



THE STARS AND STRIPES

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A "Fluid" Line

Nazi despatches received in Berne indicate the Germans are preparing to make their final stand inside Europe to hold Germany, Denmark, Rumania and other areas, if necessary.

According to this view, Germany is relinquishing the theory of a fortress of Europe for a final defense base deep in the Continent.

The Swiss paper Die Weltwoche, echoes the thought by claiming that labor has been moved from the Channel to the Maginot and Siegfried areas.

An article in the German magazine "Geo-Politik" on the other hand, takes the line that "it is the task of the Reich to prevent the Low Countries . . . even at the greatest sacrifices, from ever again being alienated from the mid-European area, and that it is Germany's task to lead the tribes of the Low Countries back into the Rhine area to which they have always belonged and always will belong."

All of which leads us to surmise that recent reverses have resulted in confusing the German propaganda line to the point where it is now as "fluid" as was the front in Russia during the last winter and as unpredictable as an Italian fleet action. The jumble is creating anxiety that bids fair to further strain the already overstrained nerves of a war-weary people.

British Wives

Numerous questions are being asked by troops in the field covering the citizen-

A woman of British nationality who marries a member of the American Armed Forces does not automatically acquire American citizenship, either now or after the war. Such wives are exempt from quota restrictions; but have to enter the United States as aliens.

Visas are granted only by the American Consular Officers. In the United Kingdom applications are made at the American Consulate at Glasgow, the Consulate General at Belfast or to the Consular Section of the Embassy in London. These offices will also be pleased to furnish information and advice to members of the American forces who wish to obtain visas for their wives.

Supporting documents which have to be presented in order to obtain a visa are usually readily obtainable; but it is advisable to find out in advance from an American Consul what documents will be required, so that when application for a visa is made all documents needed will be available.

The United States government requires all immigrants entering the United States to show they will be able to support themselves, or be supported there after their arrival. Wives of American citizens are not exempt from this requirement. Therefore an American citizen whose wife is applying for a visa must present reasonable evidence to show he will be in a position to support a wife in the States.

In addition to the visa requirements, the British Government requires all subjects leaving Britain to have an exit permit. The purpose of this law is to prevent persons leaving the United Kingdom to avoid National Service. As this is a British law, applications for or inquiries concerning exit permits should be made to the British authorities on advice from the American consulate.

Comic Strips

Some time ago when we first read about the so-called zoot suit, made popular by our good friend "Lil Abner" of comic strip fame, we accepted the craze as a sign of the times, and nothing particular to worry about.

Then came the Los Angeles riots, and to our surprise it took the Army and the Navy to dispose of the Dog Patch garments.

Now we find we have a war on our own hands. This time it covers the relative merits of Blondie v. Terry and the Pirates. Our mail indicates there are too many subscribers supporting each side, so just to save a fight we wish to announce publicly that both strips will appear in Stars and Stripes.

Hash Marks

Today's daffynition. Blotter: Something you look for while the ink dries.

Captured Italian prisoners report that some Nazi army officers are so pompous that they insist on being saluted under any and all circumstances. One officer, going in to take a Turkish bath even demanded salutes from the guys already in the hot boxes.

Today's simile. As busy as a Hamburg air raid warden.

Out in Effingham, Illinois, Robert Zimmerman had been having some dental work done. One day he popped in and told the dentist, Dr. L. O. Kincaid, that he wouldn't have time to have any more



cavities filled because he was due for immediate induction. Arriving at Camp Grant, Pvt. Zimmerman reported at the medics to have his teeth fixed. He climbed into the chair, looked up and found his dental officer was his old pal Dr. Kincaid who had just been commissioned.

Bright Sayings of Children Dept.: Lt. Norman R. Peterson, serving with the Air Corps over here has a six-year-old son and a year-old daughter back in the States. The other day the little boy startled his mother by asking her: "Why don't we have another baby while Daddy is gone and surprise him when he comes back?"

Fun in Congress. A senator disclosed to Washington correspondents today that he had received the following appeal from one of his constituents. "Our dear soldier



quire our fighters to take a noontime nap. (Will somebody please notify our bugler that we're not to be disturbed?)

A lieutenant whose unit is stationed in a rather large English city was taking the boys through their weekly training program. It was a morning for lectures and it was veddy, veddy warm; so he thought it would be nice to take them into one of the city's fine parks. They marched out, got nicely seated in cute little chairs and the lecturer was off. But the learned discourse on ballistics was abruptly interrupted by a blue-coated ticket-taker who demanded a "tuppence apiece for use of the chairs—and got it.

The Armored Force's modes of travel are varied, but Cpl. John Church, of Bennington, Vt., is the only man on record to ride from the Atlantic to the Pacific in a barber chair. When his battalion moved from coast to coast, the chair was loaded in a truck and Church applied for the reservation—as ballast to keep the chair from toppling.

PRIVATE BREGER



"There goes our new dispatch-runner."

Nazis Dig In Behind the Po Line

Allies Must Fight 18 Divisions for Area North of Spezia

MADRID, Aug. 2 (AP)—The Germans are estimated to have 18 divisions in Northern Italy behind the Po Valley waiting in apparent confidence that should Badoglio surrender anything it could only be that part of Italy south of the river Po.

While the Badoglio government has been meditating for the past week between half-hearted hints of negotiating with the Allies or continuing the war, the Italian people have celebrated the end of Fascism and the Germans have been on the move.

Milan and the Genoa area seemed to be the only districts the Germans were not completely confident of taking with little trouble should Badoglio negotiate surrender with Gen. Eisenhower.

On the German side of the picture, however, there was the vital point that despite the Italian collapse they had succeeded in slamming the door of the Balkans at Trieste.

Venice and the great plain to the south through Ferrara and the mouth of the Po to the northern Apennines, including Bologna, were not "occupied" officially, but German troops were now well placed to complete such action within 48 hours.

The first German line that Gen. Eisenhower's forces will meet if Italy collapses would be the line from Spezia to Pesaro or Ancona, through the northern Apennines.

The Next Line

The next line would be the Po River itself. The Todt organization is busy there fortifying the valley itself and its two key roads—one through the Julian Alps to the Balkans, by way of the Udine Plain, and the other west through Turin or Genoa to the French Riviera.

As far as the Germans are concerned their two weak points in this system are the Italian army and the Italian people.

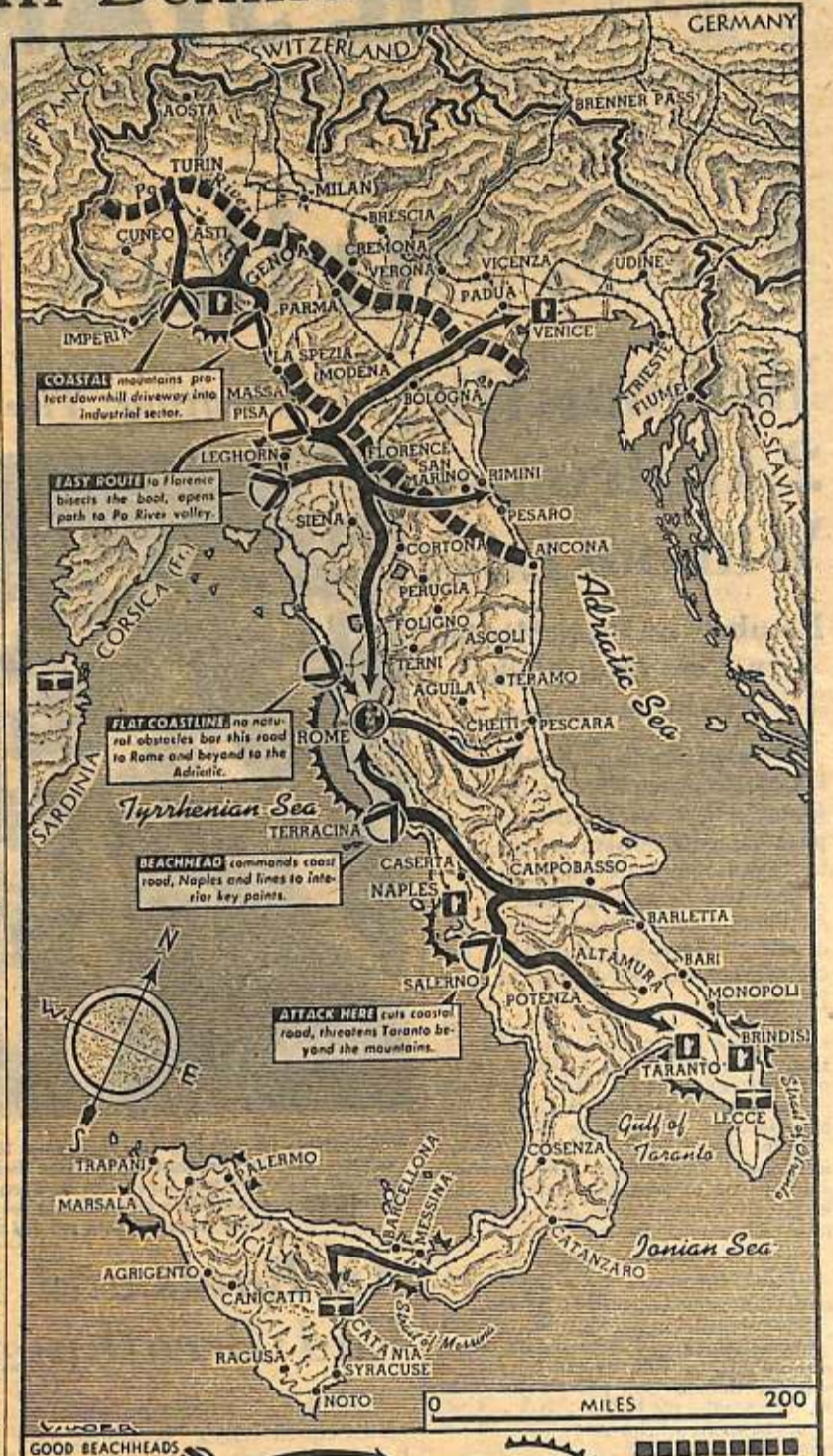
It is reported that the Germans lost no time in consolidating their positions in the Po Valley. At least ten divisions have been added to the eight already there before the fall of Mussolini.

From Austria, but three came from France. Of these, two are stationed immediately north of Milan.

In that city hundreds of German troops have already seen action when they supported the Fascists who barricaded themselves in the city against Milanese and regular Italian forces when Mussolini fell.

The great danger for the Germans is that not only Italian civilians, particularly those in northwestern Italy, will rise against German domination of the Po Valley, but also the army.

Many of those Italian troops stationed in the Balkans are from northern Italy. The Germans fear that their reaction may be to give all the arms possible to Gen. Mihailovitch's forces in Yugoslavia or to the underground movement in Greece before returning home—or even to join the non-conformist Balkan forces in the hills. Furthermore, many Italian troops stationed in northern Italy are themselves



Heavy black broken lines are the German defense barriers that Gen. Eisenhower's invasion forces would battle against if Italy collapses.

northern Italians, who sympathize with the people, whatever the Badoglio government may decide.

The cheerfulness of the Germans was summed up by the comment of one German diplomat to a neutral friend here. "Last Monday we thought Italy was lost and the door of the Balkans wide open," he said. "Today we know that the door is slammed shut at Trieste, and even if Italy does fall we have taken steps

to defend the line we wanted the Italians to defend after Sicily has been occupied—the Po Valley."

The German plan of defence of the Po Valley, however, is founded on three or four divisions now in Sicily being lost or, at the best, to fight a delaying action up the Italian peninsula.

German sources expressed surprise that the Allies have waited so long to resume the bombing of Italian military centers.

Here's a GI Who Really Knows 'It's a Small World After All'

ANDREWS FIELD, England, Aug. 2—Put this one in the file marked "It's a small world."

It's the story of Pvt. Andrew Primeaux, of Biloxi, Miss. Six years ago he left his home in Paris because his parents wouldn't approve his plans, at the age of 15, to marry a 14-year-old girl friend.

One year ago, after he and the girl had moved from France to England, and thence to New York, Texas and finally Biloxi, Primeaux was drafted and sent overseas.

In London on pass recently he heard a page in the hall outside his hotel room calling another Primeaux in the adjoining room. The neighbor turned out to be his younger brother Robert, whom Andrew had not seen since 1937.

Robert didn't need long to bring Andrew up to date on family history. The family had moved before the war from France to England. Father, mother and sister were in London, and Andrew was soon having a reunion with them—with champagne. Another sister was living in Norwich, and two others were in Ipswich—one of whom Andrew had never seen, a sister born after he left Paris.

Running into relatives unexpectedly was not a new situation for Primeaux. When he was inducted at Camp Shelby, Miss., in April, 1942, he knew scarcely any English so officers sent him to Capt. Roy Primeaux for instruction. And who was the captain? Andrew's brother, who had come to America four years before Andrew was born.



Taps Reverie
Do you recall one fair October day
When Maryland was bright 'neath
Autumn skies?
My heart sang when I heard you softly say
"I do"—and there was glory in your eyes.
A sunbeam fell across your finger-tips
Upon the rose-wreathed golden circle there . . .
The fragrance of your kiss upon my lips
Still lingers . . . with the perfume of your hair.
Dear Jeanne, when star-lit night is born anew,
These are the treasured memories that fill

Reflections of a Moviegoer
Life wouldn't be bad
Without Alan Ladd.
Life would be peachy
Without Don Ameche.
And life would flower
Sans Tyrone Power.
But life would be sterner
Without Lana Turner.
Sgt. Stanley Ferber.



