

Forts Raid Brunswick Without a Fight

Guns, Planes Are Blasting Pskov Nazis

Reds Now in Sight of Baltic Gateway; New Drive in Nevel Sector Opened

Fighting for Pskov gained in fury yesterday as three Soviet columns, now within sight of that Baltic gateway and only seven to ten miles away, turned heavy siege guns and bombers against the city's outer defenses in a strong bid to wipe out the junction and smash their way into the Baltic States.

Even as the battle in the north moved swiftly toward a climax, German radio said that seven Red divisions had launched a new offensive northwest of Nevel, 150 miles to the south.

Col. Ernst von Hammer, military commentator for German News Agency, described the newest attack as "an out-flanking operation on a large scale" and said the Russians struck with "many tank and infantry divisions, employing a remarkable amount of artillery and battle planes."

Front-line reports to Moscow from the Pskov fighting said the Germans were putting up stiff resistance, but "beginning to show signs of confusion" as Red bombers pounded pillbox defenses and smashed railways leading into Pskov from south and west to disorganize troop movements.

Two Rail Lines Menaced
Two southbound lines leading to Warsaw and Polotsk, were menaced by two swift Soviet advances, 30 and 60 miles below Pskov. The first of these drives was within 15 miles of the Pskov-Polotsk line at Novorzhev, a minor hedgehog guarding the Baltic. The other, moving west of Novo Sokolniki, was about the same distance away from the same line at Idrisa. Both were about 40 miles from the Latvian border.

A dispatch to the Moscow Red Star from the Pskov area said the Red Army's progress was hampered by wrecked German trucks, cars and tanks. Red Star added that the Russians were giving the enemy no rest, carrying out raids in the middle of the night.

Gen. Popov's troops, approaching Pskov from the southeast, were reported to have swarmed across the Cherekha River and advanced five miles beyond it, fighting their way across the 1,200-foot Sudomsk heights, most important feature of the terrain ten miles southeast of Pskov.

Fall of Pskov would give the Russians the enemy's main Baltic base, an important railway junction with direct rail connection to Riga, Latvia, 165 miles distant, and a center of timber and leather industry. The city, dating back to the 12th century, with a cathedral, many churches and monasteries, was Russian headquarters from 1915 to 1917 in World War I.

5 O'Clock Whistle at Front
MOSCOW, Feb. 29 (Reuter)—Night shifts of specially trained Soviet troops are taking over from the regular forces as darkness falls, keeping up the battle for Pskov in a round-the-clock offensive.

Finn Decision May Be Near

With its Parliament meeting in secret session in Helsinki, according to German News Agency, Finland appeared to be nearing a decision yesterday whether to make peace with Russia and brave Nazi retaliation or string along with Germany and suffer more, and probably heavier, Soviet air attacks.

Helsinki's announcement that the Finns had signed a new trade agreement with Germany for the next year was not regarded in London diplomatic circles as committing the Finns to a stronger alliance.

The treaty, under which Germany will continue to provide food for her northern ally, was believed merely insurance that Finland would continue to receive supplies if her negotiations with the Soviet broke down.

In the event of an armistice with Moscow, Sweden probably would feed her neighbor, it was said.

The Stockholm Morgen Tidningen quoted a Berne report that Hitler had called a conference to discuss Finland. The paper said Nazi liaison officers had reported Finland could be kept in the war if Germany sent anti-aircraft guns and fighter planes to her ally.

Invasion Air Plans Set, Climax To War Is Nearing—Sinclair

Allied air plans for the invasion of Europe are ready, Air Minister Sir Archibald Sinclair told Commons yesterday. "We are approaching the climax of the war—a period which will demand the greatest concentration of effort. We have made our dispositions," he declared.

Sinclair said air supremacy that could "paralyze German war industry and transport and clear the road to Berlin" now was "clearly attainable." Plans prepared for many months, he revealed, were behind the great offensive last week when Anglo-American bomber commands combined both day and night operations, as well as operations from both Italian and British bases, to strike at Germany's vital aircraft factories.

"I have the impression," said the Air Minister, "that our bomber offensive is sometimes thought of as if it were producing no visible results for the time being, but might lead suddenly to the enemy's collapse—as if we were hammering at a door in the expectation that the lock might suddenly give way."

"On the contrary, we are steadily pushing the door open, inch by inch, until we can pass through. Our offensive is producing results which are visible, measurable and progressive."

Sinclair gave Commons a detailed picture of some of the damage done in the battle to finish the Luftwaffe. The recent raid on Stuttgart knocked out "for many months" the Bosch factory producing most of the magnetos, sparkplugs and fuel pumps for the German Air Force. The

(Continued on page 4)

Tax Taps High Brass Only

March 15 Is One Day in 366 We've Got It on the Home Front

Unless you're at least a major, unmarried, no children, you don't have to worry about that 1943 income-tax statement that is going to cause so many headaches back home the 15th of this month.

Under federal law, soldiers overseas are excused from income-tax payments until the war is over, or until they return to the United States.

Moreover, without a private income, it is unlikely anyone will have any back taxes to pay on his return, since it is generally true that men below the rank of major are not earning taxable incomes in view of the special exemptions for servicemen.

These work out at a basic \$1,500 plus an extra \$500 personal exemption for single men. Married men get an extra \$1,200 personal exemption plus \$350 for each child. In addition, there are the regular allowances for charity and church donations and other permissible items. Allowances for quarters and rations are not taxable.

A master sergeant, drawing basic pay of \$165.60 for overseas duty, receives annually \$1,987.20. Single, his two exemption allowances still obviate a tax payment. A first lieutenant, unmarried, pulling down \$2,199.96 will be taxable on only \$199.96, which probably will be absorbed in those charity donations, etc., that a first lieutenant always makes. If married, of course, he is well under the taxable limit, as would be a married captain and major. An unmarried major would have to dig up the tax on \$640 per annum.

If a soldier has a private income, he still is allowed the basic \$1,500 exemption, plus personal allowances, in addition to which there would be the earned-income credit the Treasury Department allows on outside income.

Authoritative advice then is to forget the whole business and leave the worrying to the folks who still get fresh eggs back home. Even if there should be a few taxable dollars and cents stacked up against you, it's just possible that further allowances may be forthcoming when Johnny comes marching home.

Judge Brushes Aside Charges Of Bias, Opens Lonergan Trial

NEW YORK, Feb. 29—Charging the court with bias and the police with fraud, Wayne Lonergan's attorney demanded today that Judge John J. Freschi disqualify himself and dismiss the jury as the state opened its case against the RCAF cadet accused of murdering his beautiful 23-year-old wife Patricia.

Edward V. Broderick, defense counsel, contended that his client's chances of getting a fair trial had been endangered by Freschi's comments last week when the trial's scheduled opening was postponed because of Broderick's absence.

In a sensational attack on the police, Broderick charged that Lonergan had been lured to New York on the pretext that he was being given an opportunity to attend the funeral of his actress wife, whose bludgeoned, nude body was found last October in her swank Beekman Hill apartment.

Threatened with a contempt-of-court charge for his failure to appear in court last week, Broderick repeatedly moved today for a further postponement.

Scene of Big Battle Jan. 11 Hit; Luftwaffe Is Markedly Absent

Huge U.S. Fighter Escort Accompanies Heavies; Blows Last Week Possible Factor in Lack of Opposition

The German airplane-manufacturing center of Brunswick, scene six weeks ago of one of the greatest aerial battles of the war, got its fourth heavy blow of the month yesterday from Flying Fortresses, and returning airmen told of meeting virtually no fighter resistance.

Only one bomber was lost, and Allied fighter pilots claimed only three enemy planes destroyed—one by U.S. fighters and two by RAF. Six American and two RAF escort planes failed to return.

A mammoth fighter escort and heavy clouds—plus the terrific battering the Luftwaffe fighters suffered last week—combined to prevent any semblance of the combat over Brunswick Jan. 11, when 60 American bombers, five American fighters and 152 German fighters were shot down.

Some crews said their escort of shepherding P38s, P47s and P51s was so great it may well have set a record, and one Fortress pilot, Maj. Louis W. Dolan, of Denver, typified the remarks of many others when he said: "We had the most beautiful fighter escort I've ever seen. Thunderbolts, Lightnings and Mustangs were ahead of us, beside us, over us, under us and everywhere."

The only enemy aircraft shot down by the Americans was a Ju52, a tri-motored transport, which apparently had been flung into the fray as a fighter, according to Maj. Gerald Johnson, of Owenton, Ky., who claimed the kill. It was the 13th for the P47 pilot.

Coast Offensive Goes On
While the Fortresses were striking again at German fighter production—hammered last week in the most severe series of air attacks of the war—other Allied air forces were carrying on an all-day assault on the "rocket-gun coast" of France's Pas de Calais. The raiders included American Liberators of the Eighth Air Force; medium, light and fighter bombers of the Ninth Air Force, and similar aircraft of the RAF, all under escort.

The Fortress attack on Brunswick terminated a record month, in which 19 heavy attacks had been made on Germany and military targets in the occupied countries in 29 days.

Airmen returning from the German aircraft center expressed astonishment at the lack of German fighter opposition.

Lt. Col. David T. McKnight, of Ozone Park, L.I., who led one Fortress group, said not a single German fighter showed up to attack his formation.

"The Luftwaffe must be getting bashful; I didn't see a single Jerry all day," said Sgt. Murray Rubinfeld, of New York.

S/Sgt. Justin S. Berrick, of Buffalo, a tail gunner, said: "We were hit by flak and lost two engines near the target so we flew home across Germany with three Mustangs for escorts."

2/Lt. Joseph Majcinni, of Wichita Falls, Texas, Thunderbolt pilot, said: "The only excitement we had was dodging our own bombers and fighters, which seemed to fill the sky. We saw a few Jerries in the distance, but they were not close. Apparently they were afraid to tackle a crowd like ours."

Swede Says Ruhr Mills Still Going Despite Raids

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 29 (AP)—A Swedish cavalry officer returning after a tour of Germany and Poland said today that the Ruhr industries were working full blast despite terrific Allied bombings.

Capt. Jan Wilhelm Kuylenstierna said he was surprised to see factories operating after having read reports of the great damage there.

He declared the Germans were able to get plants back into working condition within two or three months.

Kuylenstierna was on a military mission studying German use of cavalry. He said the Nazis were using considerable forces of cavalry on the Eastern front.

Anti-Badoglio 'Strike' Won't Halt Production

NAPLES, Feb. 29 (AP)—A ten-minute general strike will be held here Saturday at 11 AM in protest against Allied support of the Badoglio government voiced last week by Prime Minister Churchill, a spokesman for the Communist and Social Action Parties said today.

However, so as not to impede the war effort, Naples workers will make up the time in their lunch hour.

Rabaul Raiders Unmolested for 7th Day in Row Over 200 Bombers Battered Base; Libs Hit 2 N. Guinea Targets

ALLIED HQ, Southwest Pacific, Feb. 29—For the seventh successive day the Japanese failed to put a single plane to meet the well over 200 U.S. bombers which yesterday smashed at Rabaul, the bomb-gutted New Britain base, destroying harbor buildings, blowing up ammunition dumps and sinking several barges.

Only one bomber failed to return to its Solomons base, being forced down by a hit scored by weak Jap anti-aircraft fire. Some quarters in Gen. MacArthur's headquarters said that Rabaul had ceased to be regarded as a serious menace—land, sea, or air—to Allied operations.

In New Guinea, Fifth Air Force Liberators, escorted by P47s, struck Wewak with 80 tons of bombs, destroying five grounded aircraft and probably four more.

At Aitape, 90 miles west of Wewak, other Libs dumped 73 tons of bombs, destroying or damaging 18 grounded planes.

40 Pct. of Japs' Shipping Gone

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29—Well over 3,000,000 tons of Japanese merchant shipping—better than 40 per cent of the 7,500,000 tons Japan had on hand at the beginning of the war—has been sunk, Navy Secretary Frank Knox said today.

Asserting that the enemy was suffering from a growing shortage of cargo and transport vessels, Knox disclosed that in February alone the Japanese lost 189 warships and merchant ships sunk, probably sunk and damaged.

"American submarines are doing an increasingly skillful job," he said, announcing that they had sunk 14 more Jap supply vessels.

Medics Fight Lowering Draft Physical Standard

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29—Warning that Selective Service physical standards must not be lowered, a special medical commission set up by Congress to investigate draft requirements advocated today the conscription of many deferred men to meet manpower needs of the military.

So There!

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 29 (AP)—Gestapo agents arrested Danish band leader Bruno Henriksen for playing "Anchors Aweigh" (U.S. Navy song) in Copenhagen's Ambassador restaurant, it was reported in Stockholm today.

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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Aerial Attrition

Every month the Allied air armadas that swoop over Europe grow in size and strength. Commenting on this fact, the New York Times remarks: "We have reached a point in the conflict at which air power has developed as the decisive factor in the war. If planes alone cannot win it, a dearth of planes can certainly lose it. We are threatened by no such dearth. In fact we have been able to send Russia 7,800 planes in addition to those Britain has sent."

"But Germany and Japan are losing at a rate which compels both nations to reduce their defence and dip deeply into their reserves. That process leads straight to disaster. Neither nation's air force will be driven completely from the skies. That won't be necessary. We shall only need to control the pathways of the air above our marching armies to speed them toward final victory."

And yesterday in the House of Commons Sir Archibald Sinclair, Air Minister, said: "There lies before us, now clearly attainable, the glittering prize of air supremacy. . . the talisman that can paralyse German war industry and war transport, that will clear the road for the progress of the Allied armies to Berlin."

Surely this indicates we are nearer control today than we have ever been. Over Germany the heavens are already falling, and the same storm is blowing toward Japan.

Korean Independence

On March 1, 1919, Korea declared its independence from Japanese domination. At a prearranged hour her leaders read a declaration to crowds in every city that set up a provisional republic. Following a pattern of non-violence, 33 of these leaders then gave themselves up and assumed full responsibility for the peaceful uprising, hoping to avoid reprisals.

But Japan struck back at once and viciously. Tens of thousands were killed by the police, other thousands were arrested, imprisoned, and in many cases tortured.

In the 24 years that have followed Japan has used Korea as a "bridge to Asia" and her methods of "Japanization" are now being employed in more recently occupied countries. In this respect, as in others, Korea is the screen against which other nations should project the picture of their own future—as planned by Japan.

In analyzing this future we find Korean children being taught only that amount of Japanese officially named the "national language of Korea." This is just sufficient to make them useful to their rulers. The teaching of the old Korean language is strictly forbidden. And for Koreans, rice has so long been rationed that town dwellers cannot buy enough for three meals a day, while soap, matches, shoes and fuel are all largely unavailable. Medicines have become exceedingly scarce and milk is supplied only to small children and invalids.

But in spite of rigid Japanese control over a long period of years the national spirit runs high among all classes in Korea, and this spirit may yet prove dangerous to Japan, for as the war in the Pacific sweeps nearer Koreans may rise again, and this time, in a manner far from peaceful, strike back at their hated masters.

Fuel Horizons

Coal, it is confidently predicted, will become a much more efficient and important fuel in America in the years immediately ahead, for research indicates that the "cracking" of oil, which doubled the yield of gasoline secured from a barrel of "crude," will in time do as much for coal.

Before long, we are told, it will be drilled into the public consciousness that burning raw coal in a furnace in order to keep warm is about as sensible, and beyond question equally as wasteful, as burning down the house to roast the pig.

In the not too distant future raw coal will not be hauled to city gasworks, but generated at the mines and piped to the great commercial centers. In steel mills "fluid coal," a suspension of finely pulverized coal that burns like gas in a furnace, will compete with gas and oil, for the trail of new discoveries points to limitless possibilities as the necessity is now seen, owing to the present exhausting demands made upon our oil supplies by the needs of war.

And we are reminded of what may ultimately be expected from the "chemistry of coal" by the processes which have already been achieved for converting coal into gasoline. Without a knowledge of these processes, Germany would have lost the war in six months.

Hash Marks

Here is another gem to add to your collection of signs seen in pubs. Lt. Robert J. Fleck spotted this one: Black is the raven, Black is the rook, Black is old Hitler, The world's biggest crook, But blacker the swine, He's worse than a louse, Who pinches the glasses From this pubhouse.

Neatest Crack of the Week. A recent newsreel showed an Italian woman selling lipstick to an American soldier in Naples.



"What shade do you want?" she asked. The GI answered, "I don't care what shade it is—just so it tastes good!"

Brother, it's cold in the ETO—brrrrrr!

Surprise! A U.S. Army chaplain, newly arrived in the ETO, was guest at a large formal occasion. Feeling rather lonesome in the vast crowd he looked eagerly for someone he might chat with. Finally he spotted a gentleman whose garb indicated to the newcomer that he might be of the British clergy. Eager for a chance to talk to a "fellow clergyman," he stepped up and said, "Pardon me, I'm chaplain So-and-So. . . ." "Yes," replied the stranger politely—"I'm the Lord Mayor of London." (And he was!)

USO-Camp Show star Sid Marion and his fellow artists have run up a new sort of "consecutive events" record. The show played eight camps and supper each night was hot dogs and sauerkraut. The group hit the Big Town for a few days' rest, hastened eagerly to an officers' mess for supper and found—hot dogs and sauerkraut!

Signs of the Times. The following notice appeared in the personal column



of several New York newspapers: "Julius, you're I-A. Come home. Mother."

It happened at a quiz contest. The question was, "Who would you rather be if you could be some other person." Most of the answers were running true to form, Roosevelt, Churchill, Hitler's widow, etc. But the contest reached its peak when a pessimistic GI, with thoughts of his GI insurance policy in mind, commented, "I'd rather be my next of kin!" J. C. W.

PRIVATE BREGER



"Show the Admiral that attack formation you had last week!"

Gunners Practice on 'Trolley Tank'

Moving Silhouette Features Range Built by U.S.

AN ANTI-TANK RANGE, Feb. 29—Tank-shaped silhouettes mounted on self-propelled trolley cars, which speed over the landscape, are providing American and British invasion troops with unique moving targets at this range on the coast of England.

The range, considered one of the best in England, was constructed by U.S. Army Engineers. British and American soldiers, living and working together, do the maintenance work.

Six gun positions give a range variation of from 300 to 1,300 yards. In addition, there is an emplacement where tanks can blast at the targets with their three-inch guns at 1,500 yards.

The target-carrying trolleys are run by two-cylinder gasoline engines, and require no operator while they are on the target run.

Dug deep into the ground along the shoreline the tracks are well protected against stray shots. However, on one occasion a large shell ripped through the protecting bank, tearing up some of the track. Repairs were made by the range maintenance crew.

Guns used on the range include .50-caliber machine-guns, 37mm. anti-tank guns, three-inch guns mounted on tanks and 75mm. pieces, which hurl 25-pound projectiles.

Targets Go Fast

Evidence of the accuracy obtained by practicing gunners comes from 1/Lt. Howard L. Fleming, 26, of Olney, Ill., who pointed out that on one occasion 89 targets were shot up beyond repair. 1st. Fleming, American liaison officer working with the British range commandant, said an average of 30 targets per day are constructed at the range workshop.

The targets, burlap on a wood frame, are 12 feet long and 12 high from base to turret top.

The trolley tracks, 10,500 feet in length, provide runs for four separate targets. The simplest, known as the crosser target, rups back and forth along a single set of

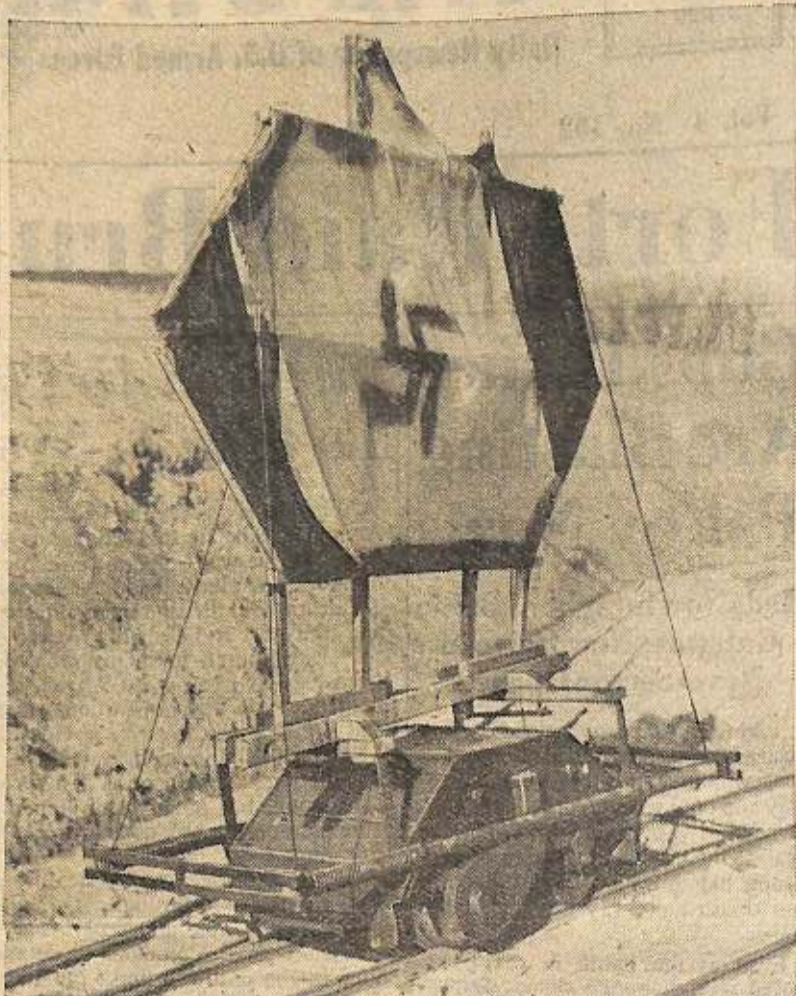
tracks with a loop at either end. Other targets are more complicated, changing direction as they zig-zag over the terrain.

Automatic switches keep the track open as one of the gasoline-powered cars enter the loop. An automatic device then throws the switch, and the track is open to the car again as it leaves the loop for its return journey across the line of fire.

On the straightaway, the cars travel about 14 miles an hour. Levers between the tracks slow the car down to nine miles per hour on the approach to a curve, and to four miles an hour on the curve.

Sgt. Elvin J. Baudoin, 25, of Paradise, La., assisting with range maintenance, said the Engineers are continually kept busy maintaining the rock and dirt roads leading to the range.

"The tanks tear up the roads whenever they come here for target practice,"



Holes in the swastika-adorned mobile target attest to the accuracy of American and British anti-tank gunners on an English coast range. Small gasoline engines drive the tank-shaped targets swiftly across the area to provide practice for guns placed 300 to 1,500 yards away.

he explained, "so whenever they leave, the engineers put the roads back in shape again."

Sgt. Baudoin, a veteran of two years in the ETO, supervises range maintenance, which includes making targets, clearing the tracks of mud thrown by low-fired shells, putting derailed trolleys back on the track and keeping the range's eight trolleys in repair.

Firing is done toward the coast, and outposts have been established on either side of the range for reporting by telephone should a ship enter the danger

zone. In such an event, all firing is immediately halted until the vessel proceeds beyond the line of fire. The danger zone is determined by the range of the shells being fired.

Anglo-American Crew

Nerve center of the range is an observation post overlooking the entire layout. A telephone switchboard in the post keeps it in contact with the two coastal observation points, three guard posts on nearby roads, gun positions and target pits.

Maintenance of the range is accomplished by 50 British and 15 American

soldiers, soldiers who find living and working together a likeable experience.

"All the British ranks here are learning to talk American," commented jovial Capt. Donald Wright, of London, Adjutant to the Range Commandant, and Maj. F. H. Flood, of Swanage.

KP Staffs Alternate

All eat British rations. Cooks, however, alternate, with a British kitchen staff in command one day and Americans the next.

Sgt. William E. Haught, 27, of Fairview, W. Va., in charge of camp maintenance, likes the English rations well

enough but is "getting a little tired of potatoes."

The range is in use practically every day with troops continually moving in and out. Winterized tents provide temporary homes for the troops when they're on the range. Many soldiers can be accommodated at once. Buildings are available for kitchens, showers and wash room.

The men who come to this range not only learn how to blast a tank to bits. They learn that American and British soldiers are working shoulder to shoulder.

Reporter Rides With Flood Tide Of Power Pouring Into Britain

By Charles Lynch

Special Reuter Correspondent SOMEWHERE IN THE ATLANTIC (delayed)—By sea and air, reinforcements are streaming across the Atlantic—multiplying hourly the force of the blow to be smashed at Continental Europe.

From the decks of our troopship, protected from U-boat attacks by air and sea fighting units, I have watched swarms of heavy bombers streak to England to add to the might of the British-based Eighth and Ninth Air Forces.

An Atlantic crossing supplied striking evidence of the strength of the United Nations. I have seen at first hand the manpower, war equipment, ships and planes pouring in.

Our troopship joined a great convoy—a convoy which I know now reached Britain unmolested, thanks to its tremendous sea and air protection. This protection made our trip seem like a peace-time crossing, except for the cramped quarters. Men of almost all the United Nations were packed together like sardines, and they got along fine.

Making up this great team were members of the U.S. Army and Navy, British Army and Navy, Fleet Air Arm and RAF, Canadian Army, Navy and Air Force, Australian and New Zealand Air Forces, Czechoslovakian and Netherlands Air Forces and women's division of the Polish Army.

It was far from a luxury crossing, but the men did not grumble. There were only two meals a day, served ten hours apart in four shifts. There were so many officers on board a shift arrangement had to govern use of the officers' lounge.

The ship became almost a floating Casino as soon as we left port, despite prohibition of gambling in lounge and recreation rooms. In almost every room dice and card games were in full swing, usually until three or four in the morning. It was common to see American, Canadian and British money in the same pot, sometimes at dubious rates of exchange.

At least five romances—there were

several Polish Army girls and a small detachment of Canadian WRENS aboard—reached the hand-holding stage.

A snake dancer billed as Madama La Zonga made the biggest hit in a program arranged by the auxiliary services. "She" turned out to be a cook aboard a British submarine.

Attendance at nightly prayers reached a peak at mid-ocean, when the seas were rough—but tapered off as the ship neared her destination. Ever present was the thought of what a prize the ship would make for a U-boat, and one man who opened a porthole during the blackout was mobbed by his cabin mates.

Today the great mass of troops our ship brought over has been dispersed to bases throughout Britain.



My Prayer

An April day will come again When trees all winter bare Will garb their boughs with green once more. And, darling, you'll be there. A summer's day will greet the earth With bounteous sun to spare, And rippling waves and sands will call, And, darling, you'll be there. A day of Fall too soon will come, With longer nights to share, To walk with leaves all fluttering down And, darling, you'll be there. A winter frost will find the night Agleam with snowdrift's glare, With evenings long and sweet and warm, And, darling, you'll be there. In all my dreams I see these things, And, dear one, here's my prayer: That we may ever know these things, And always you'll be there.

Belema S. Reiner. A soldier's wife.