. Dan W. Clark.

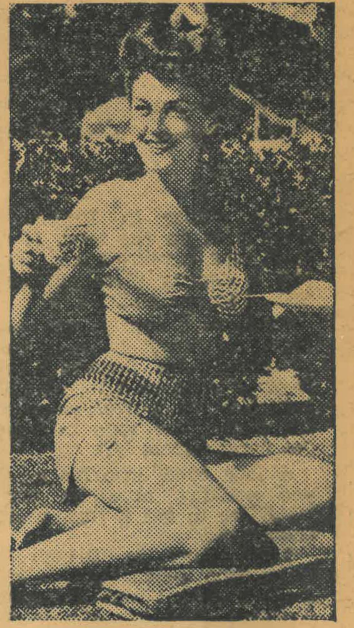
Walstein "Runt" Meeks, why not write to Pfc. Hershel D. Lewis? A. W. McKellin, S 1c, wants Sgt. Carmine Sonny Sondino; will the soldier who was trying to locate T-Sgt. Morris Shulman please drop us a note?

Mrs. Robert A. Woods, Thompsonville, Conn., is asking friends of her husband, S-Sgt. Robert A. Woods to help her locate her gunner husband who is with the Air Forces in this theater. She has not heard from him in quite awhile and believes perhaps Sgt. Woods has changed his address.

Bracey, Va., is a very small town, but it gave all of the young men it had to the armed services. T-5 William A. Harris writes that most of the Bracey men are in Africa and he is anxious to contact Sgt. Sandfort Jackson, Pvt. William Petties and Pvt. James Shaw.

J.W.

Les Girls



According to their press agents, Cheryl Walker, left, is "the girl with whom we'd like to leave our heart at the Stage Door Canteen," while Marguerite Chapman, right, is selected "the girl we'd rather have hand us a cup of tea."

AH, SWEET MYSTERY

Future Of Pin-Up Girl Problem For After War

When war ends the army is going to leave behind their pin-up gals in the shack on Attu, the old castle in England, the brick-walled farmhouse of Italy, the palm hut in New Guinea. The soldier will go home to his real-life girl friend, providing she hasn't meanwhile married the other guy.

So the pin-up girl will become the sole property of the Eskimo, the Duke, the Italian peasant and the aborigine, who are not generally movie-goers and will therefore add little to the pin-up girl's popularity and nothing at all to the box office.

This will force Hollywood's press agents to go back to work, for the servicemen, having won the war, will no longer have time or the inclination to pick their favorite "Girl We Would Most Like to Make Our Objective."

The procedure by which these servicemen pick their favorites

will in itself make an interesting postwar expose. For instance, how did a Royal Air Force unit in England agree that Paramount's Veronica Lake would be their favorite objective? Maybe a Paramount press agent strolled into their mess one night, drank Scotch, craftily dropped the cye that Veronica Lake was lovely, wasn't she, and a Scottish lad, thinking of a highland loch, agreed yes, wasn't she.

This was all the verification the press agent needed and he hurriedly cabled the report: "Royal Air Force unit in England picks Veronica Lake as its favorite objective."

Casualties

Regardless of how they attained their crowns these "Girls We Would Most Like . . ." are going to become postwar casualties if the press agents don't watch out. For instance, limpid-eyed Anne Shirley (The Girl We'd Like Most to Share a Crash Dive With) is going to be definitely avoided—crash dives just won't be that popular. Gene Tierney, who was chosen by marines stationed on Guadalcanal as "The Girl We'd Like to Guard on a Lonely Pacific Isle" may find herself alone on a remote Pacific Isle, with her marine-protector raising hell at Lu's joint in San Francisco.

Maxine Barratt (The Girl Whose Hair We'd Like Most to Have in our Bombsight) may consider herself lucky if she has any hair left. Greer Garson, chosen "Girl We'd Like to Lead a Victory Parade Through the Streets of Tokyo," may find herself stranded there.

Dark Outlook

Unemployed will be starlets Margaret Landry (Girl We'd Like to Keep Our Foxholes Tidy); Rita Hayworth (Girl We'd Like to be Cast Adrift With); Maureen O'Hara (Girl to Ride With on a Bumpy African Road) and Dolores Moran (Target for Tonight.) These just aren't peacetime vocations for Hollywood people.

For some the postwar world will not necessarily bring a total blackout. Starlet Barbara Hale might get an occasional headline as "The Girl We'd Like Most to Bail Out With," although she could not hope to have such expert downward escorts as Army paratroopers. Undoubtedly, Leslie Brooks could continue her precarious bedside manner as "The Girl We Would Most Like to Have Pneumonia With." And Betty Grable would zoom as "The Girl We'd Like to Fly With in a Plane With an Automatic Pilot."

Little Hope

But there can be little hope for dancing star Marjorie Reynolds. Miss Reynolds enjoys the wartime title of "Girl We Would Like Most to Have Warm an Igloo." And Olivia De Havilland (Dinghy Girl) doesn't seem to have very bright prospects either.

Only one girl appears to have a real justification for looking forward to the postwar world. She is a Caribbean outpost, pensive with cumbersome p, having simply named Jinx Fa'burg "The Girl We'd Rather."

V-Mail Champion



THIS PICTURE OF GERMAINE BOUCHARA preparing V-mail for microfilming is a reminder that V-mail Christmas cards must be posted before Nov. 15 in order to get into the special holiday pouches. Germaine is a champion at her work, handling 38 letters a minute. The average is 20. (Staff Photo by Sgt. Hopper)

BLESSED EVENTS

The ARC cable service announces the following births of sons and daughters to men in this Theater: Pfc. Willard Brown, Daniel Udell, Oct. 12; SF 3-C Teddy E. Adams, Jackeline, Sept. 14; Capt. James E. Jones, Virginia Rose, Oct. 2; Capt. Ray E. Mayham, Sally Ann, Aug. 7; Pfc. Johnnie Olsen, Alton Pernell, Sept. 13; Lt. John M. Murray, John, Oct. 16; S-Sgt. Dewey L. Nix, Donald Leon, Oct. 13.

Pfc. Jim J. Palladino, Ronald James.

Roll Of Honor

Eight United States naval officers have received the Legion of Merit for their work in preparation for the invasion of Sicily. Awards were made by Vice Admiral H. Kent Hewitt, Commander of United States Naval Forces, North African waters.

Naval officers receiving the medal were: Rear Admiral Spencer S. Lewis; Capt. Paul L. Mather; Capt. Donald S. Evans; Commander Robert A. J. English; Commander Leo A. Bachman; Commander Harold R. Brookman; Commander Thomas L. Davey; Lt. Commander Benjamin H. Griswold.

Army officers and enlisted men who have recently received the Legion of Merit medal: Cpl. John Sebesian; Cpl. Urbin P. Shaffer; Sgt. Grady W. Kromer; Sgt. Donald W. Smith; Sgt. Charles R. Ford; Sgt. Robert L. Kershner; Sgt. Edwin S. Henson; T-3 Miguel A. Santiago; S-Sgt. Charles W. H. Meyer, Jr.; M-Sgt. Earl C. Ramsell; M-Sgt. Felix M. Latiolais; 1st Lt. Roy F. Dent, Jr.; Capt. Alvin T. Netherblad; Lt. Col. Leonard L. Bingham; Lt. Col. Lawrence M. Mulhall; Lt. Col. William B. Latta; Brig. Gen. Aubrey C. Strickland; Maj. Gen. Edwin J. House.

Oct. 44: Antonio P. Procapio, Rosanne Marguerite, Sept. 14; S-Sgt. Eldon Mulford, son, Oct. 17; Lt. Ralph E. Thompson, Carol Ariene, Oct. 15; Pvt. Paul Doperak, Francis Paul, Sept. 15; Pfc. Donald Craylon, son, Sept. 23; Pvt. James H. Ford, Jimmy, Sept. 20.

Seaman 1-C Ernest L. Booth, Patricia Ann, Oct. 18; Lt. Theodore L. Ballis, Theodore Lawrence, Jr., Oct. 14; Joseph Babio, son, Sept. 23; Pfc. William D. Fields, Jr., William Dudley, third, Sept. 25; Pvt. Ervin J. Hlousek, daughter, Oct. 18; Pvt. Otto Jasehek, Gertrude, Sept. 28; Pvt. Joseph H. Horn, Michael Harvey, Sept. 24; Lt. Robert S. Howell, Robert Spencer, Sept. 21; Lt. L. A. Hummel, Jr., Diane, Sept. 12.

Pvt. Edward L. Murray, William Edward, Oct. 11; Lt. I. A. Winn, Moffett, Oct. 5; Pvt. Stanley E. Panlock, Jr., son, Sept. 28; Capt. Thomas Schrier, daughter, Oct. 18; Pvt. Marvin W. Towson, son, Oct. 16; Pvt. Stuart F. Snyder, Linda Ann, Sept. 12; Lt. W. W. George, Frances Carol, Oct. 19.

Capt. Paul G. Harris, Linda Mary, Sept. 30; S-Sgt. Joseph G. Ponciaro, Frederick John, Oct. 17; Sgt. James P. Arge, Virginia Lou, Sept. 9; Lt. Earl B. Johnson, Carol Lynn, Oct. 2; Sgt. Frank R. Holub, Frank Jr., Sept. 26; Lt. Kenneth C. Acker, son, Sept. 25; Chaplain John L. Joyce, Louise Geraldine, Sept. 21.

Pvt. Thomas McTigue, Marilyn Elizabeth, Sept. 6; Fred Fisher, Roland Frederick, Oct. 1; Pvt. Jack H. Fitzer, Jack Henry, Jr., Oct. 13; Lt. Cassius L. Thomas, Evelyn Lee, Sept. 19; Lt. Edwin W. Shepherd, Edwin Hilton, Oct. 19; S-Sgt. Ollie Norman, son, Aug. 31; Pvt. Hyman Glantz, twin girls, Sept. 30; Lt. Ned W. Frandon, son, Oct. 20.

Lt. H. S. Corbett, Jr., James Ryan, Oct. 19; Em 2-C Paul L. Graham, Paula Gene, Oct. 8; Sgt. Charles E. Bell, Donald Robert, Sept. 13; Cpl. Edgar Wrighe, Sandra Kay, Oct. 30; Pvt. Charles T. Wood, Charles, Jr., Oct. 1; Lt. Douglas Talar, Margaret Rosanna, Oct. 4; Pvt. John C. Moore, Mary Ellen, Oct. 21; Lt. Leo E. Trichter, Richard Lee, Oct. 16.

Sgt. William C. Lee, Evan Clayton, Sept. 25; Capt. William A. S. Dollard, Felicia Irene, Sept. 20; Cpl. Harold D. Mieraed, Michael, Oct. 13; Lt. Harry Barker, Henry Hunter, 3rd, Oct. 7; Pvt. Francis H. Dupuy, Richard Francis, Sept. 27; Pvt. Rocco De Maio, daughter, Oct. 16; Lt. James A. Collins, Michael Patrick, Oct. 8.

It Happened At Home

News Notes . . .

Miss California, 19-year-old Jean Bartel, Los Angeles, was selected as Miss America for 1943 by judges at Atlantic City. The 33 girl contestants were guarded by a platoon of Atlantic City matrons and six Atlantic City cops, were forbidden dates, drinking, smoking, gum-chewing and talking to a man without permission. There are approximately 10,000 soldiers, sailors and Coast Guardsmen in Atlantic City and its vicinity . . . Once 40,000 attended conventions of the Grand Army of the Republic. This year, at the 77th annual meeting of the GAR in Milwaukee, there were only 35 of the present membership of 333 in attendance. Oldest delegate present was Henry Mack, Minneapolis, a 106-year-old ex-slave who had run away to enlist in union ranks. The GAR pledged to aid "in any possible way" the conduct of the war, elected 94-year-old George H. Jones, Maine, as its new commander-in-chief, and loudly voted down a resolution to call off future meetings . . . For the second time in nearly two years, the light in the torch of the Statue of Liberty was turned on this week during a Liberty Day ceremony sponsored by the New York Committee of the National War Fund . . . Population shifts in the U.S. caused by labor shortages in war industries were on the way to becoming permanent in the Pacific northwest. Thousands of families who came here to work in shipyards and airplane factories have decided to stay after the war, according to a poll conducted in the state of Washington. Over 60 percent of the War workers say they like it here and city planners are now thinking of turning war industry centers into peacetime communities.

From Broadway to Hollywood . . .

Red Nichols, the orchestra leader who volunteered to play the Pied Piper to rid Albany, Cal., of its recent plague of rats, was unsuccessful this week. His torrid cornet attracted an excited following from the children of this waterfront town—but not one rat budged . . . Tommy Manville's latest divorce (his seventh) was granted to Marie (Sunny) Ainsworth Moran Manville following a 25-minute hearing in a Reno courtroom. A male clerk was substituted for Miss Marie Jensen, the regular court clerk, during the Manville case, "because," said Miss Jensen, "of the nature of the case."

World of Tomorrow . . .

America's scientists, inventors and technicians continued to patch up the world of today and plan for the world of tomorrow . . . The Goodyear Research Laboratory has announced a new method of welding, using a secret adhesive which is already replacing rivets and spotwelding in airplane construction . . . To fight the malaria-bearing mosquito, the New Jersey Agriculture Experiment Station has produced a new insect-repellant known as "Formula 612" . . . At Duke University, laboratory experts have devised a preparation for treating burns made from papaya juice . . . Professor Karl Sollner announced that sound waves can be used in big industrial towns to dispel smoke and fog by coagulating the droplets of smoke and fog, which would then fall rapidly to earth . . . At the University of California, Dr. Fred Lorenz has discovered that sex hormone pellets planted under the skin of a chicken will cause it to grow fat and tender, thereby providing more and better chicken meat . . . A liver extract has been discovered which will overcome the occasional toxic effects of sulfa drugs . . . The new wonder drug penicillin is now being produced by nine plants in the U.S., with production steadily increasing but not fast enough to serve all who need the drug. Until supply catches up with demand, Dr. Chester S. Keefer, Boston, is acting as a one-man ration board to distribute penicillin throughout the nation.

Helicopters . . .

In Boston, the William Filene department store this week asked the Civil Aeronautics Board for permission to establish helicopter service between Boston and other New England cities, using the Filene rooftop as a landing field . . . Also appealing for helicopter rights is the Greyhound bus corporation, which is planning helicopter routes totaling 49,130 miles . . . In Washington, Igor I. Sikorski, inventor of the helicopter, told the Civil Aeronautics Board that 14-passenger helicopters were entirely feasible and could be ready for use within two or three years if the war ended soon. Helicopters being delivered to the armed services, he said, could be readily converted for peace-time use.

Washington Notes . . .

The main topic of capitol conversation this week was the three-power conference in Moscow as the nation speculated on future plans and programs that would stem from the closed sessions and awaited the report of Secretary of State Cordell Hull, representing the U.S. in Moscow . . . Discussing the role of Russia in future world affairs, Ralph A. Bard, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, told a Philadelphia audience that the ideas America may have had of communism ten years ago should not be allowed to wreck future programs of world peace. "Russia, from a standpoint of natural resources and undissipated potential wealth, is probably the richest country in the world," he said. "Russia as our ally makes sense in a big way. Russia as someone else's ally raises consternation." . . . Another voice of official Washington turned to the affairs of Europe when Secretary of Agriculture Claude Wickard appealed to the peasants of Central and Southeastern Europe to continue their struggle against Nazi Germany, to keep their food supplies from falling into German hands, to feed their surplus crops to their cattle rather than sell them to the Nazis at any price . . . Food production at home was on the way to improvement, according to Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes, who announced this week that irrigation would provide 800,000 new acres of arable land by 1945 . . . U.S. employment in August reached a record total of 63,900,000, according to the National Industrial Conference Board, a private organization. The total, including persons in the armed services, is 8,000,000 over the normal national working force . . . Railway union officials this week protested to War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes against the proposed employment of war prisoners to relieve the manpower shortage on railroads, which, they said, "would invite sabotage of the most dangerous character."

Stars And Stripes Newsstands Listed

In the Constantine and Tunis areas The Stars and Stripes may now be obtained at the following addresses:

- Constantine — Stivala Joseph. Avenue Liagre (newsstand between ARC and Casino); Tunis—Depeche Tunisienne, 2 Avenue de Paris; Mateur—Special Service Section (next to ARC); Ferryville—Mr. Elele, 31 Avenue de France.
- Large unit orders should be placed before Thursday of each week at any one of the above addresses.

FDR ASKS FUNDS

(Continued from Page 1)

cushion the return to civilian employment of service personnel," President Roosevelt pointed out.

He declared that money invested in such an educational program would reap rich dividends in "higher productivity, more intelligent leadership and greater human happiness." He estimated that the program would cost one billion dollars.

The President told how, when he signed the bill calling 18 and 19-year-olds into the service Nov. 13, 1942, he had appointed a committee of educators to study, under the War and Navy Departments, the problem of educating servicemen and women after the war. He said that he agreed with the committee's chief recommendations, was passing the committee's report on to Congress and hoped for early and favorable action.

STREAMLINING

A salient feature of the educators' report was the suggestion that, whenever possible, courses of study should be streamlined to take into account the natural impatience of men and women who have been in the service for a considerable length of time and who desire to get ahead with their education with all possible speed.

The committee recommended that service personnel who are to continue their educations be relieved of their military duties for this purpose as soon as possible after the end of the war. The educators also suggested that teachers in the services receive early discharges so that they may help put the nation's expanding education program into operation.

WIDE RANGE

They saw the educational requirements of ex-servicemen ranging from elemental courses desired by the near-illiterates, who have become aware of the disadvantages of lack of schooling, to the highest post-graduate courses for those who were working for college degrees when war intervened.

The urgency with which veterans will want jobs after the war will create a great demand for practical training in the trades, they anticipated.

The committee suggested the establishment of machinery to guide men and women leaving the services to the appropriate educational opportunities open to them.

U.S. Sub Lost

WASHINGTON—The Navy this week announced the loss of a new 1,525-ton submarine, *Runner*, presumably in the Pacific. The *Runner* was commissioned June 30, 1942, and was the 14th United States submarine lost. Thus far, the war has cost the Navy 101 combat and 23 non-combat craft. The *Runner* normally carried 65 men.

Literati Offer Cloaks To The Poor Varga Girl

(From The Stars and Stripes U.S. Bureau)

WASHINGTON — As postoffice hearings entered their second week to determine whether *Esquire* Magazine should lose its second class mailing privilege because of obscenity, Prof. Ernest G. Osborne of Columbia University, described the publication as "definitely sophisticated." He added that the United States had gone overboard in "pegging all entertainment and reading at a level of a six-or-seven-year-old child."

Radio commentator Raymond Gram Swing, another defense witness, likewise found nothing obscene in *Esquire*. Calvin Hassell, Assistant Postoffice Solicitor, asked him: "Don't you consider the Varga girl drawings obscene?" Mr. Swing replied: "I'll answer that question by recalling Samuel Johnson's answer to Boswell in a similar situation: 'The picture isn't, but your question is.' Your questions, on the whole, are rooted in whether we approve of entering a conspiracy of silence regarding such matters or whether we be-

lieve in the treatment of candor. Personally, I believe in candor."

Esquire's variety of humor passes over most youngsters, Professor Osborne testified. "I wouldn't advise *Esquire* as a children's magazine," he said, "but it won't hurt them. Sex isn't a characteristic thing in *Esquire*."

If sex is the main objective, Professor Osborne suggested that *Esquire* get a new editor, "for this one's not making the most of his opportunities."

Solicitor Hassell quoted from a story, "The Unsinkable Sailor," the following phrase: "The first son of a bitch that moves, I'll cut his head off." The professor was asked if the language wasn't indecent.

"In its setting, I'd say no," the defense witness replied. "It would be rather ridiculous for this character to say: 'Gentlemen, if any of you attempts to cause me any difficulty, it will result in serious trouble for you.'"

Columnist Field Day

(Continued from Page 1)

home state, the Houston Press thinks the resolution goes far enough in a rapidly changing world situation and "to go further would create an unnatural and unnecessary split at home and abroad."

Both the New York Herald Tribune and liberal PM aren't too happy about the whole business. The Tribune is worried about loopholes in the resolution which might encourage "subsequent evasion" but is willing to settle for the next best thing. PM plants its feet on an "all-or-nothing" stand, tossing as a final insult the statement that the resolution is "palatable enough for even isolationists to swallow."

MISSOURI ECHO

PM's statement is echoed by the St. Louis Star-Times, which remarks that the resolution "must indeed be a harmless document if the Chicago Tribune can see no harm in it."

The McCormick paper itself says the Connally resolution "commits us to nothing." Those yelling for a stronger statement of policy, says the Trib, "are trying to achieve what Benedict Arnold failed to accomplish."

The nation's press expects with few exceptions nothing but good news to come from the Moscow conference as it is now coming from the Russian front.

The New York Times said: "If this conference or a subsequent one can produce a joint political formula for dealing with Germany and her satellites which will leave their population some hope of ultimate redemption, it can produce the same kind of landslide within Germany and among her Allies as was produced in a similar situation by Wilson's Fourteen Points." One thing the Times regrets is lack of "real European representation" at the conference, but it hopes something may be done in future meetings about that.

PESSIMISTIC

The Washington Post thinks pessimistically that a second front pledge to Russia probably is "lying like a specter on the conference table." But the only thing worrying the San Francisco Chronicle is that the conferees won't discuss the important matter of bringing war criminals to trial.

On the week's fighting in Russia,

the New York Herald Tribune frightens the Nazis by declaring that the possibility "not simply of defeat but of a disaster comparable to that of Stalingrad again looms before them." The Times terms Nazi disorganization "a disease that kills armies" and asks itself: "How long can fear whip up flagging energy when it is without hope?"

WARNS BOOSTERS

Washington Columnist Raymond Clapper thinks Russian victories "should make us less boastful and more willing to be cooperative after the war," adding that "Russia will expect to be listened to with the same respect to which we feel entitled."

Politics and Vice President Henry Wallace's speechmaking are getting their share of attention. The St. Louis Post Dispatch reports that attempts to bury Mr. Wallace politically are not having much success and that Wallace not only is "very much alive, but saying things that a great many people wish to have said." PM in New York pats him on the back for his blast at the nation's railroads and their rate-fixing but says his "what-to-do-about-it is a fizzle."

The Atlanta Constitution says the Republicans "after mulling it in 1940 haven't a chance in 1944," while the Baltimore Sun warns GOP National Chairman Harrison Spangler that his confidence in victory next year is dangerous. "The last time the Republicans gave way to complacency," the Sun recalled, "they nominated Harding."

Excess Profits Tax Increase Approved

WASHINGTON — A measure boosting corporate excess profits taxes from their present 90 percent to 95 percent was approved this week by the House Ways and Means committee.

The committee rejected a proposal for a retail sales tax and at the same time decided to compel labor unions to file tax returns even though they are exempt from regular levies.

MALE CALL

By MILT CANIFF

Dear "Miss Lace"—
Since you are the only glamour girl most of us guys ever see, we'd appreciate it if you'd show up in real pin-up outfits—You know—like the movie stills.
Dogface Dan



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