

THE STARS AND STRIPES

MEDITERRANEAN

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TWO LIRE

Infested Hills Bar Last Florence Lap; Yanks Held At Pisa

British Hold Monopoly On Italian Action; Progress Steady

By Sgt. LEN SMITH
(Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)
ADVANCED ALLIED HEAD-QUARTERS, July 28—At least one more line of German-infested hills today barred the path of slogging 8th Army troops on the last seven miles of the road to Florence, where the furious fighting was in sharp contrast from that in the 5th Army stalemated sector before Pisa.

Today's official reports from the front told of steady, substantial progress toward Italy's most beautiful city, but tempered the announcements of gains of up to three miles with warnings of what lies ahead.

The 8th Army had a monopoly on yesterday's action. Along the 5th Army front there was an increase in the artillery exchanges that have marked that front since Americans reached the southern section of Pisa. Concentrations of troops, guns, tanks and supplies with which the Germans hope to contain the 5th Army on the south banks of Arno, were all heavily shelled through smoke screens by 5th Army artillery. Enemy retaliatory fire was heavy, and accompanied by scattered air raids.

The 8th Army's best advances were on the flanks. Fifteen miles west of Florence, Indian troops were within four miles of Empoli, on Highway 67 and the Arno. Southwest of Florence, New Zealanders had established a Pesa River bridgehead in the vicinity of en-

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Roosevelt's Legal Aide Mentioned For Court Post

NEW YORK, July 28—Justice Samuel I. Rosenmann, legal advisor to President Roosevelt, is being mentioned in Democratic circles as a probable candidate for Associate Justice of the New York Court of Appeals, according to the Associated Press. The candidate for the 14-year term on the State's highest appellate court will be designated at a meeting of the New York State Democratic Committee here on August 8. The position pays 22,000 dollars a year.

Soviets Near Gates Of Warsaw; Yanks Menace Seven Divisions

Foe Tries Frantically To Make Withdrawal Near Coutances

American troops driving toward the west coast at the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula in Normandy were threatening Friday to cut off at least seven German divisions, including two armored units, north and west of Coutances. Coutances, five miles inland from the coast and the hub of a road network in western Normandy, was under American artillery fire. Front-line dispatches said that the Nazis were trying frantically to withdraw their threatened divisions and resistance was described as "disorganized and chaotic."

Thousands of prisoners were reported taken by the Yank forces.

Three powerful American columns, supported by tanks and closely covered by planes, were pushing ahead in the spectacular drive which had gained 12 miles in the past three days.

One column, driving southeast from Lessay and Periers was said to have lost contact with the Nazis because of the rapidity of the retreat.

SECOND COLUMN

A second column, striking from the center of the American line, captured Camprond, five miles northeast of Coutances.

A third column, fanning out from southeast of St. Lo, thrust two miles beyond Cerisy la Salle to Notre Dame le Cenilly and was astride one of the main escape roads leading from Coutances to the south.

On the eastern sector of the Normandy front, Lt. Gen. Miles Dempsey's British and Canadian soldiers were pinning down German armor and infantry in bitter fighting south and southwest of Caen. The Germans were holding up the 2nd Army offensive, but only at the price of committing to the battle forces which were badly needed in western Normandy where the American 1st Army was making its sensational advance. Latest dispatches from the Caen sector said that Canadian forces were standing firm in the face of terrific Nazi counterattacks in the vicinity of Verrieres.

The renewed Allied drive in Normandy was being observed by a Russian military mission, comprising two admirals and a general, whose arrival was reported Thursday by a French war correspondent.

Kraut-Chasing 5th Army In Pause That Refreshes

By Sgt. AL KOHN
(Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

WITH THE 5TH ARMY, July 28—The lull, which has characterized the American sector in Italy since Yank infantrymen entered Pisa Sunday morning, is a natural pause before so formidable a barrier as the Arno River.

For nearly three months since May 11, the 5th Army has been nipping at the heels of the retreating enemy who has halted to fight at only a few scattered places. These fierce battles, however, have cost us casualties and the long advance of nearly 400 miles since the Gustav Line has tired our men who have been moving continuously for many weeks.

Now the tired men are resting and the casualties are being replaced. Along the vast network of roads in our portion of Tuscany you can see supplies of food and ammunition moving up. Supplies of Bailey bridge sections are stored at many places along the roads, too, ready for assembly as soon as our troops force a crossing of the Arno which varies in width from less than 50 feet at our right flank to more than 500 feet at its mouth.

The term "lull" does not connote a temporary armistice by any means. Every night American patrols probe German defenses on the north bank of the Arno and, several officers have reported, the Krauts return the visits in areas held lightly by us. Then, too, artillery fire continues. Sometimes, it's light, sometimes heavy, but always there is the possibility that Jerry may lob over a few just to keep his pitching arm warm. And

our 105s, 155s and eight-inch howitzers also have gone to the mound.

If any man looking across the Arno believes the river crossing will be easy he has not raised his voice above those who recall other rivers which have been part of the Italian obstacle course. Some of the men here helped to breach the enemy defenses at the Voltorno and saw the Rapido run red with the blood of their comrades slaughtered by German artillery.

Everyone seems to realize that the Arno can only be crossed successfully by the most thorough preparations. It will be of no comfort to the Wehrmacht to say that every soldier sent into that attempt will be trained enough so he'll have—

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Yanks In Italy Aid Russians—Stimson

WASHINGTON, July 28—Allied successes in Italy have forced the Germans to divert six fresh divisions to that front from other theaters where they are hard pressed for combat manpower, Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson said today.

Recently returned from a tour of the European theater, Secretary Stimson said that the diversion of German troops to Italy started after the Allied drive to Rome. He indicated that Allied achievements in Italy with the resultant necessity imposed upon Germany to send new units there had been particularly beneficial to Russia.

"One unit fighting American forces in Italy was formed in Bavaria and equipped with special winter clothing for Russia. It had to be dispatched suddenly in June to Italy to reinforce the decimated divisions there. Another German division was forming in Poland and intended for the Russian front, but just before the opening of the Soviet offensive it was sent to Italy."

Mr. Stimson said that while the Germans apparently had elected to make a decisive fight at the base of the Cherbourg Peninsula in Normandy, where the stiffest sort of combat was in prospect, Russian armies in the eastern theater were carving up the Nazi armies, enveloping German strongpoints, threatening German forces in the Baltic and pressing the Nazis back so fast in Poland the enemy was having extreme difficulty in reforming his broken ranks.

Parents Plead Guilty To Delinquency Charge

HOLLYWOOD, July 28—Pleading guilty to contributing to the delinquency of their daughters, the parents of three young Hollywood dancers were placed on probation here today.

The girl dancers figured in the testimony in the recent court martial of Capt. Morrison J. Wilkinson, Jr., who was sentenced to 30 years at hard labor after having been found guilty of several sex charges.

Report Brest-Litovsk Evacuations; Enemy Reeling Back

LONDON, July 28—Soviet troops, climaxing the greatest 24 hours of the 34-day-old Russian summer offensive, were reported within 30 miles of Warsaw today and its fall appeared certain with an official German announcement that Brest-Litovsk, last great bastion guarding the approaches to the Polish capital, had been evacuated.

The German announcement followed by only a few hours five special Orders of the Day from Marshal Stalin last night reporting Soviet capture of six powerful Nazi strongholds along the entire front from the Carpathian foothills to the Gulf of Finland.

[The German News Agency announced today the evacuation of Kaunas, capital of Lithuania, an important railway junction 80 miles east of Tilsit in East Prussia and 140 miles east of Koeningberg, capital of East Prussia.]

As Moscow's guns fired 24,000 victory salutes, the Soviet premier announced the Red armies had taken Dvinsk and Rezekne in Latvia, Shavli in Lithuania, and Bialystok, Lwow and Stanislov in Poland.

Brest-Litovsk, almost completely cut off by Marshal Konstantin Rokossovsky's swift drive on Warsaw, was the first city captured by the Germans in June, 1941, when they crossed the demarcation line in their "holy war" against Russia. It also was the scene of the signing of the harsh treaty imposed on the Russians by Field Marshal Von Ludendorff in the last war.

Fall of Shavli, large communications center linking the Baltic with East Prussia, placed Soviet armies less than 90 miles from the Baltic Sea and increased the danger to an estimated 40 Nazi divisions in the Baltic republics. The capture of Dvinsk and Rezekne opened the way for a direct drive to Riga on the Baltic and it appeared that the entire German northern front commanded by General Lindemann had been outflanked. News of the

(Continued on page 3)

Marines Capture Tinian Airfield

PEARL HARBOR, July 28—United States Marines now control the northern third of Tinian, including the dominating height of Mt. Lasso, according to today's communique from Pacific Fleet headquarters.

The announcement revealed that the southward drive across the island, supported by Saipan based aircraft, has captured one of the finest airfields in the Marianas chain.

A new attempt by the trapped Japanese to break out of the Orote Peninsula, south of Guam, cost them another 400 dead and at least 12 tanks, the communique declared.

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson, in Washington, announced today that 85,000 Japanese troops have been killed in the central and southwest Pacific since American forces started their current grand offensive. The figure, Secretary Stimson said, "does not include the thousands who must have perished in sunken and damaged enemy warships."

A communique from southeast Asia Command headquarters confirmed a recent attack on the Japanese port of Sabang, at the northern tip of Sumatra. Battleships, destroyers and cruisers of the Eastern Fleet, covered by carrier aircraft, blasted the enemy base for 35 minutes. Official reports declared the harbor installations were almost completely destroyed.

What Does A Soldier Say To A King?

By Cpl. ROBERT FLEISHER
(Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

WITH THE ROYAL PARTY ON THE 8TH ARMY FRONT, July 27 (Delayed)—If you plan to be presented to the King of England in the near future, don't expect any helpful hints from the soldier's manual. It tells you what you can say to second lieutenants and what a court-martial will give you for saying it, but the word "King" isn't even in the index.

They had told us the night before that the 8th Army correspondents would have the honor of being presented to the King at 0800 hours this morning. Most of the correspondents looked down at their dusty clothes and figured out ways to make them as presentable as possible.

Midst the pounding of pants against tent poles and a mad search for shoe polish, a calm but determined discussion concerning the proper etiquette for meeting the King was going on. The biggest difference of opinion arose over how to address him. A quick, informal

poll revealed five people in favor of "Your Majesty," three leaned toward "Sire," six favored a simple "Sir," and one man held out for "Your Royal Highness."

But the next morning, on a high clearing overlooking miles of rolling countryside, we were given our instructions. First, all army personnel were to salute the King as soon as he passed in front of them. Next came a bow, not from the hips as in the days of yore, but from the neck as in ducking a low girder. Third was the handshake—nothing out of the ordinary here—and fourth, "Don't speak to the King unless he speaks to you, and address him as 'Sir.'"

Our names were then called out and we linked up in that order, doing what might pass for a "dress right dress" until the line was reasonably straight. The King stepped down from his specially built trailer and walked slowly to the head of the line. I was near the foot.

Watching out of the corner of my eye I could see him as he moved from man to man. He seemed to be in very high spirits, smiling and chatting briefly with each person. I kept repeating to myself, "Salute, bow, shake hands and keep your mouth shut. Salute, bow, shake hands and keep your mouth shut."

Suddenly there he was in front of me, and the official introducer was telling him who I was. Somehow I managed to salute, bow and hand-shake all in the right order. Then I stood by to await developments.

The King smiled graciously and said in a very soft voice, "Stars and Stripes." Pause. "How long has that been going on?"

"About 18 months, sir," I replied, doing a fast bit of inaccurate arithmetic.

His Majesty smiled again and looked quickly into my eyes. He nodded as if satisfied and moved on.

Mail Order Marriages Okay With Washington

WASHINGTON, July 28—Marriages by mail are okay with the Army and the wife may collect the allowances of her soldier-husband if the state in which the marriage contract was made recognizes mail-marriages as valid. This was a ruling today by the Comptroller General in the case of a Pennsylvania couple who on December 3, 1943, became man and wife by means of a document mailed back and forth for signature.

The document stated: "Whereas it is impossible for them at this time to procure a marriage license and be married by civil or religious ceremony they mutually covenant, promise and agree they are now and henceforth shall be husband and wife."

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-- MAIL CALL --

'Dear Herbie ...'

Dear Editor: This is a reply to T-5 "Herbie" Arnold's letter of "protest" in the July 24 issue of Mail Call pertaining to the raise of pay for Airborne troops.

Herbie, dear, in response to your statement that the Airborne troops have NOT seen combat, we wish to show you where you are slightly wrong; however, please bear in mind that we, the undersigned, are all reclassified and no longer draw extra pay. Also, we are not aiming this letter at the Infantry for we know what those boys go through. We have fought beside them.

We are aiming this straight at YOU and anyone else who happens to share your belief.

Do you happen to know that one paratroop outfit has more actual combat hours than any regiment in the Mediterranean theater? This statement is taken from The Infantry Journal.

Starting at Salerno, the paratroops were called to relieve the overwhelming pressure on the hard pressed troops while at the same time, one battalion made a sacrifice mission 40 miles behind the lines to create a confusion to divert enemy supplies and troops from the beachhead, which they did to perfection. Those troopers who landed on the beachhead fought all the way up and were the first to enter Naples.

They stopped there only to reorganize: Thus, they were in on the crossing of the Volturno, holding down the 5th Army's right flank.

Ask any Ranger or the 3rd Battalion about the troopers who fought beside them at Venafro!

—Pfc. Charles Doyle

To settle the question on extra pay, we cordially invite you to the Airborne Training Center, as a volunteer, to jump with a parachute from an airplane in flight. If you think that the paratroopers didn't earn every cent of extra-pay, come and find out first hand.

—Pfc. W. F. Wilkerson

... As for nothing done by paratroopers, our outfit has been in on almost every deal since the invasion of North Africa, including the Anzio beachhead.

We feel the same way you do about the regular infantry receive-

ing more pay and we are hoping they get all the breaks due to them. But, if you are still griping about pay, why don't you join up and collect some "easy money."

—Pfc. Frank Campos

... The paratroops always having been a voluntary service are made up of men (if I may say so without conceit) who are not lacking in some of the things you are, namely broadmindedness and guts.

When you were drafted (and no doubt you were) you were given the opportunity to join and no one, as yet, has seen any armed guards or iron gates barring your way...

—Sgt. Harland M. Brown

... Paratroop units which have taken part in various campaigns for the most part have won such things as a Presidential Citation with an oak leaf cluster, to say nothing of the award given one of these units by the Free French Government. They don't give those things away for sitting around twiddling your thumbs.

—Cpl. J. P. Jones

Editorials

Dear Editor: And now some constructive criticism, the only thing lacking to make your "tab" complete, is an editorial column, expressing your views on subjects that are important to all of us.

If not daily, then once a week. It's your best chance to use one of the precepts we're fighting for—Freedom of Speech...

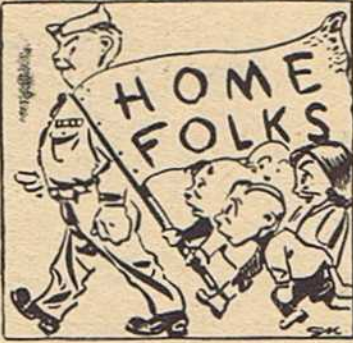
—T-4 Jack Silberman

Medics On Medals

Dear Editor: Why is it that litter bearers of a collecting company who worked with the battalion aid men, and evacuated patients under fire along with the aid bearers did not receive the combat infantry badge as the others did?

These men risked their lives and a few of them were wounded, but because the collecting company is a step back in the echelon, they were denied this badge. We feel that our men are deserving of the same consideration as others.

—Cpl. Sol Glick
Pvt. F. Radcliff



UP FRONT ...

By MAULDIN



"Best little mine detector made."

By Sgt. RALPH G. MARTIN (Stars and Stripes Staff Writer)

RED OAK, Iowa — Nobody thought Pfc. Franklyn Paul Sandholm could live.

He had a big hole in his belly where a large chunk of a 50-pound frag bomb had ripped through, cutting his bladder and small intestines, tearing through his rectum. Another fragment sheared away part of his arm.

That was ten minutes to ten, Sunday morning, Dec. 19, 1943, in the outskirts of San Pietro where Pfc. Sandholm and eight buddies were surveying advance positions for the guns of A Battery of the 131st Field Artillery of the 34th Division. Fifteen ME-109s had suddenly swooped out of the clouds and plastered the whole area, killing one out of the eight, wounding seven.

But today, after passing through one painful crisis after another on the operating table, absorbing bottles and bottles of slow-dripping blood plasma and spending 55 days in bed urinating through a tube—Pfc. Sandholm was home again.

Dream World ...

"It's like a dream. I never thought I'd make it," he said.

Pfc. Sandholm is a tall, 23-year-old boy with an old face and thinning black hair who still talks, looks and acts like a farmer despite his two years in the Army.

Now, as soon as he finishes a 21-day furlough, he's scheduled for a re-examination at a nearby Army hospital to find out if he can drop the Pfc. and become just plain Mr. again. But even if he is discharged from the Army, he's worrying plenty about what the medics might tell him. He's worrying that they'll tell him that he can't go back to the farm, that the work will be too heavy for him.

"I just don't know what I'm gonna do if they won't let me work on a farm. I've never done anything else. I've never wanted to do anything else. It would be tough getting used to another job."

But as he kept on talking about it, it was obvious that he and his wife had been discussing possibilities and plans for the "if and when" future. Whatever happened, they both wanted to stay in Red Oak. Maybe he could be a rural mail carrier or something like that. Then they could both still live on dad's farm and he could always do little things around the place, like driving a tractor.

That was one of the first things Pfc. Sandholm did when he came back—drive a tractor.

In The Barn ...

"I couldn't resist it," he said. "Before I knew it I had my overalls on and I went into the barn and said hello to May and Nellie, who I raised since they were colts, and they recognized my voice and they whinnied at me and then Rover smelled me and jumped at me and licked me all over. Rover is 16 years old. That's pretty old for a dog. I thought he'd be dead..."

"And then I went out in the field and saw the tractor..."

He was speaking slowly, carefully choosing his words.

"It's hard to explain. It was a wonderful feeling. Something I thought about a million times while I was in the hospital."

Another thing he thought about was how he would spend a quiet furlough at the farm, with just his wife and his folks. But as soon as the townspeople and neighbors and relatives and friends and American Legion and everybody else in Red Oak heard about him coming back, they all started a never-ending pilgrimage to the Sandholm farm. Every new group that came in asked the same questions and Pfc. Sandholm gave the same answers again and again. At least a dozen different people wanted to see his wound scars and, wherever he went, the kids just wouldn't let him alone.

"They kept treating me like a hero, wanting me to make speeches and things like that."

"But I keep telling them that I'm not a hero, that I'm just a lucky guy. The heroes are still overseas."

Flashes From The Italian Front Lines

CHICKEN CACCIATORE is a very delectable Italian dish, consisting of the bird parboiled in savory tomato juice. At least that's what Cpl. Joseph D. Digatono, Minneapolis, Minn., remembered hearing his grandpa say in the States. Joe was quite delighted to accept the dinner invitation of an Italian family, particularly when they said chicken cacciatore was on the menu. It looked fine when placed on the table and Joe eagerly stuck his fork in to spear a piece. He came up with the head of the chicken—no, not the neck—the head. Grandpa is due for a lengthy letter.

THE DUGOUT OF PVT. LLOYD PECKENBAUGH, Santa Ana, Calif., was plenty elaborate already, but Lloyd decided it needed a final touch. He found a bike, rode it to a stream which ran next to his dugout and began to work. First, he removed the foot pedals. Then he attached empty C ration cans to the sprocket of the wheels. Next, he set the bike in the middle of the stream. The force of the water caught the cans, revolved them and thus manipulated a generator. Pvt. Peckebaugh now has an electric light burning in his dugout.

THE PRESENT ITALIAN DRIVE doesn't leave much time for boxing. Cpl. James Case, Berrian Center, Mich., mourns. Champion of the 5th Army, in the 126-pound class and semi-finalist in the Allied tournament in Algiers last winter, Cpl. Case is acting S-2 sergeant, acting operations sergeant and battalion gas noncom. His friends say the latter job keeps Cpl. Case busiest.

AT A TIME WHEN ALL HEADQUARTERS are shouting about the necessity for care of clothing and equipment, you might find it refreshing to talk to Capt. Luther Doty, Birmingham, Ala., who still has the OD shirt which was issued to him more than three years ago when he was inducted. An OCS graduate and operations officer for an infantry battalion, Capt. Doty said the shirt has taken part in the African and Italian campaigns and is "still the best shirt I've got."

THE MAILED ARM OF COINCIDENCE gets longer and longer. In 1938 Arthur Rennert left Heidelberg for America and soon he was in the Army, fighting the people who had been his neighbors, literally. For when Pvt. Rennert, New York City, was crossing a fresh battlefield in northern Italy the other day, he picked up a letter written by a Nazi soldier who had lived just around the corner from him in Heidelberg.

GIs HAVE FOUND some mighty useful souvenirs on the battlefields. Sgt. Harold S. Nelson, Hill City, Minn., has found a pocket knife to end all pocket knives—almost. This German beauty has 18 gadgets, including a hack saw, awl, scissors, nail file, scapula, corkscrew, leather punch, screwdriver, three blades and a variety of unfathomable doo-jiggers. Conspicuously absent is a can-opener.

UGLY DUCKLINGS ARE SWITCHING to beautiful swans in the mountains of northern Italy as American troops take over towns and the Nazis advance to the rear. Second Lt. William H. Post, Ft. Collins, Colo., and his men were assigned to use an Italian cottage as an observation post. The family refused to move out, made the GIs use the best rooms in the house—with sheets—cooked and laundered for them. Best of all, the four daughters took off the scarecrow dresses and make-up they had adopted during the Nazi tenancy of their home and blossomed out as very comely creatures. The Nazis, it seems, are not hep to Cinderella.

MORALE DEPENDS ON MANY THINGS, and the results of the St. Louis Cardinals and Browns ball games make Pvt. Walter Bosch rise and fall like the tide. Only both St. Louis clubs have been winning steadily so this individual MP has been in high spirits recently. "I really love baseball," Pvt. Bosch declares, "and I read every word I can about it." His buddy, Pvt. Phil Kalt, Milwaukee, is casually interested in the Brewers but says he has more important things to read about—like football. "Take those Green Bay Packers. That's a real ball club," he continued. "Please tell everybody," Pvt. Bosch pleaded, "that division MPs don't patrol towns looking for drunks and breaking up fights. If someone wants to fight we'll stand by there and watch—only we hope it's a good one." The MP pair is supposed to look for stragglers but, they say, "the boys in our division don't fall behind very much."

Puptyent Poets

Femina Roma

(The G. I. Patriarch to His Laura)
 Warm on my mouth is Stella's parting kiss,
 And still the gentle pressure of her cheek;
 And of Maria, I will swear to this—
 The like of her lush beauty's far to seek.

Oh, Josephine was lovely in the pale
 And fragrant moonlight as we danced; and yet,
 I long might search the earth to no avail
 To match the tender beauty of Lycette.

In Lydia's arms thrice am I Heaven-blest;
 There is no truer woman short of Heaven.
 Constancy being Love's most proper heaven,
 Her love I treasure far above the rest.

But of all women, Laura, you by chance
 Trapped for all time my heart with but a glance.

—S-Sgt. Kenneth C. Crabbe

On Love At First Sight

What folly prompted that be-knighted dolt
 To say that love must needs be born full-grown?
 That unconsciousness comes like a lightning bolt;
 Another's life must parallel one's own?

My love was born a tiny, timid thing,
 The whisper of the shadow of a ghost;
 I watched it grow, my heart began to sing,
 I touched the edge of Eden and was lost.

No matter now what thrilling words she said
 That nursed my love, that made it grow so strong,
 This line or that, the way she held her head,
 What little things encouraged it along.

I pity those poor men who never knew
 A love, not ready made, but one that grew.

—Pfc. F. M. Odom

Death Of McNair Mourned By Army

(Stars and Stripes U. S. Bureau)

WASHINGTON, July 28—When Lt. Gen. Lesley J. McNair was killed in action on the Normandy beachhead this week, the U. S. armed forces lost the man who took over an American citizen's army equipped with wooden sticks for guns and molded it into a mighty global striking force 7,700,000 strong.

General George Marshall, U. S. Army Chief of Staff, described General McNair's death as "a great loss to the American Army. He indicated that death came to the high ranking general in the St. Lo offensive launched only last Tuesday.

General McNair was hit while on the firing line "with the leading element in the great assault which has just been launched on the American front in Normandy," the Chief of Staff said.

General McNair at the time was observing battle action from our front lines with the same disregard for his person as had caused him to be painfully wounded in North Africa 15 months ago.

ON TUNISIAN HILL

It was on April 23, 1943, that the general climbed alone up a Tunisian hill to watch a battle from an infantry OP. An enemy shell burst near him and sent steel fragments flying into his left shoulder and the base of his skull. His GI jeep driver ran up the hill to where the general lay, picked him up and drove him to a medical aid station.

General McNair, who was 61, only recently relinquished his post as Commander of the Army Ground Forces to take an important but undisclosed assignment

overseas. Announcement of his death was the first disclosure that he was in Normandy.

Hard-boiled but soft-spoken, General McNair once stirred considerable controversy in the United States with his advice to American soldiers that their objective must be to "hate, fight and kill."

During his tenure as chief of the Army Ground Forces, from March, 1942, until recently, he was known as one of the "big four" of the U. S. Army, sharing that honor with General Marshall, General H. H. Arnold, chief of the Army Air Forces, and Lt. Gen. Brehon B. Somervell, Commander of the Army Supply Forces. Before he went overseas, General McNair's job was taken over by Lt. Gen. Ben Lear, who had served in the post while General McNair was recovering from his Tunisian wounds.

SECOND OF RANK

General McNair was the second American general of his rank to meet death in this war and the sixth U. S. general officer to die in action on the battlefield. Seven others have been killed in airplane crashes and two have died from illnesses resulting from combat experiences. The first lieutenant general to die in World War II was Frank M. Andrews, then Commander of the U. S. forces in the European Theater of Operations, who was killed in a plane crash in Iceland May 3, 1943.

The death of General McNair was mourned this week by American Army men around the world—from generals to obscure infantrymen who knew him as a "soldier's soldier." He was eulogized as an inspiring example to the ground forces which he had organized and trained.

General John J. Pershing, under whom the then 35-year-old McNair had served in France as a brigadier general—the youngest in the AEF—called him "a great soldier whose untimely death will be a great loss to the Army and the nation."

Fires Sweep Philly, New Jersey; Train Pileup In Oklahoma

(Stars and Stripes U. S. Bureau)

PHILADELPHIA, July 28—A six-alarm fire raged through two downtown buildings yesterday, imperiling historic Christ's Church and temporarily closing the Market Street subway.

More than 70 pieces of apparatus responded to the alarms sounded around noon. Dense black smoke surrounded the area for blocks around, filled the subway tube, and stopped surface traffic as well.

Police and firemen made use of "walkie-talkie" radio apparatus, similar to that used by army troops, to relay orders at the height of the fire. The buildings burned were occupied by the Bernman Carpet Company and the Harrow Novelty Company.

Meanwhile, a forest fire described by New Jersey state officials as the "worst midsummer forest fire in the state in 40 years" roared out of control, threatening four small communities.

Thirty-five fire companies responded to emergency calls to fight the blaze, which started near Barnegat, Ocean County, and spread over 12,000 acres of woodland.

The fire followed a fiery course along a forked river, threatening the communities of Howardsville, Cranmer Mills, Barnegat Pines, and Brookville. No fire casualties were reported.

Out in Oklahoma, 35 cars of a 90-car Sante Fe Railroad freight train were wrecked yesterday five miles east of Woodward as the train attempted to cross a bridge spanning the North Canadian River, the Oklahoma Highway patrol reported.

Trooper Bill Fletcher declared the cars started crashing through the bridge beginning with the 40th back from the locomotive. There was no loss of life. Expanded rails caused by yesterday's 100-degree weather was considered a possible cause of the wreck.

It Happened At Home

IN DALLAS a housewife reported to the police that her husband was creating a disturbance. When the cops arrived, however, something mollifying had happened because she just asked the law to give her husband "a good scare." The law obliged. "Boo!" said the biggest bluecoat into the old man's face.

An examiner in Chicago district court asked that Gregory Antokol, 31, not be granted citizenship papers because he had been divorced two years earlier on grounds of cruelty. Antokol stepped up with an eloquent and unique argument. "A man can be a good citizen even though a poor husband," he said. "Abraham Lincoln was a great and good man but a poor husband." He got the papers.

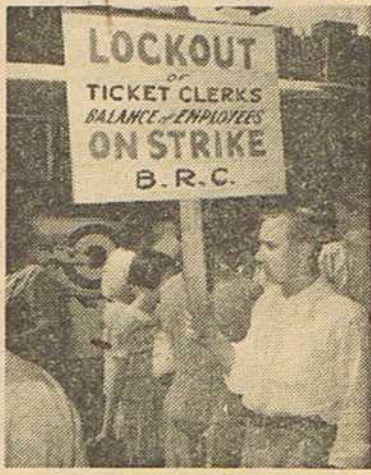
Coyotes, bears and bobcats are committing mass murder on far west livestock ranges due to the war shortage of hunters and ammunition. One wolf accounted for 224 lambs in one night; some coyotes have averaged 25 sheep a night; one chicken farmer lost

182 in a few hours. The U. S. Wildlife Service says civvie hunters now have only one bullet for every ten they had in 1943 and can't begin to catch up with the varmints. More than 2,000,000 coyotes have been wiped out, along with 152,029 wolves, 7,521 bear and 5,720 mountain lions.

Former servicemen attending the University of Arkansas have formed a new fraternity. They call it Gamma Iota—or, in short, GI. . . The Monsanto Chemical Company of St. Louis has just promised shineless blue serge suits and wrinkle-proof clothing for postwar wear

. . . A railroad near Mobile, Ala., got its prize conscience letter from a man who sent in a money order for three dollars to "pay for some rocks I took from your right-of-way 35 years ago for my slingshot"

Chicago bus travel was tied up for several days in a dispute over the ticket-sellers non-wearing of neckties. Sellers went tieless in a recent hot spell and the company operating the terminals ordered the ties worn. Employees declined and walked out of their jobs, later came back, minus ties, pending arbitration of the argument. . . Doctors attending the 100th convention of the American Institute of Homeopathy in Atlantic City heard a speaker claim that "pretzel jag," commonly blamed on beer-guzzling, is really caused by the salt covering the pretzels. . . If wives can go through their husbands' pockets, husbands can go through their wives' slacks, Judge Michael Zimmer, Buffalo, N. Y., has decided.



SAVED BY A HAIR

LIMITING its field to civilians, the National Safety Council has been collecting close shaves—screwy accidents in which the long sickle of the bearded old man came too close. Even the GI who recently left his foxhole for a second to wash his hands and then saw a shell land right in it will agree that the quintet below were pretty narrow squeaks.

A California printer named Frank L. Blanchard was feeding a flat-bed printing press when his denim apron got caught in the recoil spring of the big press. Unable to loosen the apron, Blanchard was pulled slowly toward the powerful chopping jaws of the press. Upstairs, someone accidentally overloaded a paper elevator. The overload blew out a circuit fuse, the great press stopped and Blanchard, just three inches from death, was saved.

In Indianapolis, a boy named C. E. Thompson found a pistol which belonged to his great grandfather—a Civil War veteran. He started taking pot shots at everything in the room. He aimed at a picture and pulled the trigger and the gun went click. He aimed at the chandelier and pulled it and it went click. He put it to his temple and pulled and it went click. Then he aimed at the dresser and pulled—and it went BANG. The bullet crashed through the dresser, ripped through the floor and missed his aunt by inches, as well as the baby on her knee.

In Texas, where there is plenty of room for such things to happen, F. C. Herrin of Strawn was walking across a long railroad trestle at night when he saw the headlight of a train rushing his way. Herrin leaped for the side of the trestle and hung from the ends of the ties until the train roared past. Then he was too weak from fright to pull himself back up, so he let go, with a prayer, expecting to plunge to his death. He landed on a soft ledge of ground three feet below. A drugstore delivery boy in Memphis, Tenn., also had a tussle

with a train, minus a trestle. The boy, Hugh Burkett, Jr., was riding a motorcycle to deliver some drugs in a sack slung across his shoulder. At a railroad crossing, a freight train stood across the road with a six-foot gap between two of the cars. As Burkett raced for the opening at a 30-mile clip, the cars started to close up. Too near the train to stop, Burkett jammed on the gas and shot through the hole as the cars closed behind him. The squeeze was so tight that a bottle of castor oil in his bag was broken to bits.

Women also have close shaves. Mrs. E. M. Bishop, of Avon Lake, Ohio, was in the bath tub. She reached for a towel, but instead she pulled her husband's electric shaver into the tub with her. The shaver was connected to the wall outlet and as it hit the water, the thing began to wiggle mischievously around, nipping Mrs. B. in the bathtub. Or something.

HOLLYWOOD HANGOVERS

THAT century-old melodrama, "The Drunkard," reeking with the curse of strong drink, has started its twelfth year of continuous nightly performances in Los Angeles. First staged by P. T. Barnum in 1843, it was revived 11 years ago in L. A. by actors who thought it might provide a few weeks' work at the most. . . Ray Milland has been handed the 100-proof role of the year—the inebriate in the film version of "The Lost Weekend," bestseller about a terrific binge. Never will so much water be drunk in the name of Art. . . Alice Faye and Betty Grable are starting again on "The Dolly Sisters," pic about a famous vaudeville team just broken up by death. The stork road-blocked the picture about a year ago. . . Hedy Lamarr's next hero will be "Lifeboat's" star, John Hodiak. . . "Abie's Irish Rose" will be revived on B'way in August, second revival since its run of 2,327 performances following its premiere in 1922. . . Canada has lifted its ban on "Tobacco Road" . . . Gary Cooper's first producing effort will be "The American Cowboy," a super-western in which he'll star. . . Clark Gable's first role, now that he's a civvie again, will be opposite Myrna Loy in "Strange Adventure." . . Helen Ward, former vocalist with Harry James, has sued the Grablemate for 8,250 dollars. She says he ditched her year's contract after five months. . . For unexplained reasons, Hollywood doesn't think Mickey Rooney will be in the Army long.

Truman Explains Wife's Senate Job

KANSAS CITY, July 28—Sen. Harry S. Truman, Democratic nominee for Vice President, said today it was "no secret" that his wife was on the Senate payroll as a clerk in his office at a salary of 4,500 dollars yearly.

"She is a clerk in my office and does much of my clerical work," said Sen. Truman. "I need her there and that's the reason I've got her there. I make no reports or deliver any speeches without her editing them."

His comment followed published reports that Mrs. Truman was on the payroll. Mrs. John Nance Garner served in a similar capacity when her husband was Vice President during Roosevelt's first two terms and while Garner was Speaker of the House.

Truman on the advice of his doctor cancelled a speech in St. Joseph, Mo., last night and stayed home to rest, but he added, "I've shaken hands with about 10,000 people in the last day or two and am ready to do it all over again."

Wright Workers Back In Cincinnati Plant

CINCINNATI, July 28—The 36-hour dispute affecting between 2,400 and 7,000 employees of the Wright Aeronautical Corporation plant near Cincinnati has been settled, it was announced today by F. L. Innis, assistant regional director of the CIO United Automobile Workers union.

Strikers voted to return to their jobs at the American Rolling Mills plant at Ashland, Ky., where walk-outs kept 2,500 off duty. Howard Porter, district representative of CIO United Steel Workers, said the firm had agreed to continue hourly wage rates paid before the three-day stoppage.

At Toledo, Ohio, 800 AFL-affiliated workers ended their week-long strike at the Ohio Shipbuilding Company and reported their grievances had been adjusted.

Martha Raye Awaiting Arrival Of The Bird

HOLLYWOOD, July 28—Actress Martha Raye is in a Wilshire hospital awaiting the birth of her baby. Her husband is Nick Condos, vaudevillian whom she married last year while both were touring eastern United States. He is her fourth husband

Phonies Sporting Ribbons In 'Battle Of Broadway'

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

NEW YORK — Since the only manner in which an overseas veteran can be distinguished from the homefront soldier is by his campaign ribbons and other decorations, the wearing of your "fruit salad" has become a must, even with the most dour modest retiree. "Fruit salad" is slang for a bunch of campaign ribbons.

As one wag put it, "If you wear these things, you get better breaks. For instance, I can get a bottle of rye when the other customers are being told there isn't any."

Unfortunately, there has cropped up a dishonest element among soldiers not entitled to these decorations who are able, through lack of restriction over sale of ribbons at civilian-owned Army-Navy stores to capitalize on the respect which the Purple Heart and battle stars carry on the homefront.

The "cheating" has become so prevalent in some areas that newspapers have opened up campaigns against the Army-Navy stores which will sell almost any type of ribbon and as many battle stars as can fill it to members of the armed forces. Typical was the front-page article by the Seattle Times, which resulted in a voluntary setting-up of credential standards themselves.

QUIZ DEALERS

In New York a survey of 25 dealers by The Stars and Stripes showed that they also maintain a more-or-less haphazard understanding concerning evidence that must be presented by soldiers seeking ribbons and veterans' pins.

To obtain the tiny gold-plate pin about the size of a dime which is the official War Department insignia identifying discharged veterans, all one had to do was to "look like he'd had it," according to several store dealers. "A limp, or only one arm is good enough for me," said one salesman. Others said they asked for discharge papers.

To obtain battle stars, most stores said they asked for some sort of verification, "like newspaper clipping with their name on it." For Purple Hearts one dealer said he asked to "see the wound."

Dealers said that campaign ribbons

now constitute the majority of their business. One revealed that 90 percent of his trade was in ribbons, decorations, emblems and insignia. The stores stock all kinds of ribbons except the Medal of Honor or Distinguished Service Cross.

Purchase of non-official ribbons, decorations becomes necessary as the official issue becomes soiled or worn out in the "battle of Broadway." Army-Navy stores, as an added incentive, now wrap their ribbons in cellophane.

Further, the homefront services and semi-military services are not without their sign of recognition. Factories fly the Treasury flag (for 100 percent subscription to war bonds) and the Army-Navy "Es." Their individual employees proudly sport their "E" pins.

CIVILIANS, TOO

Civilian personnel who contribute specific ideas for increasing production or who perform faithfully over long terms of service wear lapel medals and insignia. Veterans of the last war proudly display miniature victory pins for their lapels.

But the proudest of all proof of patriotism is the flag or plaque showing service stars; blue for those in the service; silver for those overseas and gold for those who have died.

And now Harry H. Stockfeld, an inventor, has come forth with the idea that a green star should be added for each discharged veteran now back at his civilian job.

N. Y. Group Disputes Dewey GI Vote Scheme

NEW YORK, July 28—The New York Citizens' Non-partisan Committee today disputed Gov. Thomas E. Dewey's statement about the "simplicity" of the state's soldier vote law, claiming that New York service men and women have "only a slim chance of voting." The committee said that persons in the service move so frequently they may never receive a ballot in time to cast it.

He passed it countless times

YANK'S ROMA



For American soldiers in Italy with a few days leave, all roads lead to Rome, the "Eternal City." So when Cpl. Jack Richburg, Opp, Ala., of a veteran paratrooper outfit, came to town, The Stars and Stripes arranged for the daughter of a prominent Roman family to accompany him on an afternoon's sight-seeing tour, sending along a photographer to record the scenes every GI visiting Rome will remember.

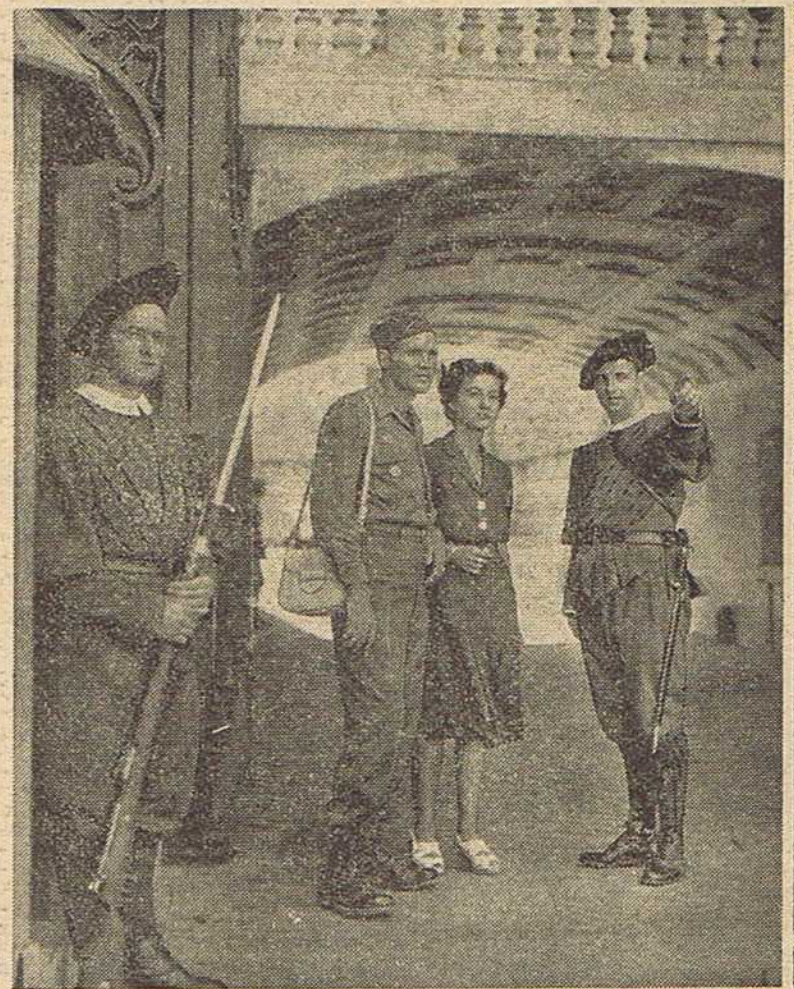


2:00 PM. The coachman Jack hired for the trip points out on a Red Cross guide map the Foro Romano, Arch of Constantine and the Golden House of Nero, all historical spots near the famous Coliseum built by Emperor Vespasian in 72 A.D. for great games, matching men against wild beasts.

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5:00 PM. An English-speaking guide points to a fragment of an early Christian painting in the Catacombs of St. Calixtus, built by the Christians for burial purposes during the first five centuries after Christ. It was used also as a place of worship and as a hideaway during the days of Christian persecutions. There are many chapels, connecting passages and halls 75 feet underground where entire families lived in relative comfort and safety.



6:00 PM. A noncom of the Swiss Guards, Vatican Palace Guards for the Pope, points out the immense size of the Church of St. Peter. Although Jack missed the public audience of His Holiness (held each week day at high noon), he did see the splendor of Vatican City and its environs.

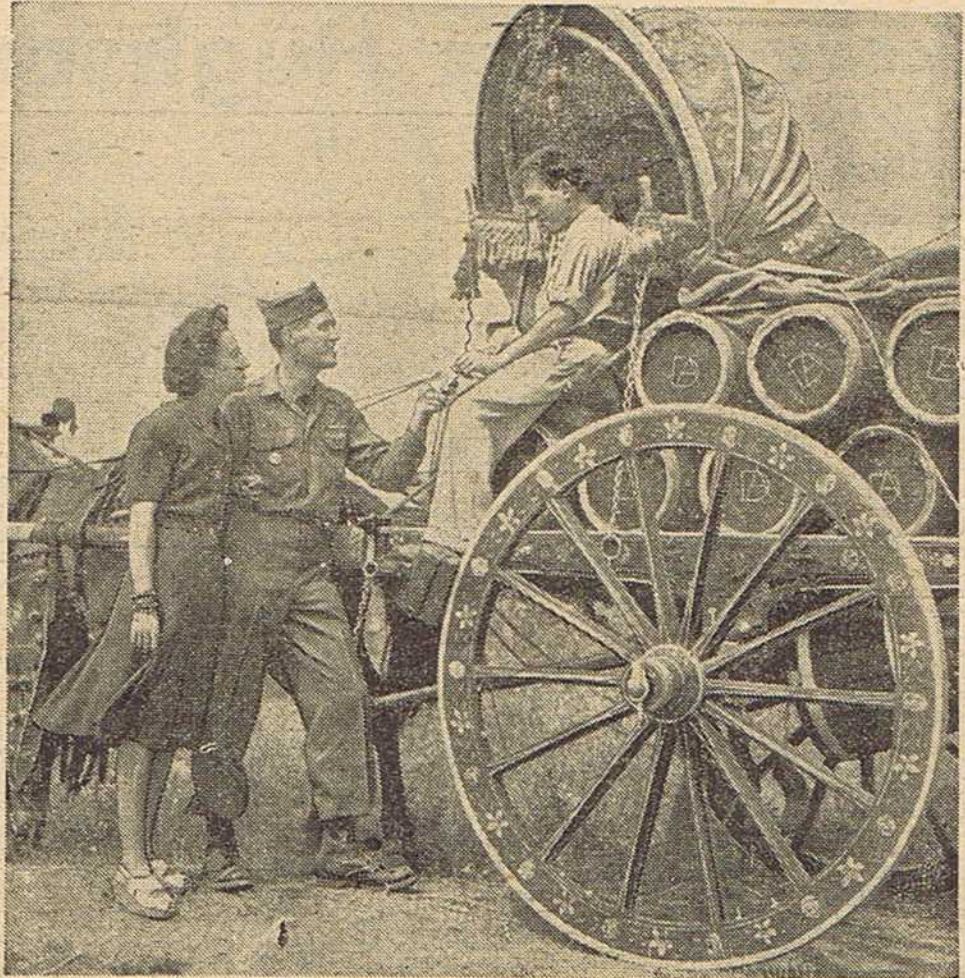
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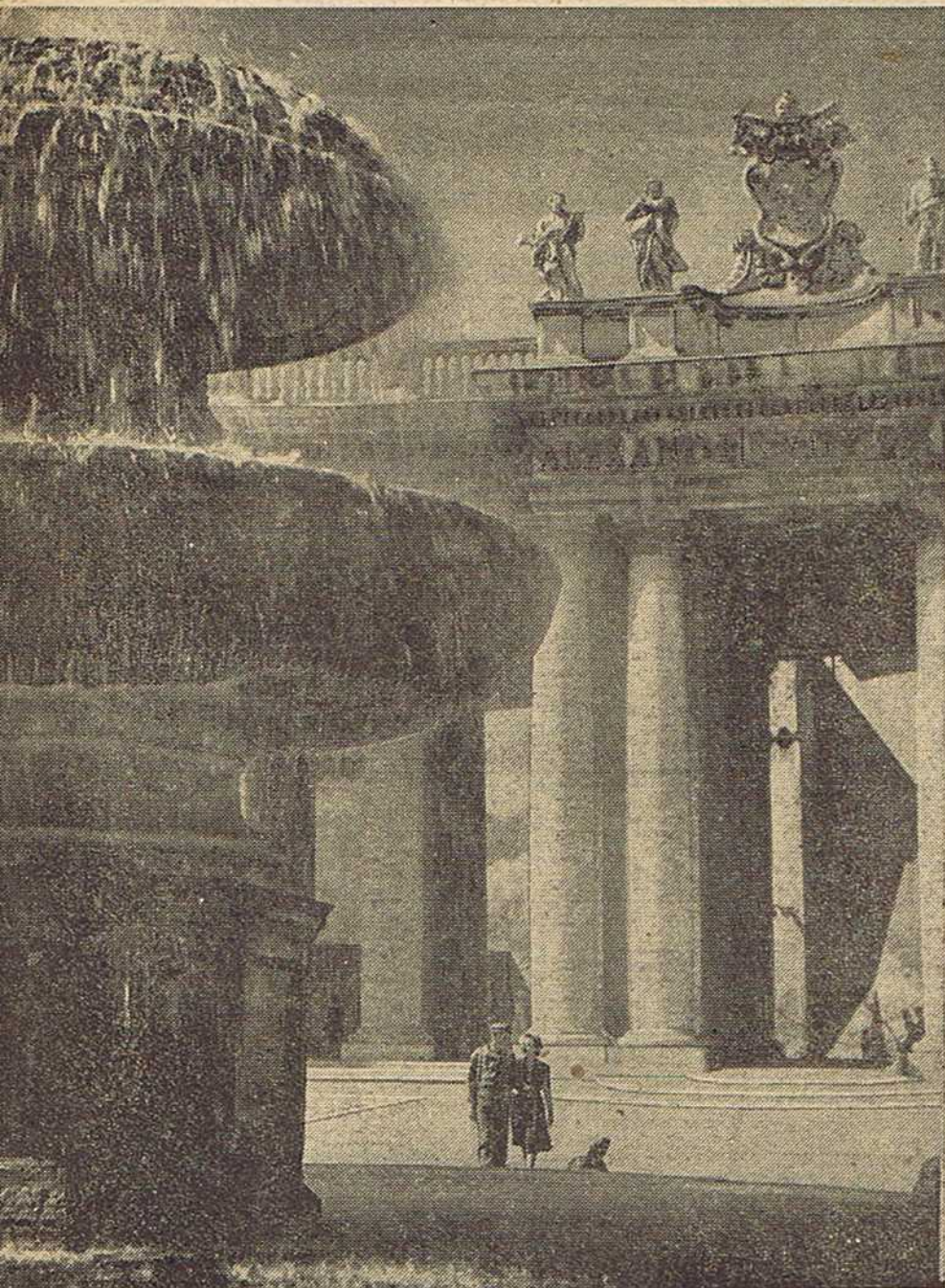
N HOLIDAY



Jack and his companion leave the carriage to walk through the Porto San Sabas- of the 16 gates of the ancient wall which surrounded Rome. This gate is one of six ing its original purpose. Arm in arm, they walk south toward the Appian Way's ruins.



4:00 PM. Near the tomb of Caecilia Metella, on the Via Appia, Jack shouted: "Buon giorno, paesano!" The peasant and his wife stopped to exchange greetings with the couple. Their "carretti a vino," in the traditional style of the Roman "compania," is lavishly ornate. Jack passed around cigarettes while all four tried to talk at once.



At twilight, Jack and his guide wander across the vast Piazza of St. Peter's, stop- buy rosaries, cards and medallions from street vendors. Surrounding the Piazza is a double portico which encircles The Vatican City. The Pope, speaking from a balcony eter's, greets vast throngs of people on special occasions. Here more than 10,000 de- holics receive blessings simultaneously. Fountain shown is one of two in the Piazza.

Beautiful



8:00 PM. Jack 'settles up' with the cab driver and the couple return to the Coliseum just as the moon comes up. Jack agreed wholeheartedly with Mr. Baedeker—"the Coliseum is most impressive when viewed by moonlight..."

(Text by Pvt. John Welsh, III, Photos by Sgt. Grayson Tewksbury)

LEND ME YOUR EARS
BY JIM BURCHARD

ROME, July 28—Our most erudite staff member—Sgt. Stanley Meltzoff, late of the educational staff of City College, New York—has just returned from a daring jaunt near an old athletic field some 500 miles behind the front lines.

In his customary fearless style, Meltzoff threw all thoughts of personal safety to the winds and interviewed the empty field. At the eleventh hour, when the General Staff was about to dispatch St. Bernard dogs replete with flasks, Meltzoff staggered into the office with a paralyzing report on soccer in Italy.

Here's the Meltzoff report. You can do with it what you will. You may be short of Sears and Roebucks catalogues.

"One reason why Italians seem giddy between the months of January and December is that their minds are fixed on the lurid spectacle of calcio. In case you are not among the informed, calcio is the Italian name for soccer. It is a game played with eleven men on a side, although there are never less than 2,000 people on the field.

"The ball may be kicked, and so can everybody else. But hands can only be used for pulling hair. The most famous sports series in Italy is the soccer rivalry between Rome and Naples. On the great day all roads that lead to Rome are detoured through Naples. Special trains run from the capital to Naples crowded to the roof with Romans waving their team's orange and yellow colors."

Fracture Facts

Here The Professor went into a sort of tailspin in his efforts to describe a Rome-Naples soccer game. He talked of fractures, split skulls and dismembered referees. His audience requested additional details.

"They came by ox cart, bicycle and gondola to see those soccer games," proclaimed The Professor. "The cream of Roman manhood poured southward for the fun. They formed a solid phalanx to protect the football team. On one occasion, a Roman taxi was tossed into the sea by Neapolitans, thus wetting the occupants.

"The game, itself, was gruelling. It was divided into compound frac-



tures and concussions. When no more players were left, everybody knocked off for a drink. Patterned after the gladiatorial combats in the Colosseum, six points were scored for kicking a goalie unconscious. A merely wounded, though sensible, opponent, was good only for three points."

(Editor's Note—The Professor is a bloodthirsty lad. Back in the Bronx, New York, he was reputed to have killed 24 rats in his apartment without having challenged them officially to a duel.)

Rabid Rooters

"Picadors rode through the bleachers," continued The Professor. "Thus goaded into a display of primitive emotions, the crowd went to town. The Old Blues of Rome grappled with the patron of Naples, St. January, and there really was hell to pay. Stretcher bearers always were paid on time and a half basis."

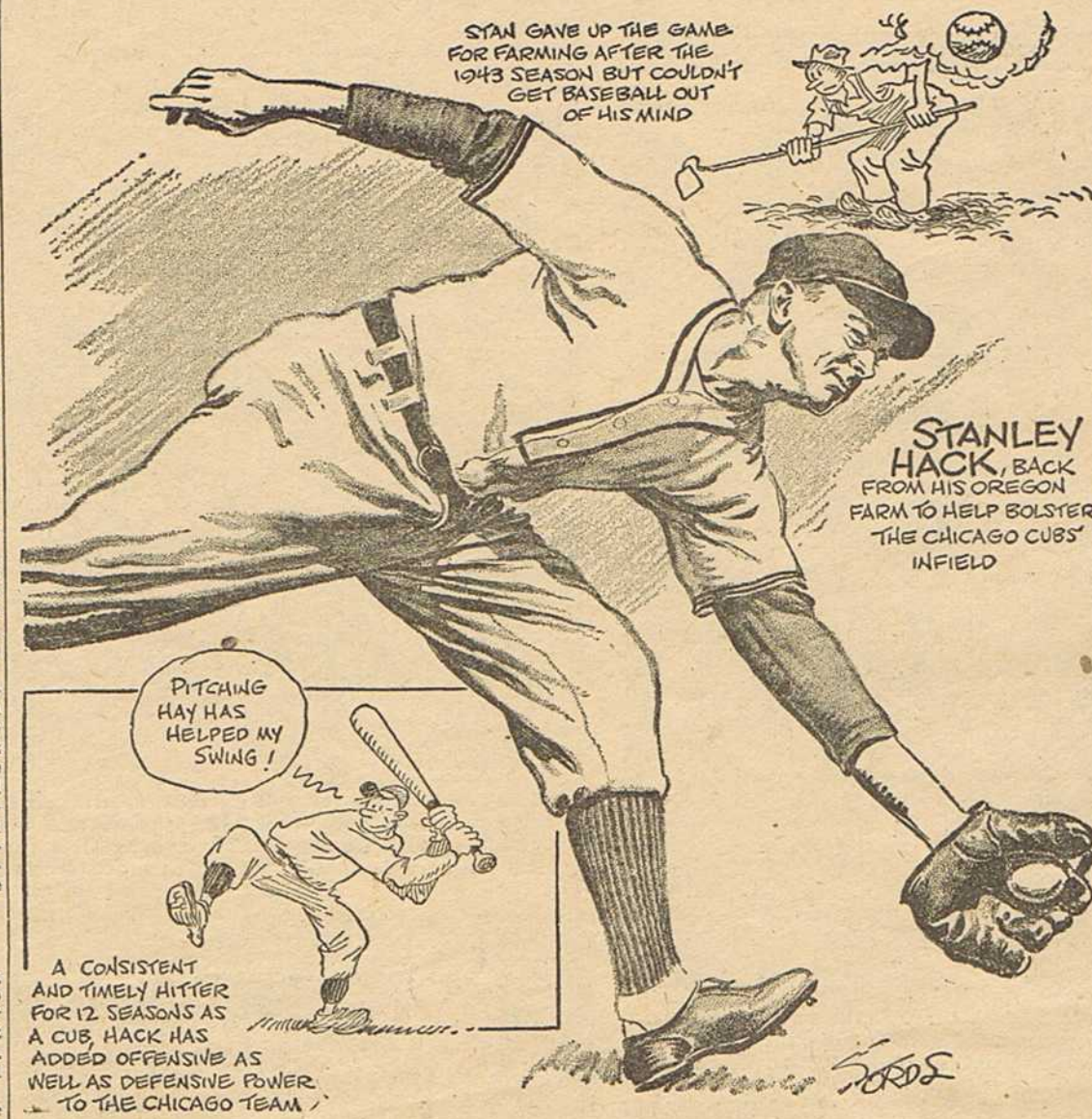
But there was plenty of fun, said The Prof. Shoe shine boys made fortunes, and vendors of a long, snakelike type of spaghetti called vermicelli lined their breeches with silver. The more common customers devoured squid, sea anemones, starfish and mussels. The guys without a sou put the touch on Prof. Meltzoff. He's always been a sucker for a gent with empty pockets and a smooth tongue.

After the game, Italians always spent the next nine months trying to figure out who won—and why. This led to fighting on the street corners and a big boom in the undertaking business. Somebody put up a statue for the winning team, and the obelisk was carved with the season's averages. Somehow, nobody can ever locate the football.

Tex Hughson Pitches 16th Win

A CUB AGAIN

By Jack Sords



STAN GAVE UP THE GAME FOR FARMING AFTER THE 1943 SEASON BUT COULDN'T GET BASEBALL OUT OF HIS MIND

STANLEY HACK, BACK FROM HIS OREGON FARM TO HELP BOLSTER THE CHICAGO CUBS' INFIELD

PITCHING HAY HAS HELPED MY SWING!

A CONSISTENT AND TIMELY HITTER FOR 12 SEASONS AS A CUB, HACK HAS ADDED OFFENSIVE AS WELL AS DEFENSIVE POWER TO THE CHICAGO TEAM

Hurler Sends Boston Into 2nd Place Tie

NEW YORK, July 28—Tex Hughson became the first major league pitcher to win 16 games this year, yesterday, when the big Red Sox righthander turned back the Tigers, 6-1, at Detroit. He held the Bengals to six hits and the victory enabled Joe Cronin's crew to tie the Yankees for second place in the hectic American League pennant race.

Meanwhile, in St. Louis, the Browns refused to give ground in their quest for their first flag in the history of the junior circuit, downing the Athletics, 4-2, on the strength of rookie catcher Claude Hayworth's homer with two aboard.

INDIANS WIN

In the other American League game yesterday, the Indians rapped the Yanks 8-1. Although touched for 11 bingles, fireballer Allie Reynolds registered his 11th victory of the season. Reynolds settled down after a poor start, allowing only three safeties in the last five frames. He was given great infield support, including two double plays, one of them an unassisted twin-killing by manager Lou Boudreau.

The Yanks pushed across their only run in the fourth after the Tribe had taken a 4-0 lead when Oscar Grimes' hit scored Nick Etten.

In Wednesday night's game, the White Sox defeated the Senators, 4-3, in Chicago during a ninth-inning rally. Washington had scored twice in the top half of the ninth to take a 3-2 lead, but the Sox came back with two to win. The Yankees blasted the Indians, 6-3, as Smuffy Stirnweiss and Oscar Grimes hit for the circuit.

REDS CLIMB BACK

Cincinnati climbed back into second place over the Pirates in the National League race Thursday. Rookie Jim Konstanty, up from Syracuse, held the Braves to eight scattered hits as the Redlegs beat the Braves, 4-2. Cincy clinched the game in the eighth, scoring two runs off Nate Andrews and Ira Hutchinson.

Wednesday night, the Pirates had retained their slender hold on second with a disputed 6-5 win over the Giants. Manager Mel Ott protested the game when umpire Beans Reardon called a ball hit by Phil Weintraub fair for the final out despite the fact that Weintraub's shoe was dented and he had a bruise on his foot to prove the ball hit him in foul territory.

Other arclight contests Wednesday saw the Cards whip the Phillies, 8-6, when outfielder Danny Litwhiler smashed a three-run homer in the eighth, and the Cubs set back the Dodgers, 4-1.

Gardella Traded

NEW YORK, July 28—Danny Gardella, Giant outfielder who wields a strong bat but whose fielding was driving Manager Mel Ott frantic, has been traded to Jersey City for Leon Treadway. Like his predecessor, Treadway bats left-handed and has been hitting at a .270 clip. He played with Atlanta in the Southern Association League last year.

SPORTS SHORTS

NEW YORK, July 28—Uncle Sam tapped two veteran baseball players on the shoulder yesterday and ordered them to report for induction within the next fortnight. Catcher Rollie Hemsley of the Yanks and outfielder Max Marshall of the Reds go to the Army and Navy respectively.

NEWARK, July 28—Lem Franklin, Chicago Negro heavyweight whose right side was paralyzed after suffering a knockout at the hands of Larry Lane, Trenton, N. J., Negro Monday night, remains in a critical condition at the Newark City Hospital.

CHICAGO, July 28—The largest daily double of the Chicago racing season was paid off Thursday when Neat Knee, coupled with Obispo, returned 1,043 dollars to 31 ticket holders. One unidentified bettor held five tickets on the winning pair and collected 5,215 bucks.

Here's The Payoff

Q. (a) In the Allied track finals did the winner of the six-mile event cover the entire distance, or was it a form of a relay? (b) Was there a six-mile relay event in the meet? (c) Was the winning time actually 31:08?

—Robert E. Graham
A. The winner, Pvt. Lamouda (NAD), traveled the entire distance. There was no six-mile relay on the card. In this event, there was team racing, not in relay form, but for the entire six miles. The official time released was 31.08.

Q. What would a runner have to turn each quarter in order to run a four-minute mile?

—Sgt. F. S.
A.—Track coaches differ on this question, but the most generally accepted answer is one offered by Col. A. N. S. Jackson, former great British runner. He offers a hypothetical four-minute mile schedule

as follows: 58 seconds for the first quarter, 62 seconds, 61 seconds and a 59-second final quarter.

Q. What position did Nick Drahos play for the Cornell football team and what did he weigh?

—Lt. Bob Frommert
A.—Drahos played tackle and weighed 210.

Q.—Who was the first to join the New York Yankees, Tommy Heinrich or Joe DiMaggio?

—Cpl. S. O.
A.—DiMaggio joined the Yankees in 1936, Heinrich the following year.

Q.—Where did Jack Johnson lose the heavyweight championship of the world?

—Pvt. G. H. M.
A.—Johnson was knocked out by Jess Willard in the 26th round, April 5, 1915, at Havana, Cuba.

Zone Swim Tournament Set For This Weekend

ROME, July 28—Fifth Army zone tankmen took final dips today in the huge indoor pool at Foro d'Italia for the championship water carnival to be held Sunday and Monday. Winners of the 14-event meet will represent the front-line boys in the theater finals scheduled for Rome in mid-August under the sponsorship of the N. S. Navy.

Topping a list of more than 60 entrants are a group of natators with exciting records. Pvt. Halo T. Hirose, a Hawaiian lad with an infantry division, was national AAU 100-meter champ in 1939 and a member of the All-American Relay team which competed in the Olympics at Berlin. Hirose is slated to compete in a number of events.

Lt. Col. William S. Hutchinson, former 200 meter champ at Lehigh University, is a well-known competitor in the States. In the long distance event, Pvt. Claude Johnson, of an infantry unit, has looked good in practice sessions. Johnson, a native of Ohio, has been recorded as having swum eight miles upstream in the Ohio River, doing the feat in seven hours and 40 minutes. On another occasion, they say, he swam the same river, one mile wide, with his hands tied behind his back.

Also rated high are Pfc. Harry C. Davidson, Westchester County, N. Y., 200 meter back stroke champion. Davidson's time of 2:24 for this event equals the best accepted American Swimming Association record as of 1940.

As an added attraction, officials have arranged an exhibition of log rolling by Pvt. Bob Teske, Stillwater, Minn. The 24-year-old athlete will perform between events on a log 18 feet long.

Officials for the meet include Lt. Col. Raymond J. Novotny, Capt. Frank Heath, Capt. Rowland C. Adams, S-Sgt. William R. Bennett and T-4 Carl Siczekowski.

Pro Fight Card

ROME, July 28—A five-bout professional boxing card will be offered to cash customers Sunday night at the Arena Quattr Fontane, formerly the Cinema Giardino, one and one-half blocks from the American Red Cross Theater. The main event features a pair of lightweights, Roberto Proietti and Mario Gualandri. The first bout starts at 6 PM.

Softball Eliminations To Start Wednesday

ROME, July 28—Softball managers, who have been clamoring for games, will probably find the answer to their pleas in the Fifth Army Zone softball championships scheduled to get under way next Wednesday. Eliminations will be held until Aug. 20.

All units, outside Corps and Divisions, who are part of the 5th Army or located in the Army zone are invited to participate and to send a representative to a meeting at the Army's Special Service Section office, Tuesday at 1100 hours. Corps and Divisions will hold their own eliminations slated to end Aug. 10.

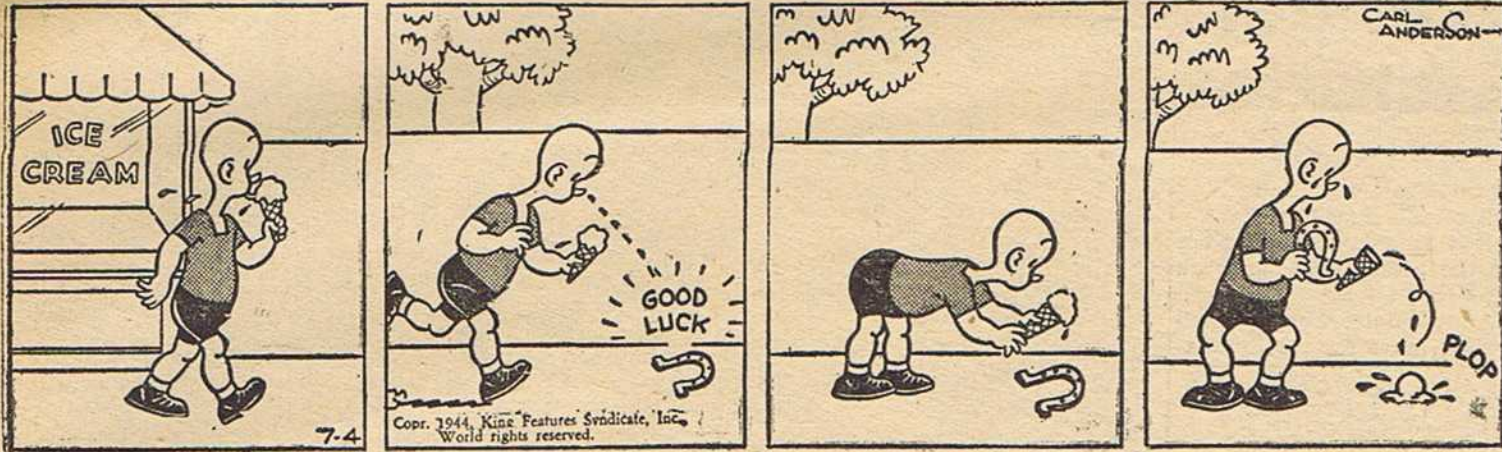
Fifth Army will sponsor a baseball tournament later in August. Entries may be submitted now. The deadline is Aug. 15.

If You Can Ride A Mule Why Not Join The Fun?

ROME, July 28—The Royal Army Veterinarian Corps is putting on a mule and horse racing program Sunday at 4 PM at the Passo Corese off Route 4. The mule races, of which there'll be four, are on an invitation basis and the Britishers are sort of hoping that some of our American cowboys will come around to help liven things up. Incidentally, Capt. Bruce Hobbs, who rode Battleship, the American horse which won the Grand National Aintree, England, in 1938, will ride in one of the two horse races on the program.

HENRY

(Courtesy of King Features)



By CARL ANDERSON

GI SHOFTALK

Army men who shoot crap are doing themselves a lot of good regardless of how they make out in a financial way, according to Dr. Charles H. Kauffman, Danbury, Conn. Doc Kauffman says that games and harmless fun are two of the most effective antidotes from fatigue caused by wartime worry and nervous strain. "Servicemen," he said, "recognize this perhaps better than anyone else. That's why dice games and sports are so popular among them. Such activities afford an excellent release from the constant nervous tension under which they live."

Recently announced production schedules call for 12 percent more tanks in 1945 than in 1944. In tonnage the increase will be even greater because most of the difference will be made up of more heavily armed and armored types. According to the War Department, arsenals called on to produce the extra tanks can do so without its affecting their production of other war materiel.

Barracks bag blues, an occupational disease caused by wrestling with two loaded bags (A and B) is on the way out, or so the War Department hopes. The Quartermaster Corps is now distributing a new improved duffle bag to overseas troops, one which has a third again as much space as the old bag. Its base is 12 and a half inches square and it stands about 37 inches high. It can be stored under a bunk or cot; one of the old-type bags can be carried inside it as a laundry container. Two-inch carrying straps of heavy webbing make it possible for the burdened GI to carry it either as a suitcase or over his shoulder like a golf bag. To make things perfect, the Army bought out half the production of the entire padlock industry, so that the bags could be fitted with snap closures and padlocks. But no one has figured out how to eliminate the barracks bag press.

The War Department announced today it will cease transmitting messages to theater commanders requesting that overseas soldiers be returned to the United States for family illness or other emergencies. The War Department said the ban was necessary because of the communications strain.

President Roosevelt has signed a bill making possible "an equitable use" of the profits accruing from the sale of ship's stores for the welfare and recreation of Naval officers. Those benefiting will be officers attached to ships and activities outside the continental United States. Officers attached to permanent shore installations will not benefit by the new law.

NANCY

(Courtesy of United Features)

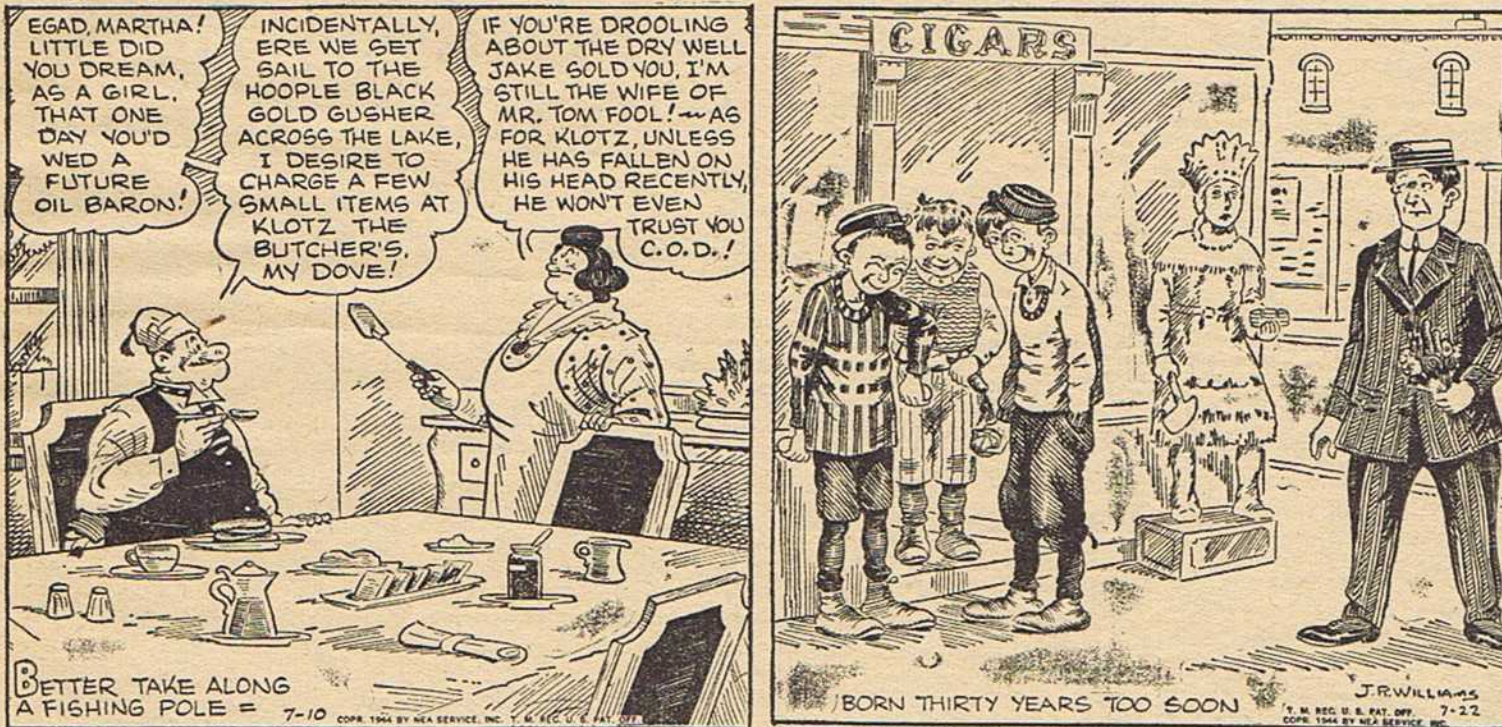
By BUSHMILLER



MAJOR HOOPLE

(Courtesy of NEA)

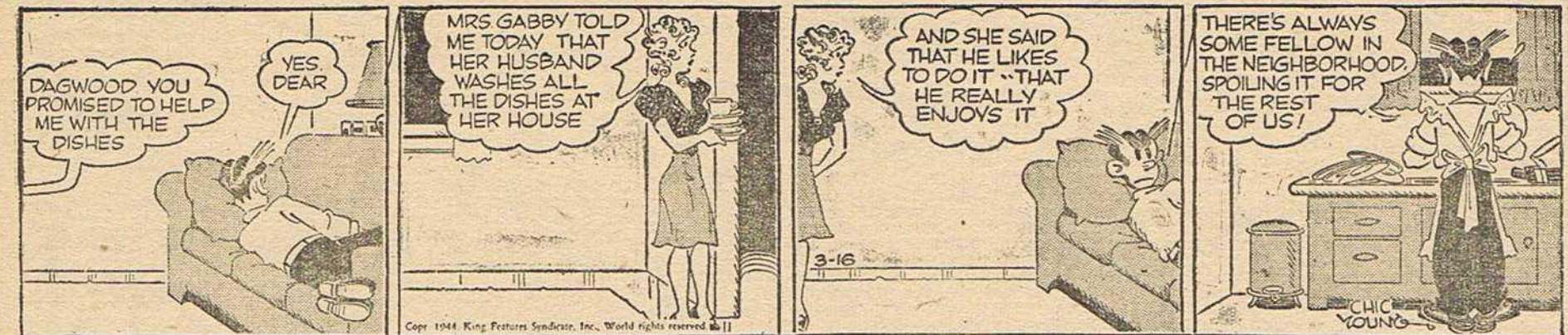
OUT OUR WAY (Courtesy of NEA) By WILLIAMS



BLONDIE

(Courtesy of King Features)

By CHIC YOUNG



MALE CALL

By MILT CANIFF



U.S. Orders Longer Hours In Factories

(Stars and Stripes U. S. Bureau)

WASHINGTON, July 28—The War Department, launching a victory production drive in its own establishment, yesterday announced that effective immediately a nine-hour day and a six-day week will be substituted for the present 48-hour week among the following departments:

All war plants operated by the Army Service Forces which are not on a three shift basis and which have an accumulation of unfinished work. In this category are 850,000 civilian employes and 425,000 military personnel.

Civilian and military personnel in three headquarters groups, Army Service Forces headquarters, Administrative and Technical Services headquarters, and headquarters of nine Service Commands. Some 40,000 civilians and 10,000 military personnel will be affected in this category, of which about 29 civilians and 6,000 military personnel are in Washington.

The announcement said that the longer working day will be maintained among affected personnel "until such time as conditions in theaters of operations and the status of the work load" will permit relaxation.

NO LEAVES

Under the order, leaves of absence will not be granted until further notice to military or civilian personnel except under exceptional circumstances. If the change results in surplus personnel, the order said, such personnel will be transferred promptly to other assignments where backlogs of work exist.

Civilians affected will receive overtime for work in excess of 40 hours per week. The Army said the longer work week is designed to "meet a critical situation in Army Service Forces arising from an accumulation of unfinished work." Presumably part of the accumulation stemmed from manpower shortages and part from increased requirements.

Some of the most critical shortages are in big guns, heavy artillery, ammunition and chemical warfare products.

This is clear that the order is geared to accelerate Allied offensives and designed to guarantee that forthcoming climactic drives will not be wanting for weapons.

Other developments in line with this aim included a cut in ice cream production still further on August 1. The War Food Administration announced yesterday that manufacturers will be limited to 65 percent of milk solids used in corresponding months of 1942. During the past few months the quotas were 75 percent. The further reduction reflects a seasonal decline in milk output.

LOW COST CLOTHES

The War Production Board, expanding its program to put more low cost clothes on the market, yesterday ordered that 50,000,000 yards of cotton fabrics be set aside for manufacture into low priced and moderately priced essential clothing.

Services and facilities in hotels were drastically slashed by the War Manpower Commission in an effort to divert labor to war industry.

Among the new regulations is one that limits bed linen to two changes weekly for guests other than those on a daily basis. Each guest may not receive more than two face towels and one bath towel daily. Another regulation reduces the room service staff to 50 percent of the number employed in 1941. Maid service is limited to a maximum of once each 24 hours, and changes of washable shower curtains are limited to one per week.

Byrnes Plans To Quit 'Assistant Presidency'

COLUMBIA, S. C., July 28 — James F. Byrnes, War Mobilization Director, will quit his job as "assistant President" at the end of the year and enter private law practice, it was stated today in the Columbia Record.

Byrnes, who withdrew as a candidate for the Vice Presidency at the Democratic National Convention, has not announced his future plans, but the newspaper said it had received its information from reliable sources. "Because of his loyalty to the President, Byrnes may decide to remain until the November election has been completed before leaving office," the paper said.

Heavies Again Pay Visit To Rumania

MAAF HEADQUARTERS, July 28—Italy-based American heavy bombers today made their 12th attack on the Ploesti area, bombing military installations by instrument through dense smoke screens and intense flak, it was announced late this afternoon. A 15th AAF fighter wing scored its 1,000th victory during the mission.

Another formation of Liberators today bombed the important Nazi railhead at Phlorina, Greece, at the Yugoslavian-Albanian border, and reported effective results.

The 1,000-foot steel Borgoforte bridge eight miles south of Mantua, and the Ceranesti span, ten miles northwest of Genoa were among the 11 northern Italy communications links splattered with bombs by the Tactical Air Force yesterday, while American heavy bombers were making their first attack on the Manfred Weiss armament plant just south of Budapest, Hungary.

It was an all-around successful day for Allied planes. In their 40-minute attack on the largest industrial complex in Hungary, the American Liberators and Flying Fortresses left very few buildings undamaged. They undoubtedly put a serious crimp in Germany's aluminum, small arms, ammunition and aircraft manufacturing facilities at the plant.

Large numbers of enemy planes attacked the Allied formations with rockets, and a few of the Allied victories were credited to the All-Negro Mustang group commanded by Col. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr. The day's score for all operations was 16 enemy shot down and 18 Allied ships missing.

KRAUT-CHASING

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at a minimum—a better than even chance of survival. All are included in this training—the infantrymen who will cross in the first waves, the engineers who will sweep the mines and build the bridges, the drivers who will bring up the supplies, the artillerymen who will support the advance. All will be ready when zero hour comes.

If the hills on the other side of the Arno seem green, however, the reason is evident. Every tree and bush along every road on our side long ago was coated with the thick, cream-colored dust which makes Tuscany resemble an attic unopened for a century. The enemy's territory, in comparison, seems as verdant as the green pastures.

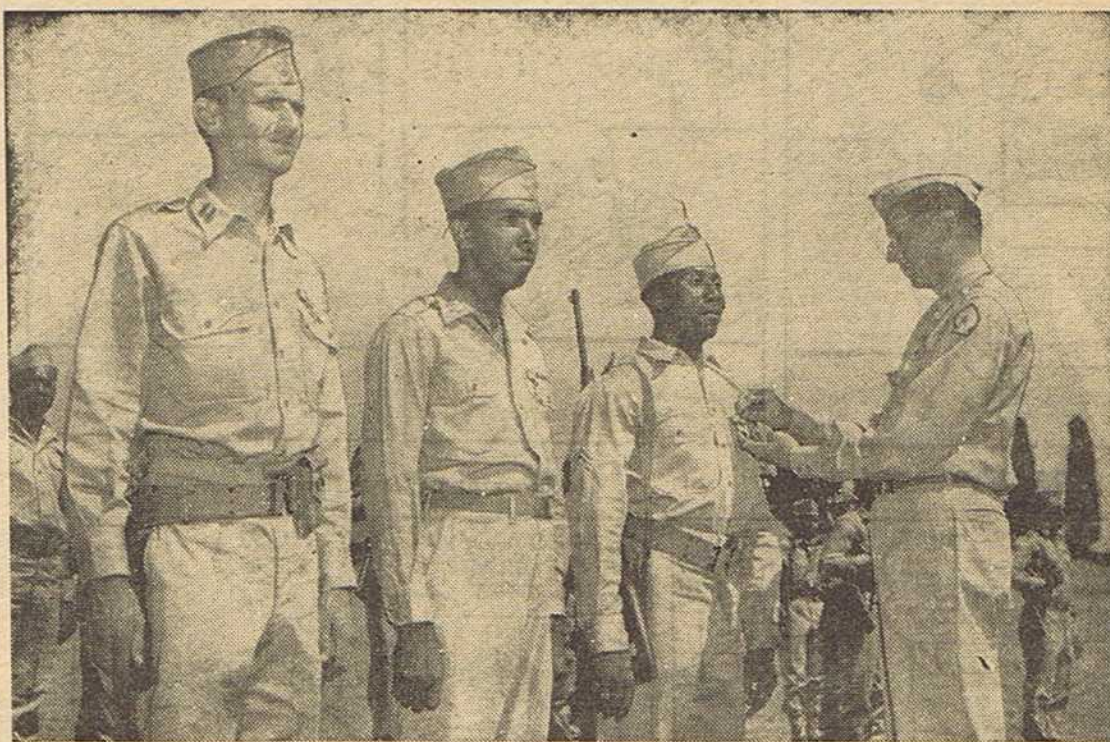
Besides, you can't blame the doughboys who have been straining their necks to see the top of Monte Pisano for hoping they'll soon be able to turn, look down and say, in the words of Sgt. Bill Mauldin's GI Joe, "here they wuz and there we wuz."

Voting Information

IN SPITE OF EFFORTS which have been made by Theater Headquarters to cover all detached units in connection with the administration of soldier voting, it is possible that some such units may inadvertently have been omitted and may not have received proper instruction in the procedures of soldier voting and distribution of postcard applications and other necessary balloting material. Commanders of any detached units not clearly under the supervision of higher headquarters should immediately get in touch with the Soldier Voting Officer of the Base Section in which their units are physically located. For the information of all concerned, the Soldier Voting Officers of the various Base Sections are as follows:

- PBS—Lt. Col. Charles H. Dobbs, Morale Services Section
- ABS—Maj. Neil E. Saling, G-1
- MBS—Col. John T. Taylor, Morale Services Section
- EBS—Maj. Emmet Kilpatrick, AG Section
- NORBS—Capt. Charles R. London, G-1
- CBS—Maj. Herbert J. Slingo, Hq. Comdt.

TRUCKERS CITED FOR HEROISM



CIVITAVECCHIA—Three members of a Quartermaster Truck Battalion—two of them a Negro chaplain and enlisted man—whose heroic action during a severe bombing and strafing attack last October 21 saved the lives of several comrades and prevented a fire from devastating their area, Thursday received the Silver Star at a formal military review. Col. Roger W. Whitman, New Britain, Conn., is shown pinning the medal on Capt. John W. Duffield, Brooklyn, Chaplain Thomas A. Jenkins, Charlotte, N. C., and Sgt. Charleston H. Neal, Bridgeton, N. J. (Staff Photo by Sgt. Grayson B. Tewksbury)

Rehearing Petition Filed For Bridges

SAN FRANCISCO, July 28—A petition for a rehearing of the Harry Bridges deportation proceedings was filed yesterday in the U. S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals by the West Coast labor leader.

Bridges' attorneys said in the petition that there was a lack of substantial evidence to support the recent three to two ruling by the Circuit Court against the labor official.

In its decision last month, the Circuit Court sustained the action of Federal District Judge Martin I. Walsh in denying Bridges a writ of habeas corpus to block the deportation order issued by Attorney General Francis Biddle.

The petition said, among other things, that Attorney General Biddle failed to permit briefs or arguments to be made to him before he overruled the unanimous decision of the Board of Immigration Appeals which had found for the union executive.

Bridges, a native of Australia, was charged in the immigration proceedings with having been a member of the Communist party which, it was alleged, advocated violent overthrow of the United States Government. The labor leader denied the charge.

Important Lorenzetti Discovered In Siena

ROME, July 28—Authorities of the Allied Control Commission, while removing for safe keeping a picture by Sodoma, 16th century painter, from the altar of San Agostino chapel in Siena, discovered an important fresco by Ambrogio Lorenzetti. The hitherto unknown fresco, representing the Madonna and child, was in excellent condition.

Japanese-American Unit Wins 5th Army Citation

WITH THE 5TH ARMY, July 28—The Japanese-American 100th Infantry Battalion, "for outstanding performance" which destroyed the left flank of a German defense position near Belvedere during June 26 and 27, yesterday was awarded a unit citation by Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark, commanding general of the 5th Army.

"All of you Americans of Japanese descent have a right to be proud," General Clark declared at the citation ceremony, "because you have demonstrated true American citizenship on the field of battle."

The 100th Infantry Battalion, formerly a National Guard unit in Hawaii, now under the command of Lt. Col. Gordon Singles, Denver,

has fought with the 5th Army from Salerno to Leghorn. It is now one of the battalions of the 442nd combat Team. The action which won the citation, during which the unit "reached the pinnacle of combat efficiency," occurred near Belvedere.

Required to neutralize a strong center of enemy resistance "without time for proper reconnaissance," the battalion launched an attack against a superior force of infantry and field artillery, the citation said.

"All three companies went into action, boldly facing murderous fire from all types of weapons and tanks and at times fighting without artillery support," until the enemy positions had been penetrated.

The battalion killed at least 173 Germans, captured 73 and forced the remainder of the disrupted enemy flank to surrender their ground.

More than 1,000 Purple Hearts, 44 Silver Stars, 31 Bronze Stars, nine DSCs, and three Legion of Merit medals have been awarded members of the 100th since it landed in Italy. Recently the 15th of battlefield commissions awarded to its enlisted men, all volunteer Americans of Japanese ancestry, was given to S-Sgt. Allan M. Ohata, Honolulu.

Lt. Yeiki Kobashigawa, one of the men to whom General Clark was to present the DSC, was in the hospital and could not attend the ceremony.

NEAR WARSAW

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capture of the three cities coincided with reports reaching neutral sources that the Nazi general had submitted his resignation to Adolf Hitler.

With Brest-Litovsk and Lwow eliminated as bastions holding up the Soviet drive to Warsaw and the borders of the Reich, powerful reinforcements were added to Marshal Rokossovsky's main assault on the Polish capital. At the same time, the fall of Bialystok increased the threat to East Prussia if Soviet commanders decide to push northwest from the captured city.

The main threat to Warsaw appeared to be developing from the southeast where Soviet spearheads pushed beyond captured Garbelin, less than 35 miles from their objective. Farther south, other Soviet armies smashed ahead from Stanislov and the Germans admitted officially that street fighting was raging in Przymysl, important rail junction only 120 miles from the big Polish city of Cracow and only 50 miles from the border of Czechoslovakia.

Thus in one week the Russians have driven almost 100 miles into Poland beyond the 1939 demarcation line into the valley formed by the Vistula and Bug Rivers, last natural barriers before Warsaw and the Reich itself.

VFW Chief Here

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, July 28—Carl J. Schoeniger, Detroit, Mich., Commander in Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, is making a tour of the Mediterranean theater at the invitation of President Roosevelt. It was announced today. Schoeniger intends to question front line troops, men in hospitals, air units and naval groups on their postwar desires.

INFESTED HILLS

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enemy-held Cerebala, despite very heavy enemy fire.

On Highway 2, armored units had entered the road junction town of San Casciano, a town of 14,200 just seven miles south of Florence. There was no opposition other than diabolical demolitions, but these delayed further progress. On the secondary highway from Greve to Florence, a few miles east of Highway 2, the advance troops were only two miles south of Strada in Chianti.

Troops operating on the northeastern side of the twisting Arno's valley, meanwhile, made limited advances to Panell against continued strong opposition. Undoubtedly the Germans were even more concerned with this sector where an Allied breakthrough would imperil Florence from the rear, and possibly speed the Gothic line issue.

The Krauts were making it extremely tough over all of the 30-odd mile stretch between the Arno and Tiber valleys northeast of Arezzo. However, the 8th Army today held Citerna and recaptured hill 347 from which Allied troops had been driven in a German counterattack Wednesday night.