



# THE STARS AND STRIPES

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## Reds Sweep Foe Aside in The Crimea

### Resistance Weak; Soviets Gain in Rumania; Nazis Rescue Trapped Pocket

Two converging Soviet armies, pushing swiftly into the Crimea against unexpectedly weak resistance, were reported last night to have retaken the major part of the northern Crimea and half of the Kerch peninsula in a "blitz" advance so powerful that Russian front-line reporters forecast the entire area's fall within a few days.

Though the still-growing, five-day-old offensive in the Crimea took top place in the Soviet communiques, other Red forces beyond the Dniester pressed steadily nearer Ploesti and the Danube, moving their lines within 40 miles of Rumania's northernmost oil fields—100 miles north of Ploesti—and within artillery range of the Bessarabian capital of Kishinev.

With the Russian conquerors of Odessa clearing the last Nazis from southern Russia in the suburbs of the Dniester rail junction of Tiraspol, where the line from Odessa crosses the Dniester to Jassy, the only dull spot in the entire Soviet picture was the German rescue of the trapped remnants of their 15 divisions in the Skala pocket southeast of Tarnopol.

Moscow's communique announcing the setback said the enemy succeeded at heavy cost in breaking through to the pocket and recapturing the town of

## Stalin Pledges Czechs Restoration of Freedom

Restoration "of the freedom and independence of the Czechoslovak Republic" will be achieved soon by the common struggle of the Russian and Czech peoples, Marshal Stalin promised Tuesday in a telegram to Czechoslovak President Eduard Benes.

His message was prompted by Benes' weekend greetings upon the arrival of the Red Army at Czechoslovakia's eastern borders.

Buczacz, 25 miles south of Tarnopol. Large concentrations of German troops were reported massing in this area to keep Marshal Gregory Zhukov's armies out of the big German base at Lwow, in Poland, 65 miles northwest of Tarnopol.

Moscow dispatches said the Crimean armies under Gens. Feodor Tolbukhin and Andrei Yeremenko were dealing massive blows against the German and Rumanian troops in the peninsula and pressing them back from one defense line to another. Front-line positions were not clear, but both armies apparently were pushing south and west along railways toward an eventual joining-up for a march on Sevastopol.

In Rumania, Marshal Ivan Konev's armies left Jassy, outflanked and difficult to hold by the capture of Pascani, 40 miles to the west, where the lateral rail line from Jassy meets the main north-south line running from Cernauti around the Carpathians to Ploesti and Bucharest.

Kishinev, on the lateral railway midway between Tiraspol on the Dniester and Jassy beyond the Pruth, was caught in a pincers between Red Army troops 12 miles distant on the north and 20 miles away on the west.

## The War Today

**Air War**—U.S. heavy bombers from Italy batter three Messerschmitt factories in Wiener-Neustadt area of Austria, south of Vienna; Zagreb, Yugoslavia, also raided; Aachen railway center in Ruhr, hit heavily by RAF; weather halts USAAF day assaults from Britain.

**Russia**—Russians, meeting weak resistance, retake half of Kerch Peninsula and major portion of the north Crimea; Soviet columns within 40 miles of northernmost Rumanian oil fields; Germans break through to rescue trapped forces in pocket south, southeast of Tarnopol.

**Pacific**—Americans seize five more Marshalls atolls, hem in estimated 50,000 Japs on last four main islets; planes hammer widespread targets; Marines gain on Bougainville in Solomons.

**Burma**—Japs capture hill position north of Imphal, capital of State of Manipur in India.

**Italy**—Heavy guns duel at Cassino; Nazi infiltrations repulsed in Anzio bridgehead.

## Your Gift at Discharge: ORIENTATION Talk

FORT DIX, N.J., Apr. 12—War veterans entering the Army's new separation center will receive an orientation talk, physical examination and civilian classification and within 40 hours of arrival will be discharged and on their way home, perhaps furnished with civilian clothes and a railroad ticket.

Discharge procedure previously required several weeks to a month. Speed-up plans call for establishment of separation centers throughout the country.

## 5 More Atolls In Marshalls Fall to Yanks

### 50,000 Japs Left on Last 4 Islands Facing Doom; Air Fleets Hit Wide Area

American armed forces, supported by warships and aircraft of the Seventh Air Force, have captured five more atolls in the northeastern Marshall Islands, giving the Allies control over 18 of the group's 22 main atolls, Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, Pacific Fleet commander, announced yesterday at Pearl Harbor.

Japanese troops on Mille, Jaluit, Wotje and Malcolap—last principal enemy bases in the Marshalls—now are hemmed in on the north, south and west by strong U.S. island positions and on the east by 2,000 miles of open ocean dominated by U.S. patrol fleets guarding the supply route from Pearl Harbor to the Solomons, Australia and other points in the Southwest Pacific.

An estimated nearly 50,000 Japs are garrisoned on the four atolls and face either starvation, surrender or death. Meanwhile, Marines on Bougainville gained two miles in their thrust along this Solomon Island's southern coast. More than 5,300 Japs have been killed since the American push began Mar. 8. American casualties have totaled 1,514 in the same battles.

In air operations, 200 Solomons-based fighters and bombers again bombed Rabaul, New Britain, starting fuel-dump fires visible 40 miles. Heavy bombers hit targets near Madang, New Guinea; medium bombers blasted the naval base at Ambonina, off Dutch New Guinea; and naval patrol bombers damaged two small enemy cargo ships at Woleai Island, in the west-central Carolines.

Light warships of Adm. William F. Halsey's Southwest Pacific task force bombarded Hansa Bay, Madang and Alexishafen, on the north-central New Guinea coast, destroying many shore installations. Jap land-based guns did not reply.

## Japs Capture Hill Near Imphal in India

NEW DELHI, Apr. 12 (Reuter)—Japanese capture of a small hill north of Imphal, capital of the Indian state of Manipur, was admitted today by Lord Louis Mountbatten's headquarters.

The Allies did not mention the name of the hill, but the Japanese claimed the seizure of Kangra Tungi, described as the strongest Allied position on the Kohima road. Its position was given as eight miles northwest of Imphal.

In northeast Burma, a unit of Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill's American raiders fought its way through a ring of Japanese columns and contacted other Allied troops after an eight-day siege in a pocket in the mountainous jungles of the northern Mogaung Valley.

## Gunner With 75 Missions Asks Transfer to Pacific—and Tokyo

A FORTRESS BASE, Apr. 12—T/Sgt. Kurt J. Hermann, of Babylon, N.Y., has completed 75 missions as a gunner on U.S. bombers. He has 12 Oak Leaf Clusters to his Air Medal.

Hermann has been to Berlin four times and to Rome once. He has requested a transfer to the Pacific Theater so that he can complete an even 100 bombing missions—including a few on the only Axis capital he's missed, Tokyo.

In North Africa, Sgt. Hermann finished ten raids as a B17 gunner and then transferred to medium bombers and went on 40 more missions as tail-gunner on a Marauder.

Lt. Gen. James Doolittle signed Hermann's furlough papers when he finished his tour of operations in North Africa,

## Three Aircraft Plants in Austria Battered by Heavies From Italy; RAF Blasts Rail Center in Ruhr

### Sergeant Lost in Army Shuffle Found After 13-Mo. 'Furlough'

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Apr. 11 (AP)—S/Sgt. John B. Zealor, 22-year-old tail gunner, of Roxbury, Conn., can qualify as the envy of all servicemen who like the idea of a furlough.

Because somewhere along the line of bookkeeping, Zealor said today, he got lost and had a 13-month furlough. The tail-gunner gave this version of how it happened.

He went into the Air Forces in January, 1942, and was shipped overseas six months later. As a result of 26 combat missions in the African theater, he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Silver Star and the Air Medal.

Returned to this country Jan. 10, 1943, Zealor reported at Morrison Field, West Palm Beach, Fla., was given a furlough and told to await orders.

Early in February of this year his mother, Mrs. Katherine Zealor, of Bridgewater, Conn., received a communication from the War Department saying it was not known where her son was. She telegraphed that he was at home.

Shortly thereafter, Zealor was notified to report to the Army Air Forces Redistribution Station No. 1 here, where he now is awaiting reassignment. "I didn't know what to do," said Zealor, "so I sat tight and waited. However, I managed to catch up on my hunting and fishing in the meantime."

There was one aspect of his furlough to mar the picture. He said he had not yet received his pay for the 13 months.

## MacArthur Scores in Illinois; Dewey Strong in Nebraska

WASHINGTON, Apr. 12—An exceptionally strong write-in vote for Gov. Thomas E. Dewey in Nebraska and a sizable vote for Gen. Douglas MacArthur in Illinois stood out today in early returns from yesterday's two Republican presidential preference primaries in the Midwest.

Nebraska Republicans found only the names of Lt. Cmdr. Harold E. Stassen, of Minnesota, and Wendell

## 49 Known Dead In Gales' Wake

### Great Lakes, Seaboard Hit; 35 in Arkansas Victims of Tornado

Special to The Stars and Stripes  
NEW YORK, Apr. 12 (AP)—Storms which battered most of the U.S. for the last two days, leaving 49 persons known dead, subsided today after a final swing at the Eastern Seaboard and the Great Lakes area.

Many remained homeless in Kansas and Oklahoma as rivers continued flooding in the wake of torrential rains. A forecast of clearing and colder weather promised some relief, but several streams had not yet reached predicted crests.

Arkansas, with 35 dead in a series of tornadoes, was the worst sufferer. Six persons were killed in Fort Wayne, Ind., when a wall was blown over by a high wind. North Carolina, Alabama, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Texas, Kentucky, Georgia and Tennessee each reported deaths directly due to lightning or wind.

Points as widely separated as Michigan and South Carolina were lashed by windstorms. A 60-mile gale, described as the heaviest in nearly four years, battered many points along Lake Michigan. A tornado struck near Walhall, S.C., severing power lines.

## Gob Is Taken Out Of Brig, Given His Medal, Sent Back

A U.S. NAVAL BASE, England, Apr. 12—Arthur Arnold's 30-day stay in the brig was interrupted at the halfway mark by an award ceremony at which he was decorated with the Silver Star for heroism in the landing on Sicily.

A seaman, first class, in the Coast Guard, serving time for overstaying a leave in London, changed from dungarees to dress blues and was marched under armed escort to a platform where he received the medal.

Arnold was serving as coxswain on a landing craft on July 10, 1943, when Allied forces carried out an assault on Gela, Sicily. Heavy machine-gun fire swept the troops disembarking from Arnold's boat.

Although Arnold's duties did not involve actual combat, he tossed two hand grenades, silencing the machine-guns and permitting the attackers to capture the beachhead.

Following the ceremony, Arnold, a resident of New Alexandria, Va., returned to brig and dungarees for 15 more days.

**Heavy Artillery Raised To Top Priority by WPB**  
WASHINGTON, Apr. 12 (Reuter)—WPB has raised heavy artillery to the same top priority accorded landing craft in response to a military demand for more big guns quickly.

## Attacks From South Maintain Incessant Aerial Pounding

American heavy bombers "in great strength" yesterday pounded three of the big Messerschmitt factories in the Wiener-Neustadt area in Austria, 27 miles south of Vienna, carrying the resumed Allied assault on German air strength into its fifth consecutive day.

With its thundering raid on one of the biggest of the German aircraft assembly plants, the Italy-based 15th Air Force took over momentarily the offensive pressed relentlessly from the British Isles for the previous four days and nights by RAF and USAAF task forces bent on softening the German defenses against invasion.

Weather over Europe halted the round-the-clock offensive against German targets from the British Isles soon after the last RAF bombers returned from a heavy night blow at the railway center of Aachen, in the Ruhr.

**Weather Forces Turn-Back**  
Eighth Air Force heavy bombers roared out from British bases yesterday morning to continue the assault, but weather forced most of them to return.

Some Forts and Libs, however, penetrated enemy territory, escorted by fighters of both Eighth and Ninth Air Forces and the RAF, and sharp battles ensued. Fifteen enemy fighters were shot down for a loss of five American bombers and five fighters, headquarters announced last night.

Wiener-Neustadt turns out fighter planes on a mass-production basis and is reputed to have been the source of about one-third of the entire Messerschmitt output. It has been raided three times before by American heavy bombers, in August, October and November of last year, when heavy damage was inflicted.

In yesterday's raids many tons of bombs were dropped on the main assembly plant at Wiener-Neustadt and on parts factories at Bad Voslau, north of the town, and Fischamend Markt, 25 miles to the northeast of the central plant. The latter is one of the biggest fuselage and components plants for German fighters.

A large force of Liberators also attacked the airfield and railway yards at Zagreb, Yugoslavia, yesterday.

In all of the attacks good bomb coverage was reported. Losses were not immediately announced.

**7,000 Sorties Since Sunday**  
When the Allied offensive from Britain paused after the RAF attack on Aachen, Anglo-American air forces had completed approximately 7,000 bomber and fighter sorties since Sunday, shaking Europe with an estimated 11,000 tons of bombs.

In Tuesday's attack on Nazi aircraft factories at Oschersleben and Bernberg and the industrial cities of Rostock and Arnimswalde and other industrial targets in Germany, 126 enemy aircraft were destroyed in aerial combat—74 by Liberators and Fortresses and 52 by escorting P47s, P51s and P38s of the Eighth and Ninth Air Forces.

Sixty-four U.S. bombers and 16 fighters did not return out of a force of nearly 1,000 each.

Photographs taken during the raids  
(Continued on page 4)

## Lt. Colonel Admits Guilt in Extortion, Bribe Plot in N.Y.

NEW YORK, Apr. 12—Lt. Col. Edward Gordon Jr., 47, of New Rochelle, N.Y., pleaded guilty in Federal Court to charges of conspiring to accept bribes and extort money from shipbuilders holding government contracts. He was arrested after he allegedly accepted an envelope containing marked currency.

According to the Federal charges, Gordon demanded \$52,000 from Wesley Wheeler, president of the Wheeler Shipbuilding Corp., of Whitestone, N.Y., Arthur M. Donnelly, of the Bronx, former employe of a Japanese firm, was alleged to have been the intermediary in the bribe attempt. Donnelly also pleaded guilty.

Gordon has been active in shipping circles since before the last war, when he served for two years in the Navy. He was a partner in a tugboat and barge company before being commissioned in May, 1942.



# Feature Section

Thursday, April 13, 1944

## How Good Is the Red Air Force?



Guards Jr. Lt. I. Grundanov of the Red Air Force proved the worth of the American P39 by shooting down five German aircraft with his Airacobra

The answer—PLENTY. Its job, different from other Allied Air Forces, is making Air history

By Earl Mazo  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer



Junior Lt. I. Bagatsky is another Airacobra booster. Soviet fliers remain on combat duty as long as they are physically fit.

NOW that America's 15th Air Force in Italy has begun operations in direct support of the Russian advance into Rumania and Hungary, an old query again comes up: How great has been the role of the Russian Air Force in the mounting successes of the Red Army?

Some light on the question was given recently when Alexander Werth, broadcasting from Russia for BBC, told how a unit of Red Air Force liaison planes largely was responsible for the liquidation of much of the ten German divisions trapped in the Korsun pocket in the Ukraine several weeks ago.

The night before the Germans prepared their last desperate attempt to break through the Russian ring, U2s of the Red Air Force went up in a blizzard when nothing else would fly, located and dropped incendiaries on the German force, setting fires that enabled the proper sighting of Russian artillery batteries, which then pounded the Nazis and shattered the enemy breakthrough plans.

Then the Russian ground forces mopped up.

### Aerial Motorbikes

These U2s—biplane trainer aircraft before the war—proved, as did American Piper Cubs in Africa and Sicily, a deadly military secret that everyone knew about—except the Germans.

To date in the Russian war, these 75-mph grasshoppers, called aerial motorbikes by the Russians, have done everything. They have bombed, served as ambulances, carried on liaison between Russian commanders and guerrilla fighters behind the German lines, and on several occasions when the chips were down even have taken to the air as fighters against giant German transports.

They are, perhaps, one of the principal reasons for the Red Army's phenomenal mobility despite mud and muck. When nothing else can get through with supplies, the U2s bring them in.

At Stalingrad, this plane won its first laurels and emerged as one of the Red Army's warrior aircraft. In that great battle, U2s flew up to a dozen combat missions a night, developing bombing tactics still used successfully. The pilots climbed as high as possible, sighted their targets, cut the engines, then glided in on the bomb run in complete silence. These "noiseless bombers" not only proved deadly to German targets, they greatly upset enemy morale.

One Nazi general is said to have reported that the Russians had a bomber which could fly up to a window and look over the sill to see whether there were any Germans inside.

### Connected with Ground Operations

Since the Russo-German fighting has been over such vast land areas and involved such huge ground armies, most of the Red Air Force's activity has been directly connected with ground operations.

Thus the Russians have concentrated on fighters and bombers used mostly in assault, and although several thousand first-line ships have been furnished them by the U.S. and Britain, Soviet production has been tremendous—this despite Hitler's "final" pronouncement in November, 1941, that the Russian Air Force was destroyed and would never rise again.

While the designation of Russian aircraft—like America's P for fighters and B for bombers—is not necessarily uniform, the nearest approach to standardization is I for fighters, SB medium bombers, TB heavy bombers, DB long-range bombers, PS transports, U trainers, KOR ship-borne, and ARK Arctic airplane. And some of the leading Soviet aircraft designers have been honored in designations. Those designed by Yakovlev are YAKs; ANT means aircraft designed by A. N. Tupolev; LA, Lavochkin; IL, Iliuchin; PE, Petlyakov, and SU, Sukhon.

Besides the great array of YAKs and Stormoviks and other Russian aircraft, foreign types in common use by the Soviets are British Hurricanes and Spit-

fires and American P40s and Airacobras. Marshal Stalin told his airmen in the summer of 1941 that their principal job was ground support and, although the Russians have done some strategic bombing and were comparatively successful in protecting cities like Moscow from bombardment, the biggest part of their aerial operations has been against mobile and foot troops, both in the early German advances and the Nazis' current retreats.

### Typical Log Book Entries

One of the favorite Soviet tricks has involved low-flying groups of Soviet aircraft which constantly attack forward elements of retreating German columns, often retarding entire movements and sometimes forcing the enemy to abandon vehicles and everything mobile in order of escape. Many times in the last few months such tactics have slowed German retreats long enough for Russian ground units to catch up with and dispose of the Germans, and to capture untold quantities of usable booty.

In this connection, these are typical entries in the log book of a Red Air Force unit:

Jan. 4—Seven enemy fuel tanks destroyed, six lorries set on fire, two HQs and 100 Germans annihilated.

Jan. 5—Thirty-two lorries and 100 carts destroyed, 120 Nazis annihilated, one He113 brought down.

Jan. 6—About 80 Nazis killed, 11 lorries, one motor car and several carts destroyed.

Jan. 8—He126 brought down.

Jan. 17—A column of 100 Germans and 40 vehicles dispersed, 40 German soldiers annihilated, one enemy AA gun silenced.

In pitched battles, the Red Air Force's highly flexible tactics are as carefully interlocked with the plan of attack as are those of the artillery, infantry and other units in the fight.

After the battle which resulted in the Russians' regaining Orel, Col. Kotelnikov, a ground commander, reported:

"... an air unit insured the breakthrough of the N tank unit and its subsequent operations deep in the enemy defenses. The battles lasted a fortnight. Stormoviks did their job well... an analysis of their operations shows that they understood how to organize interaction with the land forces.

"Long before the operations began, the tanks and Stormoviks carried out combined exercises... tank crews were taught to signal the planes by means of radio, rocket and tracer, the objects hindering the advance. The Stormoviks,



Sr. Lt. Dina Nikulina, one of many Soviet women flying combat with the Red Air Force.

on their part, undertook to lead the tanks to their targets.

"... the contact between land and air proved successful. Recognition used to depend on the inscriptions and other markings on the body of the tank. In battle, however, the markings became soiled, and the explosion of shells and dust often made it impossible for pilots to see them at all from a height. For this reason, reliance was placed mainly on radio and light signals.

"The Stormoviks and tanks found a common language... and the result was disaster for the enemy."

### Fantastic Stories Proven

This success story has been repeated in practically every recent engagement.

While so much of the Red Air Force's fighting has to do with the everyday job of wiping out German ground forces, Russian fliers have reported some fantastic exploits, such as the ramming of enemy aircraft and chewing off tails of German airplanes.

Although Americans at first accepted these stories with tongue in cheek, they have been proven true, as have so many other Russian feats.

One of the first successful "rammers" was Victor Talalikhin who, while chasing

off German bombers headed for Moscow, expended all his ammunition unsuccessfully on a He111.

He is reported to have said the Russian equivalent of "I'll get that Nazi skunk or else," rammed it—and awakened in a Russian peasant's hut. In the collision he had been thrown clear and had parachuted to safety in a swamp. For his ramming he was acclaimed a Hero of the Soviet Union, an award which corresponds with the American Congressional Medal of Honor and the British Victoria Cross.

Talalikhin's story spread, and ramblings as a last resort were officially encouraged. Often, like Talalikhin, the ramming Russians lived to win a decoration; frequently they died.

By June, 1942, the official Soviet War News Bulletin said, "Ramblings are becoming a daily routine."

Even some Russian women pilots have been acclaimed for destroying enemy aircraft by ramming.

Despite fantastic stories of heroism, and the fact that women have a big part in Red Air Force activities, those who know the Russians have said that their average fliers are plain Joes and Janes from every section of the Soviet Union who like to fly, hate the Germans, and like a good time as much as young fliers of any other nation.

Col. Hubert Zemke, the American fighter ace who spent four months in Russia in the summer and fall of 1941 training Red airmen to fly Lend-Lease American aircraft, returned enthusiastic about Russian pilots.

### Col. Zemke Impressed

He said they conscientiously absorbed everything he could tell them, and some even began to study English so they might read more technical books about airplanes.

Col. Zemke was so impressed, in fact, that he named his first P47 Tovarich, the Russian word for friend.

Fred Graham, New York Times aviation writer, met Russian airmen sent to America to study. He soon shared Zemke's enthusiasm.

He said one Russian, Maj. Oshineckoff, a chubby pilot who was always laughing and who could down double bourbons with the best in America, startled test pilots in the States by skillfully flying everything they showed him.

He was especially fond of the P39, and on one occasion gave a Bell plant such a thorough buzzing that the manager said, "If we ever get that fellow on the ground

he'll never fly one of our planes around here again." Among other things, Oshineckoff slow-rolled the Airacobra close enough to the ground for the wing tips to barely clear the runway.

This pilot, Graham said, believed that "an airplane is an airplane... if it can fly it has a certain amount of fight. It is up to the pilot to find out how much."

Oshineckoff, who, like all other Russians, evaded direct question about the Red Air Force, was an ace. When Graham asked how many Germans he was credited with, he modestly said he didn't know, that "the ground people thought I was keeping records, and I thought they were keeping the records. So there are no records."

That is true of most accounts the world has of Russian aces. Stories of individual exploits are told, but the over-all picture has seldom been given.

Soviet women pilots, incidentally, started the war in aerial-ambulance and ferry-pilot jobs, but soon won for themselves the opportunity to prove they could fly combat successfully against the best in the Luftwaffe.

### Women Pilots

A Hero of the Soviet Union, Shestakov, who commands a fighter unit, said one of his hottest (in combat) pilots was a girl, Lilia Litviak, who shot down three German aircraft the first week she joined his outfit. One of the leading Russian bomber navigators is a mother of two children.

Dinah Nikulina, a girl who learned to fly in the Russian civil-training schools before the war, was seriously wounded on her 342nd bomber operation. In the hospital she told friends, "I must get well... they say a pilot's best mission is her 343rd."

Apparently Soviet fliers have no definite tours of operation. They continue combat as long as they are physically able.

While the precise organization of the Red Air Force today has never been announced, simply because that organization is so flexible, it is known that the Soviet air units are set up like ground outfits. Air regiments are like American groups, for instance. While the Russians have something that corresponds with American Bomber commands—these visited Berlin as early as Aug. 26, 1942—the nature of the war has put the big percentage of Red aerial fighting at medium altitudes and on the deck.

Like the Americans, the Russians have two separate air organizations, one the Red Army Air Force, and the other the Air Arm of the Soviet Navy.

### Setup Is Flexible

All individual ground forces like those fighting on the southern fronts have attached air support, and the over-all setup is so flexible that if aircraft in the Leningrad sector are needed more urgently at a place such as Odessa, for instance, they are transferred quickly.

The Russian aerial successes may be more easily understood when the background of that country's flying history is recalled.

Russia had four-engined bombers in World War I. And about 20 million Russians, old and young, actively participated before the present war in the Ossoaviakhim organization, which on a much larger scale was to Russia what the Civilian Pilot Training program was to the U.S.

Igor Sikorsky, who now builds Vought-Sikorsky airplanes in America, designed Russia's first four-engined aircraft in 1913. It had a wing area of 1,700 square feet and was powered by 100-hp Argus engines. Improved designs of this aircraft, called the IM, were produced for World War I.

Within ten years the Russians were perhaps the most air-minded people in the world, supporting everything from mass parachute jumps to great glider demonstrations to drum up interest in flying.

When the full story of the Red Air Force is finally told it will probably be one of the most fascinating of the war.



A Soviet pilot gets last minute instructions before taking off for combat in his American Boston bomber. The Russian navy flag indicates that this is one of the numerous land based air units operating with the Soviet navy.

# The Story of

The crews that  
vessels are a cos  
—they are GI J

By Do  
U.S. Merchant



"Down the Line the Signal Ran . . ."

THE skipper returned from the convoy conference about one o'clock. "We get under way at 1400 hours," he told the chief mate as he climbed over the bulwarks. At 1350 the rattling of the anchor chain could be heard forward, and at 1400 the sleek Liberty ship glided out of the harbor. Her signal flags flapped gently in the breeze as the convoy headed for the open sea.

Aboard her were 70 warriors, warriors fighting the first round battle—the battle of supply. Forty-two of them are merchant seamen. Twenty-eight are Navy armed guard sailors. They were fighting this war long before the Allies' power to strike back approached anything like it is today. They rode out the enemy's punches long before the rest of our forces were called into full scale operations.

They are a cosmopolitan crowd, this crew. They hail from spots on the globe as far apart as Portugal and Maine, Kentucky and Russia. Their ages range from 16 to 55, but they are all essential cogs in the machinery of keeping the supply lines intact.

### The Skipper Is Boss

The bulk of the responsibility rests on the skipper, tall, lean, Lincolnesque Captain J. C. Giriat. The "Old Man," as all skippers are called (he's no more than 35), graduated from New Rochelle, N.Y., High School back in the 20's. After graduation he went away to prep school. The sea to him was still only something out of a Conrad novel, but during the depression he was induced to ship out on a tanker. A month or two on a tanker, he thought, and he'd be ready to come ashore

and stay ashore. Instead he worked his way up to third mate and remained at sea until some years later when he left the sea and organized the marine division of Sears Roebuck and Co.

When the war broke out he answered the War Shipping Administration's appeal for ex-seamen to return to sea, and two trips ago he took command of his own ship. Ordinary seaman Giriat, off a rusty tanker, was now Captain Giriat, the master of a new 7,000-ton Liberty ship.

In the crew messroom a bull session was in progress. The conversation ran pretty true to form. They discussed the same things that all fighting men talk about. It might have been around a stove in a Nissen hut instead of around a table in a rolling ship. They discussed the officers. Some were "snafu." Others were "neat eggs." They bitched about how the war was being run and they argued good naturedly with the Navy boys about the merits of their respective services, just the same as artillery men argue with infantry men. They talked about the soldier vote being extended to include seamen and they shot the bull about their exploits. They referred to one of the crew as a GFU. "That's army talk," one of the guys said. "A GFU is a GFU whether he's in the Army, Navy or just a civilian," griped one of the old timers. They were a typical bunch of Americans—GI Joes in dungarees.

Joe Berthelot, of Wayne, Michigan, the messboy, is a veteran. At 16 he had already made five trips into war zones. He took a friendly ribbing from the crew. "Hey, junior, when are you going to start to shave?" a fireman said to him.

"When you start to bathe, you lousy

grease monkey," he retorted. Aboard ship the black gang are "grease monkeys" and the deck gang are "seagoing bellhops."

The watch had just changed and up into the messroom streamed the 8 to 12 water for a cup of Java before turning into the sacks. One of the men sparrer jokingly with Cicero Ray, a colored Texan who had shipped this trip as a fireman-water tender. "Jimmy" Ray, as he was known in the ring, was on his way to becoming a top notch welterweight when Uncle Sam changed his plans. He had been in the ring with Milo Bettina and Seferino Garcia to name two, but after his training at the Sheepshead Bay Maritime School he decided to give up the ring for good and to continue going to sea after the war.

An older, rather quiet man sat in the corner. He was Roy Tewksbury, of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, a 49-year-old wiper who gave up a good job ashore to ship out. "Got any family, Roy?" we asked him.

### Guadalcanal Gus on Deck

"Yes, I have," he said with his New England drawl; "I've got a son who's just about ready for his wings as a navy pilot."

Just about that time in burst able seaman Gus Portrait. To the boys this Bostonian was known as "Guadalcanal Gus." Gus had been with a tank-destroyer outfit on Guadalcanal and has six Japs to his credit, but had come down with malaria and was shipped home, where he got medical discharge. After his recovery he went to work on an assembly line in a defense plant, but before the war he had sailed on yachts, and he figured his sea experience was going to waste in a shore job. Gus, who has a wife and four kids, said "You can talk about seamen making a lot of moola, but I made more as a P with an allotment than I do now. I could be making three times what I'm making now if I stayed ashore, but hell, I'm worth more as an experienced seaman than as a green welder."

Danny Dobbins, one of the ABs, joined the ship in St. John's, Newfoundland. He had sailed with the British, Norwegian, Danish, Swedish and Finnish merchant services and was shipping out for the first time aboard a "Yankee." "How does this ship stack up with the rest of them?" we asked him.

His answer was simple and frank. It was a typical seaman's answer. "They were a



"Bow Lookouts"



"The Old Man"

# Rangers Died Fighting At Dawn

By Sgt. Stars a

IN the second week of the beachhead south of Rome, two battalions of Rangers made a night march on Cisterna. Their mission was to infiltrate the German lines, take the town and hold it until the main body could meet them. When they reached Cisterna they were surrounded and cut off. The story of the Rangers at Cisterna makes grim but proud reading.

The day before the attack the Rangers waited for the jumpoff in their assembly area. Bedrolls had been piled high on a tent canvas, left in charge of the cooks and truck drivers, who were ordered to stay behind. In the weapons carrier, parked under a scrubby pine tree, the battalion commanders and their staffs studied the field orders, reconnaissance reports and maps. Officers and noncoms at the company command posts were studying the same maps.

Already the names on the map were becoming familiar. Cisterna di Littoria, its stone and cement houses spread out along the Appian Way, could be seen across the flat table top as soon as you left Anzio. Behind Cisterna was the hill mass called Colli Laziali, between the Appian Way and Highway 6.

### Looking Down Our Throats

Colli Laziali is the dominating terrain feature facing the beachhead—the only high hill between the Allies and Rome. The rugged Apennine range, with its memories of bloody hill battles from Naples to Cassino, ends just short of the beachhead and could be bypassed. But Colli Laziali, 2,800 feet high, had become a beachhead objective. In German hands, the Colli menaced the Allies with observation that looked down their throats. It was the same old hill story all over again.

The Allied attack was designed to cut the Appian Way in two places. The out-

stretched British salient along the Albano-Anzio highway was ready to push on. At the same time the American 3rd Division had planned to capture Cisterna, 12 miles southeast of Albano. When the Appian Way, supplying German forces south to the Garigliano and north to Rome, was cut, the beachhead force would then push on to Colli Laziali.

### The Enemy Lies Low

In the first week after the landing, Allied troops had pushed ahead cautiously, feeling their way and expecting a German counter-attack. Up to Jan. 29 the Germans had shown no wish to counter-attack and patrols working their way north had discovered few signs of enemy concentrations. The front was still fluid, or appeared so, on the day the Rangers prepared to drive into Cisterna.

This, then, was the setting as the Ranger commanders studied their plans. In the pine woods bivouac that afternoon the men got as much rest as they could. The night before they had marched five miles back from their positions near Carroceto and were dead tired. None of them had had much chance to wash, shave or get his hair cut since the landing at Anzio on Jan. 22. The company barbers had plenty of business that afternoon.

At nightfall the Rangers got ready to move out. Riflemen carried two bandoliers of ammunition strung over their shoulders and stuffed their pockets with grenades. The machine-guns were left behind, but the mortar crews carried three rounds for each weapon. In addition to normal infantry weapons, the Rangers carried an extra load of sticky grenades, designed to stick to the sides of tanks, and plenty of bazookas. The maze of roads leading into Cisterna were ideal tank routes for the Germans.

At 1930 hours the Rangers formed and marched out of the assembly area. By 0100 hours, on schedule, they had reached the line of departure. The columns, already concealed by the moonless sky, moved into the deep irrigation ditches leading north to Cisterna.

From the line of departure to Cisterna was four miles through enemy territory, a short distance for an outfit trained on night marches. In the battalion columns were veterans of three campaigns, for whom night attacks were practically standard operating procedure. The Rangers often referred to themselves as a "point" outfit: They were accustomed to leading larger units into battle.

### Marching Through the Night

All night the Rangers marched, silently, under dark, cloud-choked skies, as moonless as the skies over Anzio on the night they landed. There was no hint of disaster as they plodded ahead. Several of the Rangers who later escaped told of passing German machine-gun and mortar nests, which fired occasionally to their flanks. But the enemy showed no disposition to attack them, gave no signs, moreover, that he knew they were coming.

"We passed two batteries of screaming meemies," said Cpl. Ben W. Mosier, Ash-tabula, Ohio. "We heard them giving orders in German and could have wiped them out. But we weren't showing our hand."

"We could see their sentries," added Sgt. Thomas B. Gergen, Parkston, S.D. "But they didn't see us. We had to keep quiet."

While the 1st and 3rd battalions of Rangers moved up through the irrigation ditches, the 4th battalion to the left flank was fighting in the town of Isola Bella, astride a northbound road to Cisterna. Here, if anyone could have known at the

time, was the first sign that all was not well. The town was supposedly undefended. But the 4th battalion met enough resistance there to delay its advance.

Following the battalion and company commanders as they moved ahead were their radio operators, carrying walkie-talkies on their backs. The antennae rocked back and forth over their heads, but no sound came from the radios and no message was received. By plan, radios were kept silent.

The last minutes before dawn brought the Rangers to the edge of Cisterna. In the stone farmhouses they had already begun to fight the enemy, who replied with self-propelled artillery and mortars, and snipers in every house. This was not according to plan. The German defenses were stronger than the attackers had expected.

When the sun came up the Rangers were surrounded. Between sunrise and 0700 hours, when radio silence was broken, the Rangers knew that the battle was lost.

Sunrise doomed them and marked the beginning of the hopeless, heroic fight.

"When it got light we saw one big building ahead with trees all around it," said Cpl. Mosier. "Behind us there was one tank, and when we saw it we cheered. We thought it was ours. We couldn't see very well and then it opened up on us."

### Tanks, Tanks, Tanks

What happened next happened fast. The Rangers attacked the tank, set it aflame with a sticky grenade and a bazooka gun, shot and killed the crew when the Germans tried to climb out of the turret. At the same time other Rangers were blowing up a German ammunition dump by shooting and grenading it. With one tank gone, ten appeared to take its place, followed by German infantry armed with automatic weapons.

"One tank came out of a driveway behind a house ahead of us," said Sgt. Fergen. "One of my squad climbed aboard it while it was moving and dropped an incendiary grenade into the open turret. At



# Reds Drive Invaders From Russian Soil

## Campaign Highlights

THREE great Russian offensives, launched simultaneously from the north, northeast and east, have smashed the German defenses of the Crimea.

With the capture of Kerch, easternmost town of the Crimea, the Soviet forces climaxed a victorious campaign which started a little more than a month ago. It has been a month of dramatic, almost unbelievable successes against German forces which have had two years to thoroughly entrench themselves.

The brilliant campaign was highlighted by Red successes which forced German occupation of Hungary and Rumania, the forcing of the issue in the entire Balkans, spot where the German collapse began in the last war, and gave new hope for the freeing of Czechoslovakia.

With the Russian forces pushing on through Yablonica Pass Czechoslovakia's government in exile hailed the campaign as the beginning of Czech liberation after five years of Nazi enslavement. Czechoslovaks were urged "to use all means against the enemy, including not only passive resistance and intensified sabotage but also direct action."

As the Russian advance got under way the plight of Hitler's satellite nations was quickly brought to light. Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria, who had learned that it was easy to enter the war on Hitler's side, discovered that it was most difficult, if not impossible, to get out.

Rumania and Hungary are now paying the price of Nazi occupation, with Bulgaria in a precarious position. Regarding the satellite nations, Russia further strengthened her position by making a firm declaration concerning boundaries and territorial demands.

The plight of the satellites was made worse by the increased activity of the U.S. 15th Air Force based in Italy. The Red advance has now brought key German supply lines within range of Allied bombers and for the first time there is a direct link-up between Russian land advances and our air war.

Forces dominating the three-pronged drive were Marshal Zhukov's First Ukrainian Army; Marshal Koniev's Second Ukrainian Army; General Malinovsky's Third Ukrainian Army



Clip this map and commentary for future reference and discussion group work.

"The Times" Map

- March 6—New Russian offensive aimed at Tarnopol and Lwow breaks through German defenses on 112-mile front near Shepetkov.
- March 7—Reds capture Volochisk, cutting the Lwow-Odessa railway, last escape line for Germans in the Ukraine.
- March 11—Koniev's Army captures Uman, key to Nazi defenses on the Bug.
- March 13—Tolbukhin's army swings across the lower Dnieper, destroying 500 German tanks and armored cars.
- March 14—Kherson, key German stronghold at mouth of Dnieper falls to Malinovsky's Army. Opens gateway to Nikolaev and Odessa.
- March 20—Soviet soldiers cross the Dniester onto Rumanian soil. Begin thrust at Lwow and Nikolaev.
- March 21—Vinnitsa, Nazi Bug river base, and Mogilev Podolsk, Dniester rail junction, fall to Reds.
- Mar. 22—Hitler begins occupation of Balkans. One hundred thousand Nazi troops occupy Hungary.
- Mar. 25—Adolf Hitler's army marches into Rumania to take up battle stations against Russian troops, now ten miles from border.
- Mar. 27—Reds drive German invaders beyond the 1940 border for the first time. Second Ukrainian Army rolls back Nazis to the Pruth along 50-mile front. Proskurov, main Nazi supply base in south, falls. Nazis lose Balti, key Bessarabian rail junction. German troops in Ukraine pocketed as Kamenets Podolsk, last rail escape to north, falls.
- March 29—Nikolaev, last big Nazi bastion standing in the way of Odessa, falls to Russians. Koniev's army crosses Pruth into Rumania.
- March 31—Red Army captures Carpathian rail junction of Cernauti, first big town taken beyond the Pruth.
- April 5—Zhukov's army threatens whole main German defense in Poland; advance toward Jassy, Nazi HQ. Soviet spearheads within 50 miles of Rumanian oilfields.
- April 10—Red Army soldiers stand on border of pre-war Czechoslovakia as Zhukov's Army break through Ruthenia frontier on 60-mile front.
- April 11—Odessa, greatest port on Black Sea, falls to Red Army after 2 1/2 years in Nazi hands. Russians threaten Tarnopol and Lwow.

## Army Talks

WITH inspections and bed checks constantly in GI's minds as the Army pushes its current campaign to tighten regulations, this week's issue of Army Talks discusses the timely subject of military discipline.

Entitled "Teamwork," the Special Service Division's discussion guide explains to soldiers the importance of rules which, to many of them, seem based on the personal fancies and malicious whims of commanding officers. Army Talks points out the reasons for military discipline and the necessity of making it more rigid as a part of pre-invasion training.

"Every soldier has enough intelligence to understand why discipline is essential in a football team. . . . And every soldier understands why teamwork is even more vitally essential in an army."

Carrying this idea of teamwork a step further, Army Talks says:

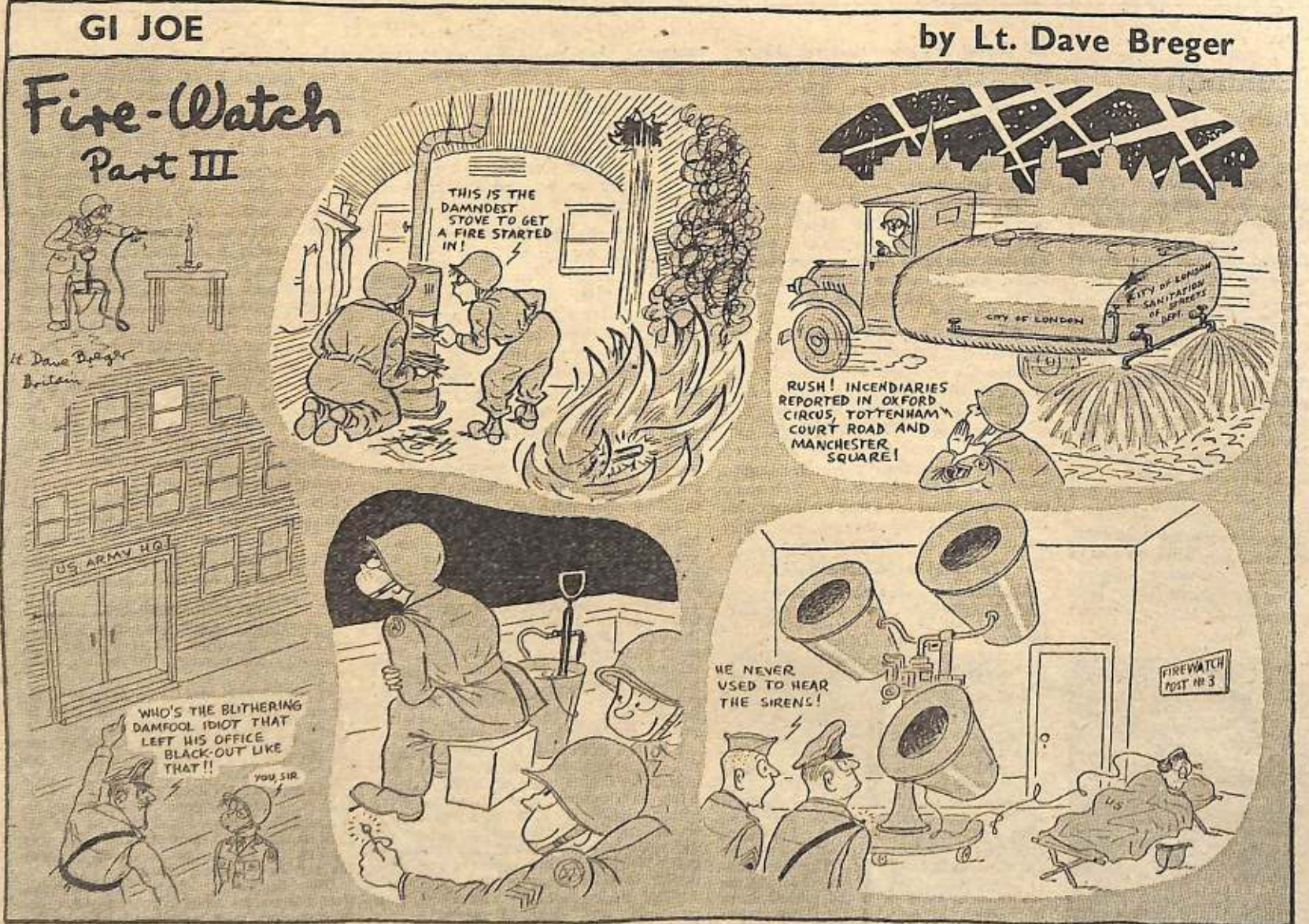
"The disciplined soldier will not go out for a joyride in a jeep or make a spectacle of himself in a pub; the undisciplined soldier may. The real crime in such conduct is not that the soldier guilty of it has a good time (if he does)—there's nothing wrong with having a good time. The real crime is not that he breaks a regulation—regulations are not an end in themselves.

"The real crime from the army's standpoint is that he lets the team down, which may lead to his doing so in action. He puts an unfair burden on his teammates; and he may cause misunderstanding between the two peoples, British and American, who must fight as a team."

The discussion closes with this comment:

"Baron Von Steuben, the German military genius who drilled the Continental Army and made a winning team out of a mob of individualistic citizens, commented of Americans:

"The genius of this people is that one must first explain—and then give the order."





# Horne Believes 1944 Won't See Defeat of Nazis

## King Predicts 'High Rate' Of Casualties 'in the Next 6 Months'

WASHINGTON, Apr. 12 (Reuter)—Vice Adm. F. J. Horne, second in command to Adm. Ernest J. King, Navy commander-in-chief, does not believe the European war will end this year.

Adm. King says the Navy will reach its peak this year and that "our casualties will increase very markedly in the next six months and they will stay at a high rate."

James Forrestal, Navy undersecretary, urges no cut in naval funds "until we see what the next 90 days bring forth. The major event we have in mind will, I think, have occurred by then."

These statements were made recently in testimony before a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee, it was disclosed today.

Meanwhile, WPB Chief Donald Nelson, speaking in Atlanta, Ga., indicated that Germany and Japan would not be beaten before 1946 and called the demand of the armed forces for a sustained increase of \$4,000,000,000 in the rate of munitions production and construction for the next 20 months the "best indication of the broad strategy of the U.S."

Horne, speaking on the record naval budget for the coming fiscal year, said the Navy had taken into account the possibility of a successful conclusion to the war in Europe this year but interpolated that he did not believe it.

King disclosed that the joint chiefs of staff had under consideration a proposal to set up a single National Defense Department to replace the Army and Navy Departments, but added that this could not be done before the end of the war.

Forecasting the peak of Navy strength in 1944, King explained that Japanese strategy was to make advances on the outer ring of Pacific islands so costly the Allies would give up the attempt. Nothing short of destruction of the Japanese Empire would suffice, he said.

# Mexican President Seizes Assassin as Latter's Shot Fails

MEXICO CITY, Apr. 12—An unsuccessful attempt on the life of President Manuel Avila Camacho of Mexico was made Monday in a corridor of the presidential palace by an army officer, who was quickly seized and disarmed by Camacho himself.

The assailant, Lt. Antonio Lama Rojas, was only three paces away from the president when he fired his revolver, but he missed and the shot passed through Camacho's clothing. Rojas faces a charge of high treason.

Rojas, who was reported to have been in possession of documents linking him with Nazi sources, was shot in the stomach later in the evening when he attempted to escape from his guards.

# Gerald Johnson, P47 Ace With 18 Kills, Lost Mar. 27

AN EIGHTH P47 BASE, Apr. 12—Maj. Gerald W. Johnson, of Owenton, Ky., fighter ace and squadron commander in the Col. Hubert Zenne's group, has been missing in action since a mission over France Mar. 27, it has been revealed.

Johnson, who went down in the operation on which Maj. Walker C. Mahurin was lost from the same fighter group, was credited officially with 18 enemy planes and on Mar. 27 ranked third among ETO aces behind Mahurin and Capt. Bob Johnson.

Three top-scoring ETO aces now have been lost. Maj. Walter C. Beckham was the first to go down last February. Mahurin, Beckham and Gerry Johnson destroyed a total of 57 German planes in the air before they were lost.

## AFN Radio Program

- On Your Dial**  
 1375 kc. 1402 kc. 1411 kc. 1420 kc. 1447 kc.  
 218.1m. 213.9m. 212.6m. 211.3m. 207.3m.
- Thursday, Apr. 13**  
 1100—Spotlight on Jose Savre Maracin.  
 1115—Personal Album with Pat Friday.  
 1130—Band of Queen's Royal Regt.  
 1150—French Lesson.  
 1200—Noon Edition.  
 1205—Barracks Bag.  
 1300—World News (BBC).  
 1310—Melody Roundup.  
 1330—Jubilee.  
 1400—News Headlines—Falkman Apache Band.  
 1430—Visiting Hour—Hospital Theater.  
 1500—Music While You Work.  
 1530—Off the Record.  
 1630—Music We Love.  
 1700—National Barn Dance and Program Resume.  
 1730—Albert Sandler and The Palm Court Orchestra.  
 1755—Quiet Moment.  
 1800—World News (BBC).  
 1800—GI Supper Club.  
 1900—Seven O'Clock Sports—Latest Sports News by Cpl. Johnny Vrotsos.  
 1905—Symphony Hall.  
 2000—News from Home—Nightly roundup of news from the U.S.A.  
 2010—Fred Waring Program.  
 2025—Calling APOs.  
 2030—Bing Crosby Music Hall.  
 2100—World News (BBC).  
 2115—Mail Call.  
 2145—JBO in the ETO.  
 2200—Truth or Consequence.  
 2225—One Night Stand with Joe Reichman.  
 2255—Final Edition.  
 2300—Sign off until 1100 hours Friday, Apr. 14.

# 'Gentleman Jim' Forgets To Duck Topping Swing

HOLLYWOOD, Apr. 12—Errol Flynn and Capt. Dan Topping staged a brief one-punch fight Saturday night, the film's "Gentleman Jim" hitting the carpet with a lacerated cheek.

The abbreviated battle climaxed an argument at a birthday party in the Topping home for Mrs. Topping—Sonja Henie.

Flynn's report of the bout was, "I guess he hit me and I went down. He'd have to a lot more before I would hit him back."

One of Flynn's starring roles was as "Gentleman Jim" in a movie depicting the life of James J. Corbett.

# GIs Send a Buck For Les Miserables Stranded in Florida

The plight of automobile tourists stranded in Florida when that state's ration boards refused them gasoline for the return trip North evoked an expression of "sympathy" and a donation of \$1 for their "maintenance" from GIs of an ETO ordnance outfit who yearned to do something "to alleviate the 'torment' these people are going through."

Capt. (then Lt.) Joe Dumic, company commander, wrote to the Jacksonville (Fla.) Chamber of Commerce after a story in The Stars and Stripes ("our contact with the outside world") describing the Florida tourist situation inspired his men to chip in for the "poor unfortunate people."

"We, too, know how it feels to be many miles from home and unable to get back," Dumic wrote. "We are enclosing a \$1 money order to help defray the costs of caring for these stranded individuals. Would it be possible for you to send for us and hold us as 'hostages' and send these poor people home? In the event the money cannot be used for the purpose intended, please turn it over to the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals."

The Jacksonville Journal published the letter under a three-column headline and Capt. Dumic recently received a reply from the Chamber of Commerce. "Your \$1 is being turned over to the SPCA," the C. of C. assured him. "Best of luck."

# Guns Continue Duel at Cassino

Intensified German artillery bombardment yesterday of the Cassino area, particularly the Allied strongpoint on Castle Hill, was reported from the Fifth Army front in Italy. Allied guns replied strongly. Greater vehicular movement and widespread deployment of infantry were taken as indication of German apprehension over Allied intentions in this sector.

Three Nazi infiltration attempts on the Anzio beachhead were repulsed and a sneak raid on the Anzio port by a dozen enemy planes was nipped by ack-ack fire, which shot down one raider and probably two others.

The MAAF flew 1,100 sorties against scattered rail and shipping centers for the loss of one aircraft.

# Quentin Roosevelt Weds Frances Webb, ARC Girl

BLANDFORD, England, Apr. 12 (AP)—Capt. Quentin Roosevelt, son of Brig. Gen. Theodore Roosevelt Jr., and Frances Webb, Kansas City, Mo., an American Red Cross worker, were married here today at St. Peter's and St. Paul's Church of England.

Hundreds of Capt. Roosevelt's fellow officers and many townspeople attended the ceremony.

The pretty brunette Red Cross worker and Capt. Roosevelt met at a party last New Year's Eve.

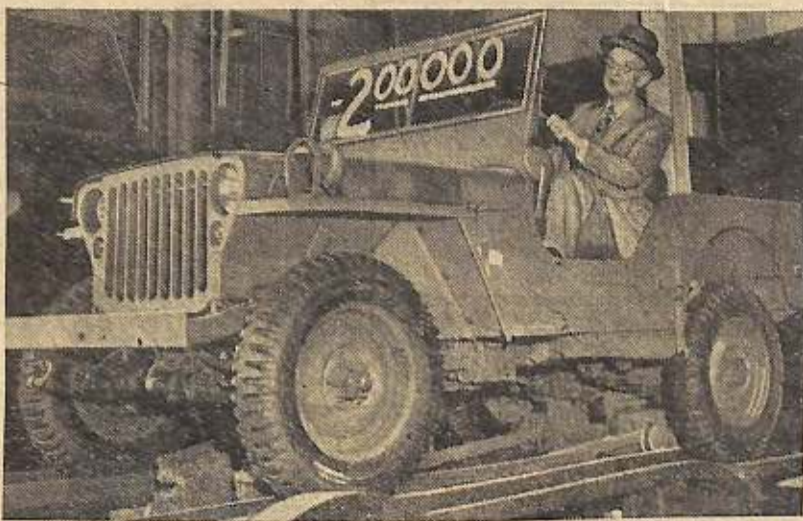
# Swimming Instructors Continue

Water safety and combat swimming instructors appointed by the American Red Cross for 1943 may continue their duties this year by filing application with the ARC Athletic Dept., Rainbow Corner, London, W.1, it was announced yesterday.

# Terry and the Pirates



# 200,000th Jeep Off Assembly Line



With Ward M. Canaday, president of Willys-Overland Motors in Toledo, Ohio, at the wheel, the 200,000th jeep manufactured by his firm since June, 1941, leaves the assembly line on the first leg of its journey to a foreign battlefield.

# (On Missing GIs, Too)

# MPs Are Just Like Hounds On Scent of Missing GI Cars

By Tom Hoge

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

AN INFANTRY DIVISION, England, Apr. 12—An average of two vehicles a week are lost or stolen from this division, and it takes only an average of 48 hours to get them safely back into the motor park.

That, asserts Capt. Verne Johnson, of Grand Fords, N.D., is due to the effective coordination between MP units throughout the U.K.

"We put a report over the teletype," said the youthful division provost marshal, "and we usually get the car back in a couple of days."

There have been exceptions, however, including a couple of headaches that the MPs would just as soon forget about.

One jeep was missing seven months, despite a country-wide search. Finally the provost marshal's office gave it up as a bad job.

"Then one day the British police got in touch with us," said Johnson. "It seems a farmer saw the jeep parked in front of his house for several days. When nobody called for it, he put it in his barn. Said he figured he'd use it to run around in after the war."

Diplomatic relations with the Navy became strained a couple of weeks ago when Chaplain Harry A. Skydell, of New York City, found his jeep had disappeared. It turned up a couple of days later in a nearby town with a sleek coat of navy paint and a gob behind the wheel. The misunderstanding was ironed out to the satisfaction of all concerned, however.

Petty larceny is another source of gray hairs to the army automotive authorities. Recently a Red Cross field director visited this outfit with love in his heart and a brand new trailer on his jeep. He parked the vehicle in town and the next morning found that the cover on the trailer was missing.

Driving up to headquarters to report the loss, he found that his horn wasn't working and that the car stalled easily, even when he choked it. Stopping in at an army garage he asked them to check the difficulty.

"Quite simple," said the mechanic after a brief inspection. "Someone has stolen your horn and apparently taken the choke apparatus as well." The garage crew unearthed a new cover, horn and choke.

# Raids - - -

(Continued from page 1)

revealed heavy damage to Focke Wulf production at Oschersleben, to fighter engine manufacture at Arnimswalde, to Junkers fighter and bomber output at Bernberg, to aircraft component factories and railway lines at Sorau, 80 miles southeast of Berlin, as well as to the Rostock and Stettin targets.

Enemy fighter opposition was determined and many aerial battles were fought from the enemy coast to the targets. Crewmen reported that the Germans used all types of single and twin-engine fighters.

Following attacks on enemy targets in France and Belgium Tuesday by Marauders and Thunderbolt and Spitfire

fighter-bombers, a strong force of Lancasters made a heavy attack on the German railroad town of Aachen, 40 miles southwest of the Ruhr. Aachen lies on the most direct route from Germany to France and Belgium.

Hanover and objectives in western Germany also were bombed by the RAF.

The number of planes down in Sweden during Tuesday's operations was increased to nine as two more forced landings were reported in Stockholm dispatches.

There were air battles over Sweden as German fighters pursued crippled American bombers over the neutral country. Reports from Malmoe said a Fortress shot down a German fighter into a bay nearby, while another battle between a crippled Fort and a German fighter ended when Swedish ack-ack shot down the German. Throughout the day, Stockholm dispatches said, Swedish aircraft patrolled the skies to escort damaged American bombers to landing fields.

# NEWS FROM HOME 32.6-Billion Bill For Navy Up on Floor of House

## Record Appropriation Is Asked; Would Hike War Cost to 350 Billions

WASHINGTON, Apr. 12 (AP)—The largest naval appropriation Bill in history went to the floor of the House today.

It carried \$32,647,000,000 for naval activities in the 12 months starting July 1, a figure which, if approved by Congress, will boost to approximately \$350,000,000 the obligations voted for the total war effort since July 1, 1940.

The new program contemplates the use of 6,623 self-propelled vessels, 74,925 non-self-propelled, 19,035 planes, exclusive of training planes, and 2,657,000 sailors, marines and coast guards men.

## \$1 Copy—or \$75,000 Original?

DUBUQUE, Iowa, Apr. 12—An etching found in the second-hand store of E. W. Chrisatis, one of a lot of ten pictures he bought for \$10, may be worth \$75,000. Gracey Wallace, an art instructor, claims the etching, called "Study of Wild Animals," is an original by Rosa Bonheur which disappeared from the artist's Bordeaux (France) studio 63 years ago and later was traced to the U.S.

## 'Murder Car' Innocent

CHICAGO, Apr. 12—Two girls told police they saw a hand and foot protruding from the trunk of a passing car, saw the driver stop, get out and shove the hand and foot inside, lock the trunk and drive on. The car was traced to a cigar salesman, who explained that the mysterious hand and foot belonged to a mechanic trying to locate a rattle. He had asked the driver to lock him in so he could listen better.

## Ford Opens Camp to Veterans

DEARBORN, Mich., Apr. 12—Henry Ford has offered a 300-acre camp for use as a rehabilitation center for discharged war veterans. The site, named Camp Legion, has been a trade school and farm project for high-school boys. It will be open to veterans with medical discharges who wish to return to industry or farming.

## Quad Cackle on Easter

LOS ANGELES, Apr. 12—Tom Jenkins, an aircraft worker, reported his Rhode Island Red hen laid an egg with four yolks on Easter.

# Elections - - -

(Continued from page 1)

Results of the preference voting were not binding on the national convention delegates chosen in either state but were purely advisory.

Meanwhile Senate Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley (D-Ky.) delivered a New York speech which some political observers interpreted as an invitation to the American people to re-elect President Roosevelt for a fourth term.

Barkley made no direct mention of a fourth term but described the Administration's record as the greatest in the nation's history. He challenged Republicans to say what part of the New Deal program they would repeal or nullify.

Dewey's write-in vote in Nebraska was described as "remarkable" in Omaha, where political leaders pointed out that no formal write-in campaign had been conducted for him. The state's national committee, Ira Beynon, said it showed Dewey was "the inevitable choice of Republicans all over the country."

Nebraska's Democratic primary was uneventful, with President Roosevelt's the only name submitted for preference. He polled 7,300 votes in 435 districts.

Illinois elected 50 delegates to the Republican National Convention, at least 35 of them undecided or undeclared on the choice of a presidential nominee. Regular Republican candidates, led by Gov. Dwight Green, won comparatively easy victories.

Nine other states will complete convention delegations before the week ends.

New York Republicans named eight delegates-at-large yesterday to complete their slate of 93. New York Democrats met today to choose their 96, as did Missouri Republicans completing a list of 30.

Connecticut, Maine, Arizona, Idaho, Michigan and Iowa will choose their delegates before Saturday.

# By Milton Caniff

By Courtesy of News Syndicate

