

Found: The Horatius at the Oschersleben Bridge

Bombers Hail One-Man Air Force

By Andrew A. Rooney
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

A MUSTANG BASE, Jan. 18—A lone, unidentified Mustang pilot battled 30 German fighter planes for half an hour high over central Germany last Tuesday. Fortress crewmen, who cheered as they watched the U.S. fighter send plane after plane smoking to the ground, have been trying ever since to find out the pilot's identity.

Today the fighter pilot those men watched wage the story-book battle in their defense finally was identified. He is Squadron Leader Maj. James H. Howard.

With his deeds buried in an over-cautious intelligence report, Fighter Command officials had to comb the records to find the man for whom bomber crews were claiming six destroyed enemy planes and countless bombers saved. With the records, they dug up possibly the best fighter-pilot story of the war.

The six-foot two-inch former Flying Tiger's own report on the battle claimed two destroyed, two probably destroyed and one damaged, but it is one of the few cases where the official figure probably will be raised by the confirmation board. It appears certain from Maj. Howard's own report of the action, from the reports of other fighter pilots and from the statements of many bomber crewmen, that he destroyed four planes and probably five, beside the planes he hit and damaged but did not destroy.

"I seen my duty and I done it," Maj. Howard said. "I never saw 30 fighters all at once the way the bomber people tell it. I'd see one, give him a squirt, and go up again. There were an awful lot of them around; it was just a matter of shooting at them."

"Our group was assigned to provide target support for



Maj. James H. Howard.

the bombers," explained Howard, who was leading the group in support of the B17s going to Oschersleben and Halberstadt.

"When we rendezvoused with the bombers from the rear, I dispatched two flights to cover the last bomber

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Three Red Columns Converge on Rovno, Rail Center in Poland

Prohibition Barrage In Congress Is Opened

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—Pay-day drinking and wild weekend sprints which they said were seriously retarding war production and slowing up victory were advanced today by prohibition advocates as prime reasons for the enactment of a national wartime ban on hard-liquor sales.

The opening of a prohibition crusade before a subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee, which is considering legislation to outlaw for the duration beverages containing more than one-half of one per cent of alcohol by volume, drew a large crowd.

Battling at Gateway To Rumania Is Near a Climax

Low-flying Stormoviks, raking retreating Germans in the Pripet marshes, left mile-long columns of burning vehicles and dead men yesterday as the Red Army laid siege to the large communications center of Rovno in Poland and pressed the enemy back toward Latvia and Estonia with fierce tank and infantry attacks in the north.

German counter-blows east of Vinnitsa in the Ukraine meanwhile rose to the pitch of last month's unsuccessful offensive against the Kiev bulge as Marshal Von Manstein threw heavy tank forces into a bloody effort to drive the Russians back over the severed railway running west from Smyela to the Odessa-Lwow line.

Three separate columns of Gen. Nicolai Vatutin's First Army advanced on Rovno, 50 miles inside the Polish border, through which runs the Kiev-Warsaw and Odessa-Warsaw railways, the Kiev-Warsaw highway and the Rovno-Lwow highway.

Close In On Last Barrier
The nearest units, after capturing Tuchin, 14 miles northeast of the important junction, closed in yesterday on Goringrad, the last remaining outpost, on the west bank of the Gorin River. Another column, driving down the railroad from Sarny, was only slightly farther away.

Russian air power, combined with the harrying tactics of Soviet guerrillas in the Pripet marshes, was turning the Nazi retreat west of Mozyr and Kalinkovichi into a virtual rout, Moscow dispatches asserted.

German columns, moving west along the few roads, were pictured as ideal targets for low-flying attack planes. In one area, these sources said, Stormoviks first blew up a bridge and cut off the German retreat, then flew a few feet above the column, up and down, until every vehicle was either knocked out or burning and the troops had fled to the swamps, where guerrillas were waiting.

Gen. Constantine Rokossovsky's troops in this sector were reported to have crossed one of three rivers blocking their approach to Pinsk and to be moving up close to the second.

Tank Battles in North
On the northern front above Nevel and Novo Sokolniki, Russian ski troops pushed eight miles beyond the latter railway town despite growing counterattacks. Dispatches reaching Moscow from the front said newly arrived German troops were hitting back there with tanks. Axis commentators told of heavy tank battles.

The Russians, driving for the Polotsk-Pskov-Leningrad railway, faced a 45-mile trek against strong Nazi defenses.

Correspondents in Moscow had little news of the fighting east of Vinnitsa, where the Germans have been counter-attacking for nine days to hold the Odessa-Lwow railway and the gateway into Rumania.

Says Wall Street Blocks Economic Rise of South

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (AP)—Vice-President Henry A. Wallace told the Southern Governors' Conference yesterday that the "monopoly power" of the New York money market must be broken by the federal government if the South were to achieve economic equality with other sections of the nation.

Wallace charged that the South had been kept in "colonial status" by "discriminatory differentials in transportation costs," by state trade barriers and "because the expansion of southern enterprises would compete with other businesses in which the bankers are already interested."

U.S. Vacated Army Camps To Be Hospitals for Vets

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—The War Department announced that some camps in the nation made vacant by the transfer of troops overseas would be turned over to the Veterans' Administration for use as hospitals.

Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, commander of the Army Service Forces (SOS), said the move was necessary so the Veterans' Administration could take immediate care of a sick or wounded soldier. Gen. Somervell said it had not been decided which camps would be used as hospitals.

Shuttle Raiding Via Russia Seen By Gen. Arnold

Two-Way Bombing Blows From Italy 'Probable,' Air Chief Declares

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18—Shuttle bombing of Germany by planes flying from Italy to Russia and return was described today as a "probability" by Gen. Henry H. Arnold, chief of the Army Air Forces.

(United Press said the General declared that "round-the-clock shuttle bombing from every degree of the compass was imminent.")

He told a press conference that Allied progress in Italy, the Russian advance in the east and the standardization of airplane parts and equipment would make it possible for Allied planes to take off from Italy, bomb German-occupied areas, land in Russia to refuel and take on new bombs, and return to Italy after dropping a second bomb load.

Cites Nazi Air Strength
Here to receive the Poor Richard Club's 1943 medal for achievement in organizing the Air Forces, he forecast that Germany would fight to the last ditch and declared that the German defensive air force at present "is stronger than it has ever been." He predicted, however, that Allied superiority would be more pronounced as the European air war neared its climax.

He added at the same time there was not the slightest doubt that Germany had produced some secret weapons, though what the enemy frequently called a secret weapon would be known in the U.S. as a development.

"Every time the enemy produces a new form of aerial torpedo or rocket gun, a different model airplane, a new type of tank or a finer lens for photography," he said, "they call it a secret weapon."

Earlier, Gen. Arnold told a press conference that he did not regard as serious the loss of 60 bombers in the American raids a week ago on targets at Oschersleben, Halberstadt, Brunswick, Bielefeld and Meppen, in Germany.

Destroying Enemy Air Arm
The important fact about those raids, he said, was that the air force had attacked "the fighters which keep us from going into Germany."

"If we destroy their air arm we make it impossible for their armies to achieve victory," he declared.

Asserting that the U.S., in the race to develop new weapons, had more than matched Germany's progress, the air force chief said the Allied command was aware of the outside possibility that the Nazis might produce "some weapon fantastic even for this age."

Accordingly, he said, Allied scientists were "exploring a wide field of possibilities so that we shall not be caught napping."

He described the war as "a race of laboratories in which we are pitting the best brains in the U.S. against those in Germany."

Churchill Back; Will Give Statement on War Soon

Prime Minister Winston Churchill unexpectedly returned to London yesterday after convalescing from an attack of pneumonia in Morocco, and told a cheering House of Commons he expected to make a statement soon on the future of the war.

—Lest They Forget, Back Home

ETO Soldier Wants to Vote, With No Snafu About It, Either

By Earl Mazo
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

The average American soldier in the ETO wants to vote in the forthcoming Presidential elections. And he would like it well understood at home that he wants no political manipulations to prevent that vote.

Perhaps the best expression of the general feeling on this subject, gathered in conversations with officers and men of all services in the last two weeks, was made by Capt. Carl P. Geis, of Salem, Ore., a fighter pilot who was decorated with the DSC for action against the Japs in the Philippines.

"I can't see the difference between being a citizen at home or over here," he said. "If anything, I feel I have more right to vote now than ever before."

Sgt. Jack Goldner, of Brooklyn, who is in the engineers, added, "... and the politicians trying to block that vote had better watch themselves. A lot of us will be coming out of this war, and we won't easily forget those sly maneuvers on the part of some people to take our voting privileges from us."

Information Please, Too
Capt. Charles Shaw, of Cody, Wyo., a Fortress navigator, pointed out that with the vote the American Forces overseas should be given full information on all points of the campaign and all the arguments on both sides of every issue discussed.

And 2/Lt. Hugh Cuttler, a Fortress bombardier, added another twist: "I'm just 21" and this will be my first chance to vote. If I'm still overseas, I surely don't want to miss that chance."

A soldier from Georgia said, "I figure if I'm good enough to fight for my country, I'm good enough to vote for the people who will be put up to run it." And a WAC pic added that she couldn't see "what the argument is about. We're citizens, and that is that."

M/Sgt. Richard D. Williams, of Tampa, Fla., a Liberator crew chief, said he personally didn't want to vote in local elections until the war was won, "but the

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This Is the Army

Cpl. WAC, Cpl. Joe Reunited In London on 2nd Honeymoon

MARAUDER BOMBER HQ, Jan. 18—The war will have to wait two days for two corporals—Mary C. Dickinson and Burney Dickinson—from Des Moines, Ia., while they celebrate a GI "second honeymoon" in London.

The Cpls. Dickinson, separated for 17 months, were brought together in the ETO after a casual dinner conversation between their commanding officers. Mary's CO listened while Burney's CO spoke of life in Iceland, where Burney had been stationed, asked some questions, and pretty soon the two COs discovered they had two Cpls. Dickinson, married to each other.

Today the Cpls. Dickinson are making a double GI pass count as a second honeymoon, and wife Mary figures it will be a lot better than the first honeymoon.

Reason: She's had seven months' experience as a cook in an enlisted men's mess, and she swears she won't burn the toast this time.

Total Service Bill Winds Up In Pigeon Hole

House Committee Delays Action Indefinitely; New Hearings in Senate

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—The House Military Affairs Committee voted today to postpone indefinitely consideration of a national-service law to permit total mobilization of manpower.

Requested last week by Pres. Roosevelt, the legislation would enable the government to draft men from 18 to 65 and women from 18 to 50 for war work.

Although Rep. Andrew J. May (D-Ky.), chairman of the committee, declared that the action did not preclude further consideration of such legislation, some government circles maintained that a manpower law was doomed for this session of Congress.

"We have decided to hold it in abeyance for the time being, pending further developments," May said.

Senate hearings on national-service legislation already have been arranged, May declared, adding that information on the hearings would be available to House members.

Labor, Capital Oppose It

The President's proposal of a national-service act to "prevent strikes" and with some exceptions "make available for war production or for any other essential services every able-bodied adult" in the nation was opposed by spokesmen for the AFL, CIO, the National Association of Manufacturers, U.S. Chamber of Commerce and many Congressmen.

Sen. Robert R. Reynolds (D-N.C.) said that it would be a measure "for enslaving the American people and would produce the same thing as Hitler and Stalin have."

President Roosevelt, however, declared that the service act would enable every American "to make the fullest possible contribution to victory."

"Although I am convinced that we and our Allies can win without such a measure," the President said, "I am certain that nothing less than total mobilization of manpower will guarantee early victory."

100-Ship Convoy Passed Through Gibraltar, Berlin

Berlin radio said yesterday that an Allied convoy of more than 100 ships passed through the Straits of Gibraltar into the Atlantic over the weekend.

"Soon afterwards, two more large convoys arrived at Gibraltar from the Atlantic," the radio said.

Adm. Stark Back in ETO

Adm. Harold R. Stark, commander of U.S. naval forces in Europe, has returned to his post in London from a series of conferences in Washington. While in the U.S. he conferred with the President, Adm. Ernest J. King and other high-ranking Army and Navy officers. Asked if he had any statement to make on forthcoming operations, Adm. Stark replied, "No comment."

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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A Different Tune

Recent Allied victories in the Mediterranean, on the Eastern Front and in the air over Germany have had an immediate and natural effect on all the peoples of Europe.

In Czechoslovakia this is evident from the efforts of the German propaganda machine to counteract the effect through the columns of the controlled Czech press and in programs released by Radio Prague.

Hope of liberation which have never disappeared in Czechoslovakia, even though carefully concealed under the pressure of German terrorism, are beginning to blaze anew. These hopes are being hotly attacked by German military experts, who are busily assuring the people that their grounds are unfounded and that on the Eastern Front and in Italy the Germans are waging a war of attrition which must result in the exhaustion of the Allies before they are able to reach German occupied countries.

All this shows a curious shift of emphasis in the propaganda intended for Czech readers and listeners. Previously the Germans attempted to overawe the Czechs by a display of German power, invincibility and the inevitability of the New Order for Europe.

Now Goebbels sings a new tune. He affects to take the Czechs into his confidence, admitting that Germany is really in great danger and with her all the peoples of Europe, that the situation may become even more dangerous in the future; but that the Allies will never be able to crush German military power.

One curious recent manifestation of German propaganda is the freedom with which the raids on the German cities are being reported in the Czech papers. Every emphasis is given to the "terroristic" tactics of the Allied Air Force, and there is no doubt that the Germans are trying to frighten the Czechs with the prospects of heavy raids which may be made on German industries in the "Protectorate" with the resulting damage and loss of life in the Czech cities. Goebbels hopes by this means to sow the seeds of anti-Allied feeling.

The Czechs, however, are a politically conscious and a militarily realistic people. They know how inevitable the bombing of German industry and administration must be, wherever housed. Czech feeling in this matter can be gauged from the almost hysterical emphasis the Nazis find themselves obliged to use in a vain effort to secure Czech sympathy and support. All of which goes to show how times have changed since the day arrogant Nazi hordes poured over the Czech border and occupied that freedom-loving country.

Wings For Everybody

Young America is completely air conscious. The kids at home can identify every plane that flies and can discuss the principles of heavier than air craft with Randolph graduates.

Thousands just out of high school have earned the wings they wear so proudly on shirt or blouse. They have realized their first air ambitions in solo flight, and are never going to be satisfied with "the old Jology." The new generation has sprouted wings, and, like an earlier generation who took to motoring after the last war, the kids this time are airborne.

But no matter how much we figure on an increase in the sphere of aerial transportation, both passenger and freight, there won't be flying jobs for more than one in ten of the new crop of fliers, to say nothing of the thousands of combat pilots who will be released at the end of hostilities. That means flying must expand to include the average civilian, and we believe this expansion is bound to come.

Already plane manufacturers in America are looking into the possibility of developing the family plane market. What they see as they peer into the future looks good, for it includes models that will sell for a thousand dollars which anyone who can drive a car can easily and safely learn to fly.

With slight changes in our highway system, planes of the cabin type can soon be operating in any section of the country. With runways located parallel to existing road nets, and with streets in populated communities reserved for take off and landing purposes, the wide-scale use of the family plane will become rapidly practical.

Helicopters that land and take off from every backyard will soon add to the growing traffic and the employment of thousands in an expanding air industry. Fortunes will be made in the Flying Jeeps of tomorrow and you can trust America to work out the details.

Hush Marks

Fun on the Home Front. For a while Hollywood residents thought a new "B" film had opened the other night. A skunk died at the corner of Hollywood and Vine.

Neatest Alibi of the Week. Halted for speeding, Josephine Lee, pretty Hollywood hat check girl, offered this excuse,



"I had to drive fast to keep sailors from climbing into my car!" "A good excuse," said the judge, but he fined her 30 bucks just the same.

According to reports around town, General Sir Frederick Pile, GOC-in-C Anti-Aircraft Command, in London, is getting quite a kick out of relating the story of a taxicab ride with two American soldiers. General Pile shared a cab one evening with two GIs who were anxious to get out to a London suburb. "After an interesting conversation, we got there," the general relates, "and the Americans were going to pay. I said, 'Oh, no, I'm senior to you.' They generously replied, 'Yes, but you don't get so much pay.'" (PS: A British general gets about £9 per day plus allowances.)

We hear that Humphrey Bogart now considers tough guy stuff on the screen safer than real life. Shortly after arriving in Algiers to entertain troops, an Arab street urchin called him a "blankety-blank gangster"; a native woman mowed him down with an imaginary machine-gun, and the army lost all of his luggage. Commented Bogart, "I'd better get my mob to straighten this out."

The gals are taking no chances these days. At a holiday party in the States every soldier visiting a certain WAC detachment was searched. If he had a piece of mistletoe with him, everything was OK. If he didn't possess any, he was led into the day room where "kiss excuses" were hung at six-inch intervals.

And speaking of a Second Front, remember boys—it's Leap Year!

Nomination for the Meanest Man in Town. A jerk ran up to a crowded hosiery counter in an Atlanta store and



hollered, "Give me two dozen of those nylon stockings that just came in!" The clerk looked at him blankly. "In that box," shouted the man, pointing to a large crate in the corner. Before the clerk could reply, dozens of eager feminine hands had ripped open the crate—which was empty. "Joke!" muttered the stranger, and made his getaway three steps ahead of a mob of angry dames. J. C. W.

Bombers Hail 1-Man Air Force Who Fought Off a Nazi Horde

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boxes. 'A' Squadron was sent to the forward box, and I later discovered that this was where all the activity was centered, but at the time I was unable to do anything about it but use what we had to the best advantage.

"The bombers passed over the target," Maj. Howard continued, "and there we met our first enemy attacks. Flights of P51s were dispatched to engage the attacking enemy aircraft, and I began attacking with my flight. On the first encounter, which turned into a melee, my flight lost me.

"When I regained bomber altitude, I discovered I was alone and in the vicinity of the forward boxes of bombers. There was one box of B17s in particular that seemed to be under pressed attack by six single and twin-engined enemy fighters. There were about 20 bombers in a very compact formation, and the fighters were working individually.

Round One: a KO

"The first plane I got was a two-engined German night fighter. I went down after him, gave him several squirts and watched him crash. He stood out very clearly, silhouetted against the snow that covered the ground. He went down in a cloud of black smoke and fire and hit the ground.

"Shortly after that an FW came cruising along underneath me. He pulled up into the sun when he saw me. I gave him a squirt and I almost ran into his canopy when he threw it off to get out. He bailed out.

"Then I circled trying to join up with the other P51s. I saw an Me109 just underneath and a few hundred yards ahead of me. He saw me at the same time and chopped his throttle, hoping my speed would carry me on ahead of him. It's an old trick. He started scissoring underneath me but I chopped my throttle and started scissoring at the same time, and then we went into a circle dogfight and it was a matter of who could maneuver best and cut the shortest circle.

"I dumped 20-degree flaps and began cutting inside him, so he quit and went into a dive, with me after him. I got on his tail and got in some long-distance squirts from 300 or 400 yards. I got some strikes on him, but I didn't see him hit the ground.

"I pulled up again and saw an Me109 and a P51 running along together. The 51 saw me coming in from behind and he peeled off while the Me started a slow circle. I don't remember whether I shot at him or not. Things happen so fast it's hard to remember things in sequence when you get back.

A Probable, But Unclaimed

"Back up with the bombers again. I saw an Me110. I shot at him and got strikes all over him. He flicked over on his back and I could see gas and smoke coming out—white and black smoke."

In Maj. Howard's report he did not put in a claim for having destroyed this plane, although there was almost no doubt that it crashed, according to reports from bomber crews.

"It could be that he had some sort of smoke equipment to make it appear that he was damaged worse than he was," Maj. Howard explained.

Again the major climbed up with the box of bombers he was fighting to protect.

"I saw an Me109 tooling up for an attack on the bombers. They often slip in sideways, the way this one was doing.

We were both pretty close to the bombers, and I was close to him. I give him a squirt and he headed straight down with black smoke pouring out."

The fighters were scheduled to stay with the bombers in the vicinity of the target area for just an hour, and Maj. Howard, fully conscious that his job was to protect bombers first and shoot down German fighters when it was part of the job, had up to this time been using his ammunition sparingly. In his first two attacks all four .50 caliber guns were firing, but on his third attack only two were functioning. In his last two attacks only one of his four .50s was firing.

With his one good gun, Maj. Howard climbed once again to the port side of the bomber formation. By this time the bomber crews were practically hanging out their plane windows watching the one-man show.

"I saw an Me 109 over on the starboard side getting in position to attack the bombers," the Major said. "I dived on him from where I was and got strikes all over him with my one gun. He turned over on his back and skidded out. He thought he had lost me with the skid and he pulled out into a 45-degree dive. I followed him down and kept on shooting.

"I'd been with the bombers for more than an hour altogether by then and just before I left I saw a Dornier 217—I think it was—coming alongside the bombers, probably to throw rockets. I dived on him and he left, but I never did fire a shot at him."

A Valued Boss in the Air

Despite Maj. Howard's individual performance over Oschersleben last Tuesday, the men who fly with him insist that he is most valuable, not as a fighter pilot, but as an air commander. Quiet, uncommunicative on the ground, the lanky fighter pilot takes command in the air.

"Maj. Howard flies into enemy territory, waits until enemy aircraft come up to attack the bombers, and then, after looking the situation over, he starts despatching flights from his group where he thinks they'll do the most good. He always saves the biggest group of enemy planes for his own flight," said 2/Lt. Mike Rogers, of Newton, Mass.

The fighter ace's background is as unusual as his performance in the air. He was born 30 years ago in Canton, China. His mother was the wife of an eye surgeon who was playing a dual missionary-medical role in the south China province.

Maj. Howard studied in a school in Peking until he was 14, when his family brought him to America. When he was 19 he entered Pomona College in California, determined to become a surgeon in the footsteps of his father. When graduated from Pomona in 1937, he gave up medicine, joined the Navy and learned to fly at Pensacola, Fla.

Flew With Navy 3 Years

For three years Howard flew with the Navy, operating Grumman Wildcats off three different aircraft carriers, the Lexington, the Wasp and finally the Enterprise.

The fantastic story of this American aviator never tapers off. It was just beginning when he left the Navy and joined up with Claire Chennault's Flying Tigers in 1941. Howard returned to China and started operating against the Japs with the AVG.

In 13 months with the Flying Tigers, Howard flew 56 combat missions and was credited with the destruction of six Jap planes. At first he flew as deputy squadron commander under "Scarsdale Jack" Newkirk, one of the most famous of the Flying Tigers, and took command of the outfit after Newkirk was shot down.

As recognition for his work on the staff of Gen. Chow, chief of the Chinese Air Force, and for his work as a pilot, the Chinese government conferred upon Howard two decorations, the White Cloud Banner and the two-star medal of the Chinese Air Force.

He Hates the Japs

"I have a personal hatred for every Jap that I don't feel for the German," Maj. Howard says. "The Germans are good fighters. You really have to riddle one of their planes to bring it down, whereas a few hits on a Jap plane will finish it."

"The Japs aren't very good shots either, but they are more alert than the German pilots. The Japs flew different planes, and the formations were different, so it is hard to compare the fighting here with the fighting in China. This is the biggest air offensive center in the world here, and it was on a small scale there with Chennault.

"I'll tell you one thing though, you have a better feeling flying over France and Germany in a single-engined plane than you have flying in Burma. You have the feeling you'll get better treatment here if you do go down. Over there once you are shot down you are either lost or in the hands of the Japs."

The men at the base with Maj. Howard know little about him. "He doesn't drink much, plays chess once in a while and is often studying navigation and technical magazines on aviation," they said.

James Howard is a professional fighter pilot, and at this point any story on his career must end: "To be continued."

Notes from the Air Force

SERVICE Relatives Department: Add Twins—2/Lts. Ralph and Raymond Haley, 27, of Denver, Col., are co-pilots on the same Fortress station at which the Sacramento, Calif., are gunners. The Sacramento, Calif., fly in different ships, but the Egger twins fly in the same plane and alternate between the ball turret and the tail guns.

S/Sgts. George and Joseph Kalput, 20, of Ford City, Pa., constitute another set of identical twins, manning guns in the same Fortress. Joe is the tail gunner and George mans the ball turret guns.

Add Brothers—Lt. John B. Hunter, 23, of Mansfield, Ohio, flies a Thunderbolt. His brother, Pfc Robert C. Hunter, 19, loads the eight guns. The two have been in the same squadron since just before the outfit arrived in the ETO.

Add Fathers - and - sons: M/Sgt. Thomas L. Wilson and M/Sgt. Forest Wilson, father and son from Plain Deal, La., met at a Liberator station here, their first reunion in 18 months. Father, who has been in the army nearly 21 years, is a shop superintendent in a sub-depot workshop, and Son, who is nearly 21, has a clerical job with an air depot repair squadron.

New candidate for the "served under most generals" title is M/Sgt. Virgil J. Blakey, of San Antonio, Tex., section chief in armament at a fighter station. Blakey claims to have pounded a type-fighter for Gen. H. H. Arnold in California, to have served in the same squadron with Maj. Gen. Frederick L. Anderson Jr., Eighth Bomber chief, and to have soldiered in the same place or outfits with generals of varying stars, including Ralph Royce, H. J. F. Miller, George E. Stratomeyer, Davenport Johnson, John F. Curry, Gerald C. Brant, Newton Longfellow, E. N. House and Charles W. Ryder. Maj. Gen. Clarence Tinker, reported missing after Midway, once was Blakey's group leader, and Brig. Gen. Kenneth Walker, missing on Rabaul, was his squadron commander.

SGT. Bill Flynn, La Crosse, Wis., engineer gunner on a Fort, figures maybe he's in the wrong branch of the service. In one week he had to make two parachute jumps.

When his Fort's landing gear was chewed up by flak, Flynn and the rest of the crew took to their chutes after they got back over England. Later in the week, Flynn and another crew made a mission, got home long after dark with their fuel almost gone and couldn't get down to base. They bailed out.

His second drop landed Flynn in a mud hole, but the first one was worth doing, he reported. He landed at an ATS camp and did all right for himself.

Comes invasion, the "Texas Air Force" and the "Texas Rangers" will be in the van. That's the claim of Capt. Robert Wright, Liberator pilot, who has "organized" the two new units (unofficially) because of what he claims to be a preponderance of Texans in the USAAF. Wright is a holder of the DFC and also the title of Texas No. 1 Booster. The "Texas Rangers," incidentally, is open only to ground crew members.

ONE of Hitler's "secret weapons" (so secret even Hitler doesn't know about it) is making another appearance at Eighth Air Force stations.

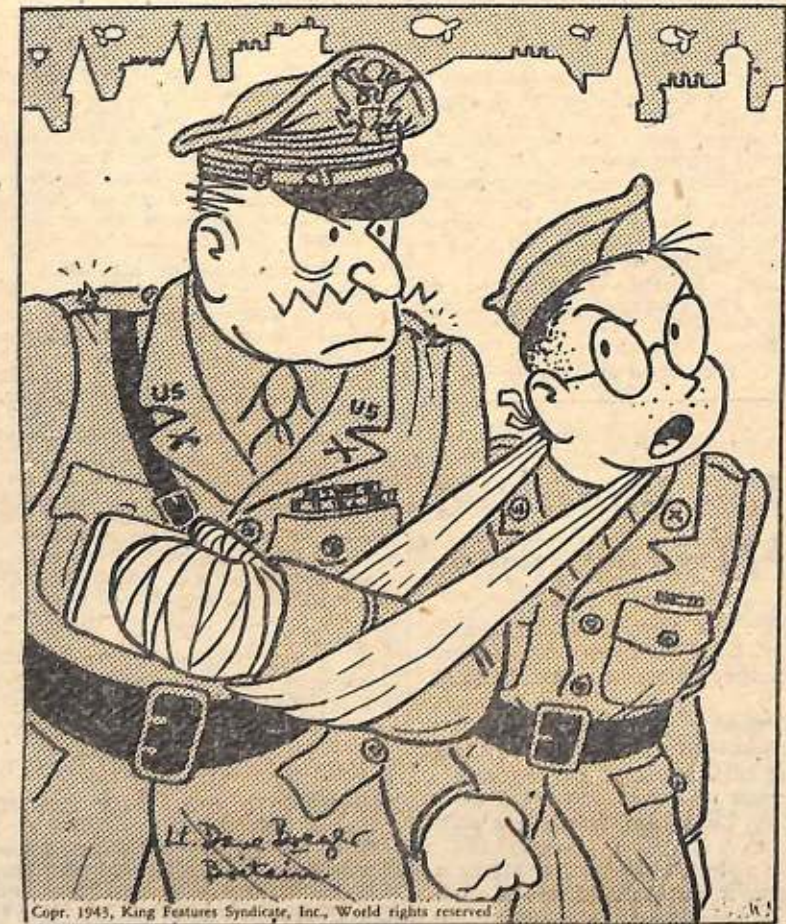
A Fortress piloted by Lt. Leo C. Francis, of Teaneck, N.J., was stopped cold recently by a huge flock of blackbirds and the bomber, which had safely weathered the worst flak and fighter opposition the Nazis could present, had to turn back after the takeoff. Francis counted 70 dead birds on the landing strip and an examination of the ship showed a large hole in the wing, dead birds jamming the air intakes and still others jamming one of the engines.

Story of a Pilot Who Doesn't Fly There they go again, those Thunderbolts. Those are the ships I know how to fly. Those are my pals taking off in the blue. I wish them luck, for here I die. There were 30 of us, of whom 27 are dead. Yet they keep me here on the ground all day. When I could be up there getting revenge, Don't they know I've a debt to repay? We were all buddies, from the first day we met. We ate, drank, and fought side by side. Danced with our women, and loved the same ones. They won't return, but still I can't fly. They took my heart when they took my wings. I guess you can call it just one of those things. But I want to be up there for Sammy and Joe. But I'm grounded, forever, I guess you know. The other two go up for all the rest. And even though I'm not the best. I could be up there, they need me I know. So please let me fly, put my heart at rest. I did nothing wrong, why don't they admit. Just give me a gun, and send me right in, I'll fight on the ground till this Red Tape gets thin. And I'm given my wings all over again. Lt. William R. Kaluta.

ARMY POETS

Story of a Pilot Who Doesn't Fly

PRIVATE BREGER



"Gee, Sir, I sure hope your hand don't take too long healing!"

Depot Leaders Pressed to Win In Cage Play

Sels Nick Rollers, 25-20; Silvey Stars Rally to Down Tigers

By Irv White

Stars and Stripes Unit Correspondent
—GENERAL DEPOT, Jan. 18—Both league leaders had to play heads-up ball all the way before notching their 11th successive victories in this station's basketball tournament. The undefeated Gun Sels vanquished the Tread Rollers, 25-20, while the Silvey Stars kept apace with a last-minute decision over the Tigers, 36-33.

The Claywell Cardinals stayed on the heels of the leaders by drubbing the Grady Boys, 34-15, for their 11th triumph against one setback, retaining second position, and the Hawks, who lost their season's opener, took their tenth straight, 32-15, over the IDKs to hold third.

The Cossacks moved into fourth by cutting down the Wolves, 27-20, while the Emery Fire Controllers went up to fifth place by nosing out the Wizz Kids, 20-18. The Yanks occupied the sixth spot by stopping the Shamrocks for their seventh victory, 24-21.

Rollers Lead at Half

The Gun Sels against provided the spectators with a thriller in their win over the Tread Rollers, who led at half-time, 13-12. Pfc Ralph DeSantis, of Gloversville, N.Y., sank a long shot to make it 15 for the Treaders, but the Sels bounced back to take the lead, 18-15, on goals by Pvt. Julius W. Stalsitz, of Allentown, Pa.; Sgt. Daniel S. Carli, of S. San Francisco, Cal., and T/Sgt. Stanley M. Waskins, of Grand Haven, Mich.

DeSantis opened the final session by making good on a free throw, but M/Sgt. Howard Van Lente, of Holland, Mich., made it 20-16 with an underhand shot from the left side. Pfc William A. Ziemer, of Zanesville, Ohio, put his team within two points by tapping one in during a mixup under the basket but Waskins added a foul point and, with two minutes left, Stalsitz made it 23-18. Pfc Carl R. Elberfield, of Greenfield, Ohio, swished one in, to make it 20 for the Rollers. Then Stalsitz put the game on ice ten seconds to go and brought the final count to 25-20. Stalsitz was top man, scoring ten points, while Elberfield made six and Ziemer tallied five, three on free throws.

Tigers Lead Until Last Minute

With but 45 remaining, it looked as if the Silvey Stars would suffer their first setback of the season as the Tigers led them 33-32. The lead changed hands no less than 15 times, and as the fourth quarter opened the Tigers had a 26-21 margin. Then the Stars heavy artillery opened up. Sgt. J. Joseph, of Uniontown, Pa., who was high scorer with 14 points, took a rebound under the basket and brought the count to 23-26. The Bengals went five ahead again as Pvt. Leo W. Mitchell, of Pineville, La., registered on a pass from Pfc Robert Pritchard, of Columbus, Ohio. Two field goals by T/Sgt. Charles Robinson, of Weirton, W. Va., and a long one by T/Sgt. Steve Benedict, of N. Tarrytown, N.Y., put the Stars ahead, 29-28. The Tigers came back on a long pass from Pritchard to Mitchell and when T/4 Charles Schindler, of Sioux City, Iowa, made his free throw good, the Tigers led 31-29.

Two minutes remained as T/4 Merle J. Smith, of Toronto, Ohio, brought the Stars to within one point on a foul shot. It looked like curtains as Schindler sank one from center court, but Robinson dribbled down court and tallied to make it 32-33. Then Joseph and Smith hit with the payoff markers in the last few seconds for the 36-33 victory. Robinson tallied 12 points for the winners, while Pfc Donald Stitt, of Portland, Ore., topped the Tigers with 13.

Help Wanted AND GIVEN

Write your question or problem to Help Wanted, Stars and Stripes, Printing House Sq., London, EC4. Unless otherwise stated in the ad, direct all correspondence c/o Help Wanted.

APOs Wanted

(When requesting an APO be sure to include last known unit, APO, ASN and home town of the known unit, APO, ASN and home town of the person you want as well as your own.)

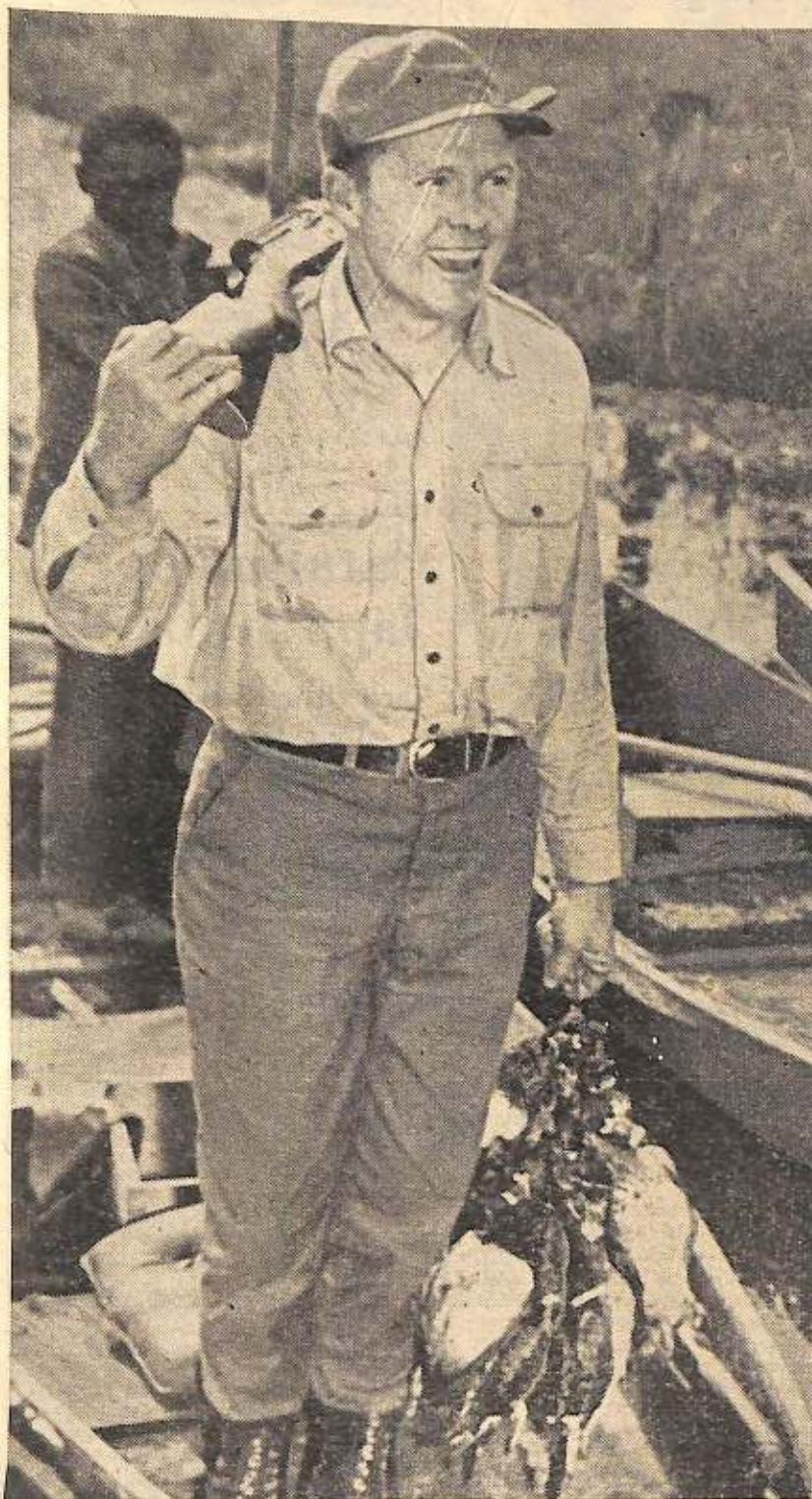
Cpl. Wayne Atkinson, Upland, Ind.; Cpl. Donald Anderson, Rogersville, Tenn.; Martha Brush, Zanesville, Ohio; Pfc Connie Burgess, Spencer, Iowa; Lt. Charles Brown, Hamlet, N.C.; Lt. Harold Cross, Fitchburg, Mass.; Russell G. De Franco, Niagara Falls, N.Y.; S/Sgt. James Edwards, Roger Edwards, Muncie, Ind.; Eugene Eiter, Cpl. Warren Fisher, Mehlton, Pa.; Cpl. Sol. Gura, N.Y.; Sgt. Charles Harris, Tarkio, Mo.

For Sale
CAMERA, Perflex, 35mm., F3.5, with case, focal plane, shutter, coupled rangefinder, built-in exposure meter, etc. £12.—Capt. G. W. Davis.
ACCORDION, Italian manufacture, original price \$600, will sell for \$350. 120 bass instrument, studded with red, white and blue stones. Accordion is white, green and gold, in good condition.—Pfc A. L. Mazzone, ASN 39838253.

Lost
CAMERA, 35mm., Agfa memo. type in brown leather case, at Bell Hotel, Norwich.—Reward of \$10 for return to Lt. L. C. Blankenbender.
CIGARETTE case, brown leather, containing Ronson lighter with initials "MIF" and "With love from Haper."—Sgt. Mary Lou Flaa.

Sons of the Revolution Reunion
MEMBERS of the Sons of the Revolution on duty in the ETO who would be interested in taking part in a George Washington birthday celebration and dinner (at a very inexpensive tariff) write Sgt. Robert F. Blake, 32174778.

From Redbirds to Ducks



Spud Chandler, Yankee pitcher, who created such havoc amongst the Cardinals during the World Series, is shown returning from a hunting expedition on Lake Iamonia, Fla. That mess of ducks he holds proves his skill with the old blunderbuss.

Keystone Photo

Nation's Basketball Standings

Eastern				Big Six											
W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.							
Dartmouth	5	0	1.000	Columbia	1	3	.250	Iowa State	2	0	1.000	Missouri	1	1	.500
Pennsylvania	3	1	.750	Princeton	1	4	.200	Oklahoma	3	1	.750	K's State	0	2	.000
Cornell	2	4	.333					Kansas	1	1	.500	Nebraska	0	3	.000
Big Ten				Southwestern											
W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.							
Purdue	4	0	1.000	Illinois	2	2	.500	Texas	2	0	1.000	Baylor	1	3	.250
Northwestern	3	0	1.000	Michigan	1	3	.250	Arkansas	3	1	.750	TCU	1	3	.250
Iowa	2	0	1.000	Indiana	0	3	.000	Rice	3	1	.750	Texas A&M	0	3	.000
Ohio State	2	0	1.000	Chicago	0	3	.000	SMU	2	1	.667				
Wisconsin	2	2	.600	Minnesota	0	4	.000								
Southern				Pacific Coast											
W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.	W	L	Pct.							
N. C'lina	2	0	1.000	Davidson	0	1	.000	Washington	2	0	1.000	Wash. State	1	1	.500
William and Mary	1	0	1.000	N. C'lina	0	1	.000	Oregon State	2	2	.500	Idaho	1	2	.333
Maryland	1	0	1.000	State	0	1	.000								
				Richmond	0	1	.000	Northern Division							
				VMI	0	1	.000	California	1	0	1.000	USC S. Cal.	0	2	.000
								UCLA	1	0	1.000				

Babe Didrikson Regains Status as Golf Amateur

NEW YORK, Jan. 18—Mildred "Babe" Didrikson, famed woman athlete, has regained her amateur standing, the United States Golf Association having reinstated her after barring her for almost nine years.

The former Olympic track star was charged with professionalism in 1935 and since then has been competing in open tournaments. Babe won the Women's Open at Milwaukee in 1940 and San Francisco Women's match play in '42.

Uhle Joins Nats' Staff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—The Washington Senators have announced the signing of George Uhle, former American League pitcher, to their coaching staff. Manager Ossie Bluege said Uhle's duties would be chiefly coaching young pitchers.

X-Rays Reveal Zivic Broke Left Hand Against LaMotta

DETROIT, Jan. 18—X-ray pictures have substantiated Fritzie Zivic's claim that he broke his left hand in the first round of the ten-rounder here Friday, in which Jake LaMotta, Bronx, N.Y., middleweight, soundly thumped the Pittsburgh veteran.

Zivic faces a draft physical examination this week and doctors here said the hand would be useless for several weeks.

CAGE RESULTS

Camp Thomas Seabees 55, MIT 44
Morehead (Ky.) Teachers 77, Rio Grande 26
Norman Naval Zoomers 23, Oklahoma Aggies 22
Oklahoma 45, Nebraska 35
Olathe Naval Air Base 48, Missouri 35
St. Joseph's 53, LaSalle 37
St. Thomas 59, Concordia (Minn.) 36
Ursinus 53, Philadelphia Marines 30
Virginia 63, Virginia Tech 55

Li'l Abner



Molina Decisions Negrete In Rainbow Card Feature

Query on Cards Leads Frankie Frisch's List

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y., Jan. 18—Hoarse from talking five and six times a day all over Alaska and the Aleutians, Frankie Frisch, manager of the Pittsburgh Pirates, has returned home. Dixie Walker, Brooklyn outfielder, Hank Borowy, Yankee pitcher, and Cardinal outfielders Stan Musial and Danny Litwiler will remain up north for a while.

Frisch said that the most popular question from servicemen throughout the tour was, "What happened to the Cardinals in the World Series."

Nelson Annexes Open With 275

Ends San Francisco Play With 13 Below Par; McSpaden Next

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 18—Byron Nelson, Toledo, Ohio, golf professional turned in his fourth consecutive two below par 70 to win the \$10,000 San Francisco Open with a 72-hole total of 275, 13 strokes below par.

Playing what he called "easy golf," Nelson slipped slightly from the form which enabled him to shoot a 68, 69 and 68 the first three days, but finished with a six-stroke lead over Harold "Jug" McSpaden, who shot a 71 yesterday for a total of 281.

Nelson, for ten years a professional golfer, has won 41 tournaments and this was only his second victory in California. He won at Oakland two years ago.

Nelson, who won the National Open in 1931, won \$2,400 in war bonds and McSpaden, who annexed the Los Angeles Open last week, got \$1,600 in bonds.

Lloyd Mangrum, who enters the Army today, tied Sammy Byrd for third with a 283 total and each collected \$1,062.50 in bonds.

George Fazio, of Pine Valley, N.Y., was fifth with 288. Art Bell, of San Francisco; Mark Fry, of Oakland, Cal., and Johnny Bulla, of Atlanta, were next with 289, followed by Harry Cooper, of Minneapolis, Minn., with 291. Jim Ferrier, of Chicago, and Ellsworth Vines, of Monterey, Cal., had 292. George Studinger of San Francisco, was the top amateur, with 298.

Menchaka Takes His 3rd Straight From Persley

Primotiva Molina came back to the Rainbow Corner last night for the first time since he annexed his ETO crown last spring and proved again that he was still the best of the bantamweights as he slugged out a decision over Pvt. Pete Negrete, 120-pounder from Los Angeles.

In the co-feature of the ten-bout card, Pvt. Dick Menchaka wrapped up his third straight triumph over his arch rival, Pvt. Arthur Persley, in a welterweight affair.

Molina, 118-pound private from Concord, Cal., lost little time in proving himself Negrete's master. With a longer reach, he equalized Negrete's two-pound weight advantage with a hard left, continually pounding Negrete in the face. Although Negrete came out fast in the opening round, that left slowed him down and by the second, Molina had perfected his timing well enough to rock Negrete with a series of jarring rights to the head.

One of these caught Negrete as he bounced off the ropes at the bell ending the second. Negrete was dazed but his handlers fixed him up so that he was able to last through the third.

Two Clever Boxers

The Menchaka-Persley contest was one of the same caliber as their previous encounters—a match between two clever boxers who know most of the tricks. Menchaka, 136-pounder from Port Arthur, Tex., who has yet to be beaten at the Corner, continually circled Persley through the first two rounds and the New Yorker relied on a counter-punching game.

Persley looked worse in the opening stanza, when Menchaka seemed able to hit him almost at will. Near the end of the frame the Texan caught Persley with a hard left to the stomach, throwing him off balance, and then clouted him with a right to the head.

Persley might have had the second, but he refused to press in, even after he had driven Menchaka to the ropes with a barrage to the head and midsection. Both were so tired by the third they could do little more than swap punches on equal terms.

In the second fight on the card Pvt. John Barzee, 127-pound New Yorker, overcame a long reach to outpoint Pvt. Murray Sellers, of New York, also 127, in three slow rounds.

Leading the way in all three stanzas, Barzee kept Sellers continually on the defensive and was at his best in the infighting.

TKO in the Second

It took the 1942 Texas Golden Gloves champ, Pvt. Roger Sanchez, 133-pounder from San Antonio, just 19 seconds to put Pvt. Andrew Molina, of Los Angeles, 130, to the canvas and until 26 seconds of the second round to draw a TKO.

The scrap started fast, with both boys fighting from the opening bell, but though he showed plenty of spirit, Molina—no relation to Primotiva—was outclassed by the smooth-working Sanchez, who had him down again in the second with a right to the head and then jarred him with another of the same when the referee stopped the fight.

Pvt. Sammy Johnson, a well-known Corner 148-pounder from Jacksonville, Fla., scored an easy victory over M/Sgt. Maurice Morgan, of Gulfport, Pa., 146, in the sixth bout of the evening. It was a slow affair, with Morgan clowning all the way, and Johnson, although missing some, making his blows count. Even though Morgan seemed to be an old-timer in the ring Johnson didn't have too much trouble.

A re-match between Pvt. Lafayette Drummond, 156-pounder from St. Louis, and Pvt. Jerome Cawley, of Baltimore, 157, failed to produce the slugging which their first meeting brought forth. Drummond took a decision in a one-sided contest which saw little hard fighting.

In other fights:
Pvt. George Witt, Brooklyn, 136, outpointed Pvt. R. C. Jackaway, Chicago, 140.
Pvt. Lawrence Dobbins, Cleveland, 157, outpointed Pvt. Ralph Simmons, Cumberland, Md., 157.
Pvt. Tony Ponterella, New York, 168, outpointed Sgt. Mike Sandorse, Bidderford, Me., 164.
Sgt. William Larkin, Pittsburgh, 162, outpointed Pvt. Larry Gastispi, New York, 160.

By Al Capp



French Capture Anchor of Nazis' Latest Italy Line

Americans Bridge Rapido River at Several Points; Germans Falling Back

French units of the Fifth Army yesterday captured San Elia, the northern anchor of the German Gustav line, as dispatches from the Italian front reported that American troops at several points had crossed the River Rapido, the last water barrier between the advancing Allies and the Nazi bastion of Cassino.

All along the Rapido, from San Elia to Cassino itself, the Germans were reported withdrawing to prepared defenses in readiness for the final Allied assault which Berlin radio announced was imminent.

On the Adriatic front, Canadians launched a violent attack west of San Tomasso. Supported by tanks and artillery, the Canadians overcame stiff German resistance and advanced on a 1,000-yard front.

Cassino was shelled by American artillery yesterday, while U.S. patrols crossed the Rapido to probe German defenses. One patrol cut the road from Cassino to Atina, 12 miles to the north.

French troops, after threatening to outflank Nazi fortifications by taking San Elia, four miles from Cassino, turned north and captured Valvori. Other French units were said to be little more than a mile from Cassino.

Morocco radio announced that the Fifth Army had reached the first line of Cassino defenses, and German radio admitted that the Allies were "pressing up closer" against the city.

Allied bombers resumed their attacks on German communications, hitting railroad yards at Pisa.

Prato, near Florence, was battered Monday by heavy bombers.

GI-WAC Show Opens Four-Day London Run

A musical comedy, "Three Joes in a Jam," featuring WACs and EMs, opened a four-day run in the London area last night, with a performance at an engineers' installation.

Directed by Pvt. Abraham Knox, of New York, the show has songs by Sgt. Larry Roemer, of Brooklyn, and M/Sgt. Bruce Stauderman, and an orchestra composed of members of the ETO headquarters band, led by W/O Frank Rosato.

"Three Joes in a Jam" will be given for soldiers at a general depot tonight; at Rainbow Corner at 7.30 PM tomorrow and at the Queensberry Club, Old Compton St., Friday.

Colgate-Syracuse Reunion

A reunion dinner for men of Colgate and Syracuse Universities will be held Saturday at 6.30 PM at the No. 3 Grosvenor Sq. Club, London. Reservations should be sent to The Stars and Stripes College Registration Service, Printing House Sq., London, EC4.

70 Pct. of American Troops In U.K. Now May Hear AFN

Programs of the American Forces Network now may be heard over five frequencies, three more than previously, it was announced yesterday.

In addition to the new frequencies, the AFN has increased the number of transmitters in operation and may be heard by more than 70 per cent of the American troops in the United Kingdom. Northern Ireland is now covered fully, and several transmitters have been installed in Scotland.

The new frequencies were allotted to AFN by the Wireless Telegraphy Board and BBC because of reported hums and unsatisfactory reception. The new frequencies are 1,375 kc (219.1 m), 1,411 kc (212.6 m) and 1,447 kc (207.3 m). The other two frequencies, which AFN has been using since it first went on the air last July 4, are 1,402 kc (213.9 m) and 1,420 kc (211.3 m).

Starting today, The Stars and Stripes will publish AFN programs a day in advance as well as the current day's programs.

Tonight at 7.05 PM the third in the AFN series, "We, the United Nations," will feature Norway. The program will include music of the Nordic composer Edvard Greig and interviews with two anonymous members of the Norwegian forces here in the United Kingdom.

On Your Dial

1375 kc. 1402 kc. 1411 kc. 1420 kc. 1447 kc. 218.1m. 213.9m. 212.6m. 211.3m. 207.3m.

Wednesday, Jan. 19

1100—GI Live.
1115—Hymns from Home.
1130—South American Way.
1200—Drowsbeat.
1230—BBC Variety Orchestra.
1300—World News (BBC).
1310—Barracks Bag—A grab-bag of entertainment.
1400—Visiting Hour.
1430—Sign off until 1745 hours.

1745—Spotlight on Blue Barron—Program Resume.
1800—World News (BBC).
1810—GI Supper Club.
1850—What Do You Know, Joe?
1900—Seven O'Clock Sports.
1905—"We, the United Nations"—Norway.
1930—Kate Smith Program.
2000—News From Home—Nightly roundup of news from the U.S.A.
2010—Fred Waring Program.

Allied Leaders Exchange Posts



British Air Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder and Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker confer at an airport in Africa as Gen. Eaker arrived to assume his duties as commander of Allied air forces in the Mediterranean. Tedder leaves his post given to Gen. Eaker to become second in command to Gen. Eisenhower in the ETO.

Sour Notes From Back Home

Black Market Fiddles Merrily, Horn of Plenty Keeps in Tune

NEW YORK, Jan. 18—Despite numerous reports to the contrary, the U.S.A. still is the "land of milk and honey" and you can buy practically anything, or go anywhere, even if you don't have the necessary coupons or ration books, according to two magazines—*Colliers* and *Woman's Home Companion*.

Two reporters, representing these publications, had no trouble buying shoes and stockings (both rationed), an electric refrigerator (similarly controlled), while traveling 11,000 miles in the States using gas bought without coupons.

However, both agreed the secret of their success was having plenty of money to pay the high prices on the black market, which is keeping America's horn of plenty filled to overflowing.

Patricia Lockridge, of *Woman's Home Companion*, argued that if a stranger could buy anything, the natives could, too—and did. She found nylon stockings for sale at \$10 a pair in bars, restaurants and night clubs.

One bank president kept a special stock of nylons in his safe which he sold to "good customers" for "only half the black-market price," she said.

Always having to pay over the maximum price, she made things easier by finding doctors who, for an extra \$5 and no examination, would give her certificates saying she was suffering from diabetes and needed extra sugar, or anemia and needed extra meat.

On the trip, Miss Lockridge bought 90 pounds of meat and lots of sugar and stockings.

2,500 See GI Show

TEWKESBURY, Jan. 18—More than 2,500 persons, most of them British civilians, tonight witnessed the debut of "Yardbird Follies," a musicale featuring 50 GIs, at a theater here. The show was directed by Lt. Norman Berger, of Pittsburgh, and featured Sgt. Al Matia, of Newark, N.J., as master of ceremonies; 1/Sgt. Charles Nelson, of Hoboken, N.J., chief gagman, and Cpl. George Serpe, of Brooklyn, crooner. Proceeds totaling £125 were turned over to the British Prisoners of War Relief fund.

Crash Kills Motorman

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 18—A motorman was killed and eight passengers injured when a trolley collided with a huge tractor-trailer in midtown Philadelphia. The motorman, Robert Ely, 55, was thrown from the trolley and crushed under the wheels of the truck.

Club Decorating Contest

SALISBURY, Jan. 18—The American Red Cross club here has announced an interior decorating contest. The club wants GIs to suggest how the ballroom, cafeteria, lounge, reading and games rooms should be "fixed up." The contest closes Feb. 12.

Terry and the Pirates



'Death Commandos' Wait Allied Invaders

MADRID, Jan. 18 (UP)—"Death Commandos"—German troops specially trained to meet the invasion and equipped with the Wehrmacht's newest weapons—will meet the first wave of Allied invaders when they land on the continent, a Berlin correspondent of a Madrid paper reported today.

The "Death Commandos" were said to consist of soldiers who had been fighting since the outbreak of war and had gained much experience about Allied tactics on the Western and Africa fronts. Germany's "secret weapons" will be entrusted to these troops, it was said.

Catalinas Sink Jap Cargo Ship

Two Other Enemy Vessels Left Burning Off New Ireland

ALLIED HQ, New Guinea, Jan. 18—Night patrol Catalinas of the U.S. Navy sank a 10,000 ton Japanese cargo ship, and left two others of 8,000 tons each burning fiercely in an attack off New Hanover island, near Kavieng, New Ireland, Gen. MacArthur's communique announced tonight.

In other air operations, U.S. fighters intercepted enemy planes near Saidor, New Guinea, and shot down 17 fighters and a single dive-bomber while U.S. bombers of the Fifth Air Force dumped 87 tons of bombs on Jap positions near Arawe, New Britain.

On the ground, U.S. Marines consolidated their newly won fortress of Hill 660, and prepared for new Jap attacks in the area. More than 3,000 Japs have been killed by the Marines since the Cape Gloucester battle began three weeks ago.

Air Fight Over Marshalls

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18 (AP)—An attack by U.S. army bombers on Maloelap atoll in the Marshalls precipitated an air engagement with 45 enemy fighters in which two Jap planes were believed shot down and one American bomber lost, the Navy Department reported today.

1944 Year of Victory

"1944 will be the year of victory," President Roosevelt said in a telegram to the French Consultative Assembly, Algiers radio said last night.

GI Vote - - -

(Continued from page 1)

national elections are different. 'We all are a part of that.'

To the average soldier, the question of whether the states or federal government controlled the voting was unimportant. "All that the fellows I know are interested in is voting, and doing it right without any red tape and mixups to kill our votes," said S/Sgt. Roger Palmer, Grand Island, Neb., Fortress tail gunner.

2/Lt. Edward R. Ryan, of Los Angeles, a Mustang pilot, said, "I guess many millions of the best men in the country would be put on the shelf, so to speak, if we aren't allowed to vote. After all, we're going to have to live in the U.S.A. after this thing is over, and I for one want something to say about whom we live under."

M/Sgt. Oliver T. McNeill Jr., of Foxboro, Mass., an instrument specialist at a bomber station, went further when he said: "I don't want to go home and have to fight all over again there for the things we're battling about over here. That's why I want to be sure to register what I have on my mind in the elections."

Cpl. Eugene E. Pierre, of Seattle, Wash., asked, "Who should be more concerned with the future of America than we young people in the Army? And how can we better express what we want than through our vote? I definitely want to vote just like I always have. They say it is complicated and mixed up, when it really isn't. The people at home owe it to us to make our voting as simple as possible, but most of all they ought to realize that we have as much right to vote as they do."

NEWS FROM HOME

Nelson Denies War Plants Are Set to Convert

Nearing Battles Preclude Switch to Peace-time Output, He Insists

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the War Production Board, declared last night that Allied military victories did not mean that the nation now would convert its war plants to the production of peace-time goods.

"With our biggest battles coming up," he said, "this is emphatically no time to divert any substantial quantities of material and labor to less essential civilian production. There certainly cannot be any return to volume production of less essential goods until the war picture is a great deal clearer."

Earlier, Nelson attacked "those men who call themselves Americans and who, in their intolerant hearts, hate freedom and everything America stands for. Like all Fascists, they want to ride rough-shod over their opponents. These psychopathic Hitler worshipers are asking for trouble, and if they persist they will assuredly get it."

Killer of Family to Die

RICHMOND, Cal., Jan. 18—Walter P. Harrison, a 31-year-old street-car conductor, was sentenced to death after being convicted of murder in connection with the deaths of his wife and four children. They were drowned when the family automobile rolled into a quarry filled with water. Harrison had testified that he was under the car working on the clutch when it started to roll.

Japs May Buy Farms

DENVER, Colo., Jan. 18—The legal right of persons of Japanese ancestry, whether they are American citizens or not, to buy land or other property in Colorado has been upheld by the State attorney general's office. The opinion was tendered Gov. John Vivian after several communities had objected to evacuees from war relocation camps buying farms.

Curley Pleads Innocent

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—Rep. James M. Curley, former governor of Massachusetts and former mayor of Boston, and three other men have pleaded innocent to a federal indictment charging them with using the mails to defraud ten industrial concerns of \$69,000 in negotiations for war contracts.

Death Sentence Stayed

CARSON CITY, Nev., Jan. 18—A stay of execution was granted Floyd Loveless, 17-year-old Indiana youth, who has been sentenced to death for the murder of A. H. Berning, a Carlin, Nev., constable. Loveless' attorney said he soon would file an appeal.

All the Way for FDR

CONCORD, N.H., Jan. 18—State Democratic leaders disclosed that New Hampshire's 12 delegates to the Democratic National Convention this summer would cast almost a solid vote for a fourth term for President Roosevelt.

He Refused It

DETROIT, Jan. 18 (UP)—A war-time postman, Joseph Cichowski, decided that his load of mail was too heavy, so he threw part of it in a refuse can. Brought before a federal court, he said: "Well, I only threw away the second and third class matter."

Army Denies Knowledge Of ETO Vote-Sampling

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18—The War Department today disclaimed responsibility for any political poll of American soldiers in England.

In a letter to Sen. Theodore F. Green (D., R.I.), chairman of the Senate Elections Committee, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said the commanding general of the European theater had reported that if any such poll had been conducted it was without his knowledge or consent.

Green demanded last week that the department investigate a press conference disclosure by Harrison Spangler, chairman of the Republican National Committee, that "four officers in four scattered battalions" in England had sampled soldier opinion for him and found enlisted men anti-Administration, 56 to 44.

By Milton Caniff