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THE STARS AND STRIPES

MEDITERRANEAN

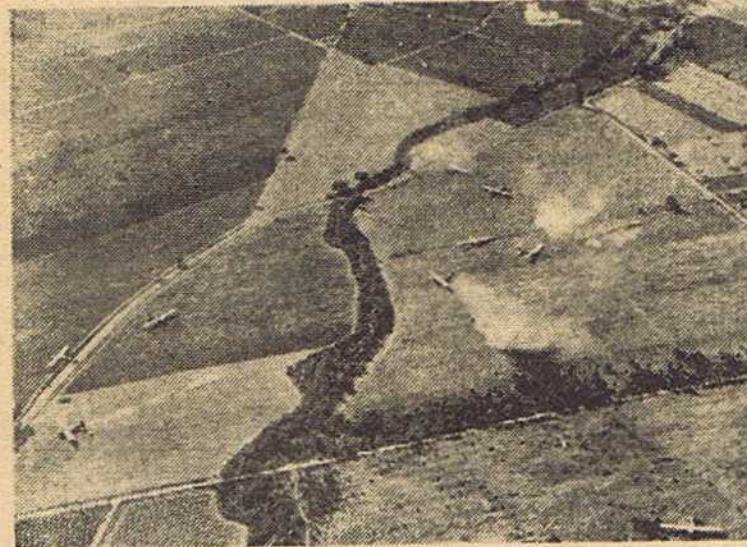
Vol. 1, No. 57, Wednesday, August 16, 1944

Printed in Italy

TWO LIRE

LANDINGS GOING WELL

FIRST INVASION PHOTOS



American airborne troops kneel in prayer beside their glider just before the actual takeoff. It wasn't long after that the gliders were kicking up dust as they landed on the farm lands of southern France early Tuesday morning.

(Photos by APS and Charles Seawood, Acme)

Paratroopers As Casual As If On Practice Jump

By Pvt. ED HOGAN
Staff Correspondent

AN ADVANCED TROOP CARRIER BASE IN ITALY (D-day)—It was past midnight and darker. The "Skin Hound" sat on the line waiting. Inside the U. S. paratroopers waited too. In a few hours they would make the second Allied invasion of France, only this time some distance inside the south coast.

The troopers were as casual as if they were taking a practice ride. It turned out just about the same way. It was a "milk run" with not the slightest bit of opposition. The battered Luftwaffe didn't produce a single plane and through the entire mission only three gun flashes were sighted. They may have been the vaunted 88s but no one seemed to know and cared less. Whatever they were, they weren't shooting at Uncle Sam's boys. Not a plane in the great formation suffered a scratch.

Troopers in the "Hound," second plane in the first wave carried by the troop carrier squadron, with their camouflage suits, chutes and arms, set off by macabre, looked like true men of Mars. They were loaded on the planes two hours before takeoff time and they didn't "sweat." They were carefree and happy, although tired. They had spent the day doing those last minute things paratroopers do, like breaking camp and getting ready to give Adolf another very large headache.

Cpl. Cameron Gauthier of Og-

densburg, N. Y., delivered a last mail call to his unit at 1920 hours. Then the boys received their pre-invasion treat—one precious bottle of beer.

Capt. Louis J. Vogel, Cullman, Ala., a field artillery battery CO, led the group in the "Hound." Vogel is a Missouri University School of Journalism graduate who "wrote very bad fiction" during the four months time between his matriculation and joining the army.

The captain was as unconcerned about the great invasion as his men and Capt. William H. Young, former detective sergeant in San Jose, Calif. Young, battalion S 3, used to manage prize fighters and to him the forthcoming pre-dawn descent wasn't as exciting as the time his lightweight, George Latka, battled Sammy Angott to a draw in San Francisco. Young, who fought under the name of Billy Ryan to pay his way through San Jose State College, said he'd be "surprised" if there was much opposition.

As time drew near for the "Hound" to deliver her cargo to France, the troopers checked for the last time on their assignments and made the final check of personnel. Included were Sgt. Harold E. Hand, Gillespie, Ill.; T-4 George Silberhan, Chicago, Ill.; Pfc. Norbert Bergstrom, Austin, Minn.; Corp. Curtis Lofstedt, Gresham, Ore.; Pfc. Charles Neilson, Butte,

(Continued on page 4)

Germans Regroup In Face Of Trap In Northern France

Nazi Stand Probably Averts Annihilation Of Kluge's 7th

AEF HEADQUARTERS, Aug. 15—The badly mauled German forces pocketed in Normandy were reported regrouping and stiffening their defenses late today against Allied troops who were battling to snap shut the narrowing escape route between Falaise and Argentan.

Allied pilots who yesterday wrecked hundreds of Nazi vehicles jamming the escape route roads today had a hard time finding targets. Correspondents said there was still a slight amount of road traffic but that it appeared to be part of a regrouping operation and not a further withdrawal.

Although the present German battle plan remained obscure, military observers said the determined Nazi stands at Falaise and Argentan had probably averted, momentarily at least, a complete annihilation of Marshal Guenther von Kluge's 7th Army.

The escape gap still remained in danger of being entirely cut off today, but no specific Allied advances were announced in the sector since the relatively small gains early today.

German ground forces were still wide open to the attacks of Allied planes which yesterday flew 6,000 sorties, destroying 76 locomotives, 500 boxcars and 252 trucks.

Reuter's quoted General Dwight D. Eisenhower as saying that the Germans were "taking a good beating but anyone who attempts to measure in weeks the duration of the war is basing his belief on hunches and wishful thinking, not logic."

If the Allied forces in northwestern France have begun a major drive toward a junction with the new Allied landings in south France, there had been no word of it up until late today.

On the Brittany Peninsula, where elements of three German divisions were surrounded, Americans captured an important road junction near St. Malo, although enemy resistance at St. Malo, Lorient and Brest continued.

Jeep On A French Road Shows Invasion Success

By Cpl. JOHN S. RADOSTA
Staff Correspondent

WITH THE TROOP CARRIER COMMAND, Aug. 15—The hills and fields of the Provençal countryside were studded with thousands of parachutes and the first gliders had already landed when our B-25 Mitchell came over, but the most unmistakable sign that the Yanks had the situation in hand was the familiar jeep tooling its way along a narrow dirt road.

The jeep was symbolic of the success of the airborne phase of this morning's invasion. Thousands of the troops who stormed into southern France were taken there by the USAAF's Troop Carrier Command in a gigantic and minutely-planned operation.

The exact numbers of men and planes cannot be revealed now, but you get some idea of the size of the job from the fact that one of the glider trains which ferried the troops across the Tyrrhenian took 58 minutes to pass a given point. Another took 45 minutes. The first parachutists cascaded

Americans, French Capture Cap Negre

By Sgt. DON WILLIAMS
Staff Correspondent

ADVANCED ALLIED FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Aug. 15—Capture of Cap Negre on the mainland of southern France about 24 miles east of the great naval port of Toulon and the islands of Port Cros and Levant to the south by American and French troops was announced tonight in a special communique.

An earlier communique had announced that American, British and French troops who landed along the French Riviera this morning were proceeding successfully according to schedule against only light ground resistance and no air opposition.

Tonight it was announced that substantial numbers of Allied troops, together with guns, munitions and supplies had been landed in the invasion area between Toulon and Cannes by dark. The beachheads were said to have been extended and widened, since the initial landings early this morning.

Some of the high ground to the rear of the beaches was reported in Allied hands and enemy opposition remained sporadic. No enemy air attacks had occurred by nightfall.

Cap Negre and the Port Cros and Levant islands were taken before dawn by the Yanks and Pollus landed from American, British and Royal Canadian ships. Two enemy ships were sunk during the operation and prisoners were taken.

The operations on the beaches were said to be proceeding satisfactorily and the Navy's task of landing troops, stores and equipment continued without interruption. Some convoys already had made their second trip to the assault areas.

No Allied estimates have been given as to the numbers of troops that have been put ashore.

Heavy bombers of the 15th AAF, escorted by fighters, continued to give direct support to the Allied landings this afternoon by bombing five highway bridges crossing the Rhone River between Valence and Avignon which might have been used by the Nazis to rush reinforcements to the threatened area.

One formation of Liberators struck at enemy installations on the beaches and the beach road leading to Frejus, near the mouth of the Argens River, some 50 miles east of Toulon.

Early reports of the assaults on the bridges indicated generally good results at all targets. The heavies striking at the beach objectives encountered neither flak nor enemy aircraft and crewmen reported that the targets were well hit.

That little or no opposition was being given to the great amphibious operation was first reported by observers who accompanied the paratroopers and glider-borne forces to the beachheads or who flew over the beaches shortly after the landings had been first effected.

Tons of leaflets bearing instructions to the French Forces of the Interior and providing safe conduct for enemy soldiers wishing to surrender were scattered.

(Continued on page 4)

Churchill Sees Troops Take Off For Invasion

ROME, Aug. 15—Prime Minister Winston Churchill visited Allied troops shortly before the men took off in the great assault against Hitler's 'soft underbelly.' It was revealed today as the tight lid which has been clamped on the Prime Minister's Italian trip was slightly lifted.

Mr. Churchill, in addition to bidding the liberators bon voyage, has held a conference with Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia, Harold MacMillan, British Political Adviser to the Allied Supreme Command, stated at a press conference. Mr. MacMillan said the Prime Minister had made few specific plans because of the unpredictable military situation.

(Continued on page 4)

THE STARS AND STRIPES (Mediterranean)

Daily newspaper of the U. S. Armed Forces published Mondays through Saturdays for troops in Italy.

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MAIL CALL

Baths

Dear Editor:
As Sergeant-Major of an Infantry Battalion, I wish to write a reply to a letter in Mail Call of August 8 in regard to the service rendered by QM Bath Units. Being in a pretty good position to hear a lot of gripes, I have yet to hear a single gripe from a combat soldier in regard to this service. We all think these boys are doing a swell job and don't intend to gripe about it. We realize this QM corporal must have a pretty rough time of it and probably goes a couple of days without a bath; however, does he realize that these boys are servicing hundreds of combat soldiers every day who have been living in foxholes for weeks without a bath and when they do get a shower and clean clothes, they realize what a swell job these QM boys are doing. Maybe if the corporal had to go for two or three weeks without a bath, he would be able to get to one of these showers at some decent hour other than chow time.
Even if they are behind the lines, they still have to eat, you know. We think they are doing a swell job and appreciate every bit of it.
—S-Sgt. Joseph M. Byrd

High Prices

Dear Editor:
There hasn't been much comment in The Stars and Stripes about the question of prices of articles and souvenirs in Rome, but we would like to present a few facts on the case.
While in Rome several weeks ago we were shopping for some souvenirs when we noticed a pair of second-hand binoculars in the window of a shop on one of the main streets. We inquired about the price. It was set at 70 dollars. A cheap American camera (usually worth from five to ten dollars in the States) was selling for 125 dollars. Sometime later we took films to a photographic shop to be developed and printed. We had some work done there before and were well satisfied, but this time they wanted three times as much. In other words, a print of a 4 x 6 negative was 30 cents as compared to the previous price of ten cents. We asked about the increase in price and were told that an agreement had been made to the effect and were also shown a list of the set prices.
Our question is: Do the Allied officials have any control over the foolish prices being asked by the merchants of Rome? If there was

an agreement, with whom was it made?

We realize that souvenirs are not necessary. Yet we do have someone to remember at home. Some men who have dependents at home make allotments, bonds and insurance, and they don't have much money to spend.

Recently a GI friend of ours who speaks Italian overheard two Italian women talking. They were commenting on how the retail shops were overcharging the soldiers for their wares. Our friend gave them our opinion and they quite agreed. We know that the overcharging is deliberate and not a result of shortage of materials or the rising cost of living.

It is apparent that we are being "taken" by people who want to get rich overnight.

—Sgt. J. E. Murdock
S-Sgt. J. E. Gilles
Cpl. H. B. Herms

Economic Security

Dear Editor:
It does not require oracular power to foresee that unless some completely workable solution is devised, the domestic chaos following victory will be without precedent. Veterans organizations, legislative committees, governmental agencies, and civic groups are devoting their best efforts to guarantee that employment and financial security be obtained for the veteran. The problem does not end there, however, for there is a part which we must play.

It would be advisable for us to determine what steps are being taken by our local communities and former employers to prepare for our return. We are entitled to this information, and if no preparatory steps are being taken, it is our right to demand an explanation.

Over and above this, we should decide what type of work we want to do on our return to civilian life and to equip ourselves for it.

—Pvt. Joseph R. Maher

Raincoats

Dear Editor:
We all know by now that the Armed Forces issue two different sizes in the clothing: either too long or too short. One thing of issue that would be a lot better if it was longer is the raincoat. I firmly believe if the raincoats were made about five to ten inches longer, we could at least keep the water out of our shoes.

—Pvt. Edward F. Fitz

WHEN IN ROME

Today

STAGE

Eliseo Theater, Via Nazionale. Special Services presents "Over 21." Broadway stage hit authored by Ruth Gordon and screen luminaries that includes Erin O'Brien Moore, Philip Ober, Vivian Vance, Judson Laire, Robert Allen, Adele Loggins and Harry Bellaver. Curtain time, 7 PM. Matinee today and Saturday at 2:00 PM. Admission free.

ENSA's Argentina Theater. Largo Argentina, tonight at 8:30 PM, a new revue: "Johnny Get Your Gun," featuring the Radio Three.

SCREEN

ARC Movie House: Barberini. Piazza Barberini, 3:00, 5:00, 7:00 PM. "Rise and Shine," with Jack Oakie and Linda Darnell. Today and Thursday. Admission free.

Tickets for British soldiers may be obtained at the information desk. Alexander Club, Via Twenty September.

ENSA Supercinema, Via Nazionale and Via Agostino Depretis. "Buffalo Bill" in technicolor, starring Joel McCrea, Maureen O'Hara and Linda Darnell. Continuous from noon. Last showing 8:00 PM. Admission free.

VARIETY

"Welcome," featuring Chiaretta Gelli, Italian film star, with supporting cast. 4:30 PM. All seats 25 lire. Arena Esedra, behind NAAFI-EFI Canteen.

"Just The Job," Musical show. Sala Umberto, Via Della Mercedes. Daily 10 AM to 2:00 PM. 35 lire.

"Cocktail For All," Teatro Galleria, opp. YMCA, daily 4:30 to 10:30 PM. 35 lire.

OPERA

Tonight, "Rigoletto." Curtain time, 5:30 PM. Thursday, August 17, "Mephistopheles." Friday, August 18, "Pagliacci," and ballet "Coppelia." Sunday, August 20, "Aida." Tickets from 25 to 300 lire, obtainable at box office, open daily 9:30 AM to 6 PM.

CLUBS

Visit the ARC EM Club, Cassino della Rose. Conducted tours at 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM plus daily activities. 7 PM—"Nervous in the Service," mad musical extravaganza, produced by 60th T. C. GP.—last show today.

ARC Officers' Club, Hotel Barberini, Piazza Barberini.

British Officers' Club, "Trocadero," Villa Medici.

Catholic Club for Allied forces; Via della Conciliazione. Tours of Vatican and Rome daily.

Jewish Soldiers' Club, 37, Piazza Poli, Via del Tritone.

Polish Club, open 1:00 PM to 9:00 PM, 235 Via Panisperna.

RESTAURANTS

GI Restaurants open 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM; 6:00 to 10:30 PM.

Ristorante Roma, 38 Piazza Poli. Ristorante Amedeo, 17-19 Via Fabio Massimo.

Restaurant for American Officers, Nurses and uniformed guests; open 7 Via Parma.

Ristorante San Carlo, 130 Corso Umberto

Air Forces Rest Camp Restaurant—Largo Teatro Valle, 11:00 AM to 7:30 PM.



By Sgt. RALPH G. MARTIN
Staff Correspondent

EL DORADO, Kan.—Thirty years ago, this was America's biggest boomtown; now the boom is just a whisper.

It's a whisper of the good old days when men used suitcases for wallets and every farmer was a potential millionaire and railroads ran special trains for celebrities and sightseers who just wanted to see what an oil gusher looked like. It's a whisper of a wide place in the road that swelled into a town of 17,500 people within a year because a man named John Stapleton dug a well and struck oil on Oct. 6, 1915.

Two year later, "The Kingdom of Butler," of which El Dorado was county seat, had 3,500 wells turning out almost 29,000,000 barrels of oil a year worth 63,000,000 dollars. That was one-twelfth of America's total oil production.

"Money didn't mean a damn thing in those days," said R. E. Clymer, expertly scoring a direct hit with some tobacco juice in a not-so-near spittoon. "I remember one man who opened his wallet on the street and dropped a five dollar bill and he didn't even bother to pick it up; he just kicked it aside. And he wasn't drunk either. The whole town was like that."

Wells Go Dry . . .

But the town changed. One by one the oil wells dried up and other towns in Oklahoma and Texas struck bigger bonanzas and El Dorado took a back seat in the show.

There are still plenty of oil wells in the county—about a thousand of them—but their total production is a daily dribble of 12,000 barrels, compared to yesteryear's 100,000. And the trend is downward.

That's why the town's tone has changed. Anytime along the street you can bump into more men smelling of cattle than those grimy with oil. And if you close your eyes in a restaurant and perk your ears, the best talk you hear is no longer about "black gold"; it's about Bluestem grass.

Because Bluestem (Andropogon furcatus) which cuts a broad swath all through the 42-mile-long county, is filled with 14 percent proteins and fattens cattle faster than any grass known. Sprouting out of the brown-black soil in the rich limestone near the rolling Flint Hills, Bluestem grass not only feeds Butler County's own 77,000 cattle, but it also fattens huge herds coming all the way from deep Texas just to wallow in it.

Every local cattleman is proud of the fact that Zata and Iza Rupert, brother and sister, who were raised on Bluestem, won first prize as the champion bull and cow in the American Royal and International Exposition. Zata and Iza belonged to Robert Hazlett, El Dorado's pride and joy millionaire cattle breeder. Before Hazlett died, his herd of purebred Herefords was generally acknowledged as one of the finest in the world. Now Hazlett's herd, like the town's oil, is rapidly disappearing.

Not Worried . . .

All this doesn't seem to disturb the hand-shaking, fast-talking local Chamber of Commerce boys who emphasized that there are still two big oil refineries in town which expect to grow still bigger after the war; that the town is picking up a lot of nearby Wichita's two-billion dollar war prosperity because hundreds of Wichita workers, unable to find apartments there, have moved to El Dorado and commute daily.

If you tell this to the farmer in the neat white house not too far from the main highway, two miles from town, he'll tell you just what he told me.

He'll tell you that some towns were built all set to bust out and become bigtime industrial centers, but not El Dorado. El Dorado is just a little town of 8,000 now, nice and peaceful and normal. It's got lots of rich dark earth and good cattle and friendly people and they'd like to keep it that way. The town wants to grow by having kids, not by building more refineries and bringing in more workers.

"We're just plain folks. We like it the way it is now. No more booms," they say.

UP FRONT . . .

By Mauldin



"Try to say sumpin' funny, Joe."
(Reprinted From Tuesday's Extra)

French Paratroops Want Chance To Get At Nazis

By Sgt. JACK RAYMOND
Staff Correspondent

ROME, Aug. 15—In words as is a shame. That must not be mingled with emotion as in language, four French paratroopers—speaking a mixture of French and Italian for the benefit of an American interviewer—declared today that, sure they were happy to hear the news of invasion but they certainly hoped the war wouldn't be over before they got their chance to fight the Nazis.

Each of them has been in the Army at least two years, and George Blancq, has fought the Germans before. He was in the French artillery after he enlisted in Dec., 1939 and saw action against the then-mighty German forces at Soissons. Each of them has his entire family in France. And each agreed as Blancq said vehemently: "It is a shame that we are not in France today, that we did not make this landing. We see that Americans and British were in the invasion forces, and here we walk the streets of Rome. Bah! It is a shame!"

"DeGaulle promised us, indeed asked us to fight hard against the Germans," said Jean Chapus. "We ask for nothing but the opportunity. And now we find others are doing our work."

The four comrades agreed with vigorous assent, and when someone slyly began to suggest that perhaps this would save them from being in dangerous combat—

"No!" shouted Blancq. "No! That

George has had many experiences, even more difficult than ours," explained Raymond Girard. "If you could only know what he did to escape to Morocco and offer to fight again, you would not say this."

They then dropped the subject fast.

A group of American GIs took the news with a rather calm elation. Invasions were a good thing, they felt if people didn't get killed. And this one seemed to be going all right. This one, too, seemed to bring closer the end of the war.

"I'm betting the war will be over before the next election," said John A. Gaskins, Vanceboro, N. C., a 5th Army MP who had made the landings at Salerno and worked his way up past Rome.

"So am I," added Pfc. Fred Stanberry, Greenup, Ill., a member of his outfit.

Cpl. Joe Tew, Thomasville, N. C., of the 34th Division, was not so optimistic.

"I won't make any guess like that. And that's all it is, it's a guess. Hell, those Germans know how to fight plenty hard and could probably hold us through 1945 if they want to continue fighting."

Puptent Poets

Ah, Sweet Mistery

I wonder if she's settin' home a-waltin'
Or ef she's out a-gaddin' and a-datin',
My morale will go to ruin,
Less'n I know what she's doin',
And I can't stop this idle speculation'

I'd like to git me shet of all this doubtin'
And learn ef our true love she's been a-floutin'.
Ef that wench of mine back yonder Is a-fixin' now to wander
I jist can't shut my mouth an' set here poutin'

My cotton-pickin' haid I been a-wrackin'
Because this information I been lackin'
Ef I only knew it surely
That our love she's treatin' poorly
I wouldn't feel so guilty 'bout my shackin'.

—T-3 Hal Brandels

All This And . . .

I can tell what she is thinkin'
Just by looking in her eyes;
She doesn't know the trick of winkin'
Although she's very wise.
So I must say, "Goodbye, my sweet."
And hope in heaven we might meet
For if I stay, I know I'll fail
And may lose heaven after all.

—Cpl. Cleatis A. Ryman

Jolly Dead

When I, with the limp, still-warm dead,
Face an eternity of peace ahead,
I would say to those who've cried
Because they found a friend had died,
"You'll never find the dead forlorn,
Unless fate decrees they be reborn,
For new-made babes, flushed red with life,
Begin an interlude of grief and strife."

—Cpl. Anthony Carlin

Heading For A Landing Isn't Like In The Films

By Sgt. STAN SWINTON
Staff Correspondent

ABOARD AN INVASION CRAFT AT SEA, Aug. 12 (Delayed)—Don't worry about these Yanks. They've got it made.

The hours before D-day are racing away but nobody is worried. They've done it before—some of them three times—and they know they can do it again.

Sky-high morale is a school book phrase but if you want to see what it means look around the cluttered top deck of this invasion craft. Look at that artilleryman reading a three-month-old "American" in the front of his gear-packed jeep, at the shirtless quartet playing pinochle atop the square ventilator on the starboard side, or at the signalmen listening to "Two On An Island" over the receiver on their car.

They know that ahead of them lies the toughest task of warfare: an amphibious assault. They don't talk about it. In a week, the battle ahead has been mentioned just twice around here.

Once a Protestant Chaplain talked about it. At ship services he told them he knew they were confident and that the men on the just side went into battle with God-given strength that the Krauts couldn't match. His words struck no overt response in the sailors in their faded denims and the shirtless GIs. They clustered around him on the deck, but said little.

The other time was one night when a miserable drizzle sifted down on the deck, soaking the blankets of restless men.

"You know," whispered T-Sgt. Forrest Munson, Oklahoma City, "I wish the folks back home could see these guys. Nobody's worried."

They know they can do it. They've gotten through before and they know getting excited won't help. They're pretty wonderful and yet you couldn't say a damn word about it to them without getting your ears pinned back. They've had the training and the battles and now they've got the confidence and the ability. I guess that's what morale is—knowing that you can take what's ahead and come out on top.

He was silent for a moment. Then he went on: "This is one of those things you'll never talk about afterwards, like when a pal gets hit. People at home think that before H-hour you chain-smoke cigarettes and make noble statements like in the movies. Hell no. They've just got it and they know it and the Krauts will damn soon know it, too."

The sailors are sweating it out a little more. This is the first pay run for all but one or two of them on this ship. The GIs feed them battle stories, as GIs always do to sailors, and they soak them up. But basically it's the same with all of them. From officers to the Black Gang's quarters, the sailors and the GIs are ready, so why talk about it.

Stubborn Strikers Lose Transit Jobs

By Army News Service

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 15—Four employees of the Philadelphia Transportation Company were discharged today for failure to obey the Army's order to return to work last Monday when service was resumed over the lines after the six-day strike, the Associated Press reported.

Maj. Gen. Philip Hayes, the War Department's representative in operating the government-seized lines, said the four are in addition to the four discharged leaders who are scheduled for hearings today before U. S. Commissioner Norman Griffin on charges of violating the Smith-Connally Act.

General Hayes said the board of three officers sat for four days to hear reasons why 191 employees failed to report for work last Monday in accordance with the Army directive. The General said, "I will not hesitate for one instant to impose the full sanctions of the law upon anyone who had intentionally disobeyed my order."

Home Folks Can't Buy That Auto Right Away

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15—Civilians should not expect to return to peacetime automobile driving conditions when Germany is defeated, high government official said today.

Based on the "very safe" assumption the major forces would be moved to the Pacific at the close of the war in Europe there "certainly will be relatively little relaxation if any in gasoline rationing restrictions for quite a few months," he said.

Another N. J. Fire Sweeps Palisades, Throngs Stampede

Stars and Stripes U. S. Bureau

NEW YORK, Aug. 15—The metropolitan area today was zealous in its fire precaution measures following three major blazes in as many days which struck two famous parks and wiped out one of Hoboken's docks.

Nearby Wildwood, N. J., also had a weekend blaze bringing total fire damage up to an estimated six million dollars. Despite the rapid race of the flames throughout Coney Island's Luna Park amusement section on Saturday and the same type of fire yesterday at the equally famous Palisades amusement section, overlooking the Hudson River, there were no reported deaths from either of these conflagrations. Three men were reported to have died in the Friday night fire at Pier 4, Hoboken, which also destroyed war supplies valued at over four million dollars.

The fire at Wildwood burned down a block of buildings and damaged the boardwalk.

Causes of the three New York fires were described as follows:

1. Hoboken pier—explosion of a 50-gallon drum of nitrocellulose, a highly inflammable ingredient of smokeless powder. The explosion was heard in Manhattan and sounded just like the barking of ack-ack guns opening up against German raiders.

2. Luna park—short circuit in the tool room.

3. Palisades Park—short circuit in wiring in the Virginia Reel's tinderdry planking.

Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, famed as a fire chaser, attended both the Hoboken and Luna Park blazes, but other commitments kept him away from the Palisades which newsmen described as the most spectacular.

The fire spread so quickly through the flimsy towering ride devices and small concessions that one fire-truck itself was damaged by the flames. The heat was so fierce firemen were forced to jump into a swimming pool and fight from there.

Just in front of the Virginia Reel where the Palisades fire started was a stand where birds were sold at prices of three to five dollars each. As the flames soared a woman screamed "Save the birds!"

Before the proprietor could make a move persons began grabbing cages and running.

"Bring them back," shouted the proprietor desperately. "You can have them for one dollar."

Censorship Violation Nets Woman 10 Years

NEW YORK, Aug. 15 (ANS)—Mrs. Velva Dickinson, 50-year-old proprietor of a doll shop, was sentenced to ten years imprisonment and fined 10,000 dollars today on her guilty plea to a charge of violating the federal censorship law.

The sentence, the maximum, was imposed by Federal Judge Schackelford Miller, Jr. after U. S. Attorney James B. McNally described Mrs. Dickinson in court as "the woman who sold her country to the Japs for money."

Mrs. Dickinson, who made an impassioned plea for clemency, admitted associating with Japanese agents in this country but said an agreement to send Japan information about West Coast naval activities had been made by her husband. The government charged Mrs. Dickinson was instrumental in sending restricted information to Tokio by way of Argentina.

Hatch Says Republicans 'Control' Vote In Senate

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 (ANS)—The substitution of the "States' rights" George Bill for the Murray-Kilgore Bill which would have set up Federal standards of postwar unemployment compensation was attributed by Sen. Carl Hatch (D., N. M.), to "Republican control" of the Senate, according to the Associated Press.

"I have no hesitation in saying the Republican minority aided by certain elements of the Democratic party actually has been in control of the Senate for two years," Hatch declared, while others weighed the possible effect of the Senate's action on future legislation.

Pugilistic Basketball Proves 'Delightful'

STATE COLLEGE, Pa., Aug. 15. (ANS)—There's a delightful new game being played by Navy and Marine trainees at Penn State these days, an unnamed combination of basketball and boxing.

The boys go on the court wearing 16-ounce gloves and anyone displaying the temerity of dribble or shoot a basket gets himself playfully belted on the jaw.

Lt. Harry Light, former William and Mary athlete, now V-12 physical director here, says the new game teaches a man "to take a punch in the mouth."

It must also teach him not to play much basketball.

Red Sox Cut Down Browns' League Lead

By Army News Service

NEW YORK, Aug. 15—The Red Sox reduced the Browns' American League lead to five and a half games Monday, beating Luke Sewell's league leaders, 5-1, behind the four-hit pitching of Emmett O'Neill.

Boston clinched the ball game in the sixth when George Metkovich, Pete Fox, Bobby Doerr, Jim Tabor and Tom McBride singled for three runs. Metkovich added his fifth homer in the seventh with Leon Culberson aboard for the other two markers.

O'Neill lost his shutout in the ninth when George McQuinn doubled, took third on a wild pitch and scored on Vern Stephens' single. Denny Galehouse stayed around until the eighth and was the loser, yielding 12 hits during his stay on the mound.

The Yankees also' picked up a game on St. Louis, nosing out the White Sox at the Stadium, 2-1, when Johnny Lindell talked on a wild throw in the 13th. Ernie Bonham went all the way to gain his ninth win.

In the National League, Bucky Walters notched his 17th win of the season as the Reds downed the Giants, 6-3. Bucky also was a mighty man at the plate, getting two singles and batting in two runs.

Pittsburgh took two games from Boston, annexing a suspended game of July 2, 7-6, in 12 innings and the regular game, 5-0, with Preacher Roe twirling a neat two-hitter.

The Phillies ran their current winning streak to four straight, knocking off the Cubs, 6-1.

CHICAGO, Aug. 15 (ANS)—Although Rube Melton was fined 100 dollars the other day by manager Leo Durocher for missing the bus to Great Lakes, where the Dodgers played an exhibition game with the sailors, he wasn't the only Dodger who failed to make the trip. The other one who was not fined was—guess who—Leo Durocher.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 15 (ANS)—Billy Southworth, manager of the St. Louis Cardinals, has signed a contract to continue as pilot of the Redbirds through the 1945 and 1946 seasons. Southworth's signing at this time sets two Cardinal precedents. He's the first manager ever given a two-year document by Sam Breadon and the first manager signed this early in the season. Terms of the contract, as usual, were undisclosed.

Sprained Ankle Prevents Off From Rejoining Club

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 15 (ANS)—Melvin Ott, Giants manager who sprained his ankle two weeks ago suffered a recurrence of the injury over the weekend and will be lost to the club for another ten days.

His ankle was feeling all right a couple of days ago so Ott went into the outfield to snag a few flies. He went after a long one and after a few steps running hard he felt the same pain again and was ordered to rest for another ten days. He had previously taken batting practice and was preparing to return to the Giants lineup.

Getting Ready

CHICAGO, Aug. 15—The Chicago Bears, National Football League champions, have gone to Collegeville, Ind., where they will train for the annual All-Star game Aug. 30 at Evanston, Ill. Hunk Anderson, Luke Johnson and Paddy Driscoll are in charge of the Bears.

Princeton Gives Up Sport Competition In Varsity Leagues

PRINCETON, N. J., Aug. 15 (ANS)—Princeton University will abandon all intercollegiate league competition, it was announced last night by Dr. Harold W. Dodds, president of the University.

Princeton will retain membership in various intercollegiate associations, it was declared, but would not participate in league competitions. Instead provisions have been made for an intensification of the school's intramural program of athletics.

It was pointed out that informal teams in ten sports will be maintained and allowed to participate against other schools.

The action, which came as no surprise according to many well-informed sports enthusiasts, will affect the Tigers' participation in the eastern college baseball, basketball, swimming, soccer and tennis leagues.

Informal intercollegiate teams, it was revealed, will be maintained in baseball, basketball, cross country, football, lacrosse, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and wrestling.

NAD Swimmers Aim To Score In Big Meet

By a Staff Correspondent

U. S. ARMY REST CENTER, Aug. 15—Twenty Frenchmen, including a water polo team; three Americans and one British veteran will represent North Africa District in the Allied Swimming Championships this weekend. The NAD boys aren't counting on duplicating their team success of the track championships last month, but they do think well of their prospects in the 100-meter freestyle, the relays and breaststroke.

Their 100-meter hopeful is George Bobcoff, champion of North Africa and former junior titleholder of France. Zizi Taleb, one of three Frenchmen from Tunis to qualify on the NAD squad, was breaststroke king of France in 1934 and still can display plenty of speed.

The French have been working out several days, but the three American members of the NAD team remain among the missing. They are C-S Fred Bassett, former New York A. C. star who won the 800, 1,500 and 5,000-meter free style events in Algiers, and two fancy divers. The lone Britisher is Capt. Freddie Milton, London. A competitor in the Berlin Olympics, Capt. Milton finished second to Bassett in all three distance races.

All Star Football Team Practices For Chicago

EVANSTON, Ill., Aug. 15 (ANS)—Lynn Waldorf, Northwestern's football coach who is handling this year's college All-Star team for its game Aug. 30 against the Chicago Bears, put his squad through its second practice session Monday and announced three lineup changes.

Loren Laprax, Stanford guard, was moved to center; Ensign Meredith Cushing, captain and center on last year's Cornell team was made a blocking back and Bob Ravensberg, Indiana guard, was moved to end.

Waldorf stressed punting and passing in the morning session and fundamentals in the afternoon.

Meanwhile at Collegeville, Ind., the Bears were working off excess suet on the tackling dummies. Scrimmage work will be postponed until the rookies assimilate the T-formation.

Want To Spar With Joe? Time To Send In Your Bid

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY, Aug. 15—Boxers who wish to spar with Joe Louis when the heavyweight champ visits this area should send in their applications to Lt. Michael Kosteva, Fifth Army athletic officer, APO 464. Successful applicants will be allowed to train at the 5th Army Boxing Center which opens Aug. 20 and closes Sept. 15. Fifth Army's Zone Boxing Tourney has been set back to Nov. 1-8.

The 5th Army Zone Softball semifinals and finals will be held Aug. 16th and 18th. The first round will be played by teams representing 5th Army troops, corps and divisions.

LOST AND FOUND

FOUND
Dog tags with a four-leaf clover attached. Property of Donald I. Wakefield.
Driver's license with photos and notebook. T-4 William D. Banovetz.
LOST
Nurse shoulder purse, containing a black wallet identification cards, AGO cards, Geneva RC card and a pair of glasses in a brown case. Lt. Mary G. Lowrance, ANC.
English brown wallet, containing photos and other papers. Pvt. Carl Anderson.
French type wallet, containing "Short-Snorter" bills totaling several hundred dollars along with other valuable articles. 5th Army Rest Center. Pfc. Leslie N. Ewing, Jr.
Taken from a pair of pants in the AAF Rest Center shower, 90 dollars, plus keys and driver's license. Pfc. Edward B. Tierney.
Left in an ambulance, two RC ditty bags, tied together, which contained

a brown leather wallet, snapshots and newspaper clippings. Pvt. Conrad Wolf.
PX type cigarette lighter, silver plated. Cornelius Dennis.
Musette bag, lost Sunday from a car along Highway 159. Bag contains toilet articles and a carton of Lucky Strikes. T-Sgt. Frank Winn.
Field bag containing eight rolls of 16 film, other personal items. Possibly picked up by mistake. Pvt. Willard J. Duvall.
Silver identification bracelet, Bldg. D., Foro Musolini. Lt. F. K. Kodama.
FRIENDS AND RELATIVES
Pvt. Walter L. Dirney, Sgt. Willard J. Fulton; Pvt. Jackson Pierce, Capt. Steve Harland; Pfc. Grant E. Elwood, Capt. Paul Vannordstrand.
CAMERA
An Agfa Anseo "Shur Shot" camera, small black box-type with silver front, has been turned in to Lost and Found. Owner may have same by identifying the camera.

Landings Fare Well In Southern France, Late Flashes Report

(Continued from page 1)

render were dropped over the enemy-held territory during the day. As Allied forces in northern France continued to press the Nazis forces withdrawing from the Caen-Falaise sector in headlong flight toward Paris, ground troops went ashore from the invasion fleet in the Mediterranean at several points along a wide front.

Specially trained troops, including the airborne forces, were among those participating in the latest assault on continental Europe which was described by several reporters accompanying the soldiers as the worst kept secret of the war.

The full striking force of the Mediterranean Allied Air Forces, supplemented by naval planes was thrown into the air offensive to help blaze a way inland for the invading troops. More than 14,000 air combat men of the MAAF, equivalent to the line strength of two divisions, were airborne this morning in attacks against German strongholds behind the beaches.

The French and Italian Riviera runs from between Toulon and Nice on the French coast to La Spezia in Italy. A narrow stretch of coastland, separated from the rest of Europe by the Maritime Alps, it is known as a playground for the rich. The famous resorts at Nice, Cannes, Monaco and Monte Carlo, with their beautiful beaches and a year-round mild climate used to attract tourists from all over the world.

To the west of the Riviera lie the great seaports of Toulon and Marseilles, 32 airline miles apart.

It was at Toulon, for centuries a great French naval station, that the French scuttled most of their fleet on Nov. 27, 1942, to forestall its seizure by the Germans when they extended their occupation of northern France all the way to the Mediterranean Sea.

EMBARKATION POINT

Marseilles, one of the most picturesque and cosmopolitan of the cities of France, also is the greatest seaport of France. Its harbor, in peacetime the home port of dozens of steamship lines plying the Eastern Mediterranean and the Suez Canal route to the Far East, can accommodate the largest war and merchant ships.

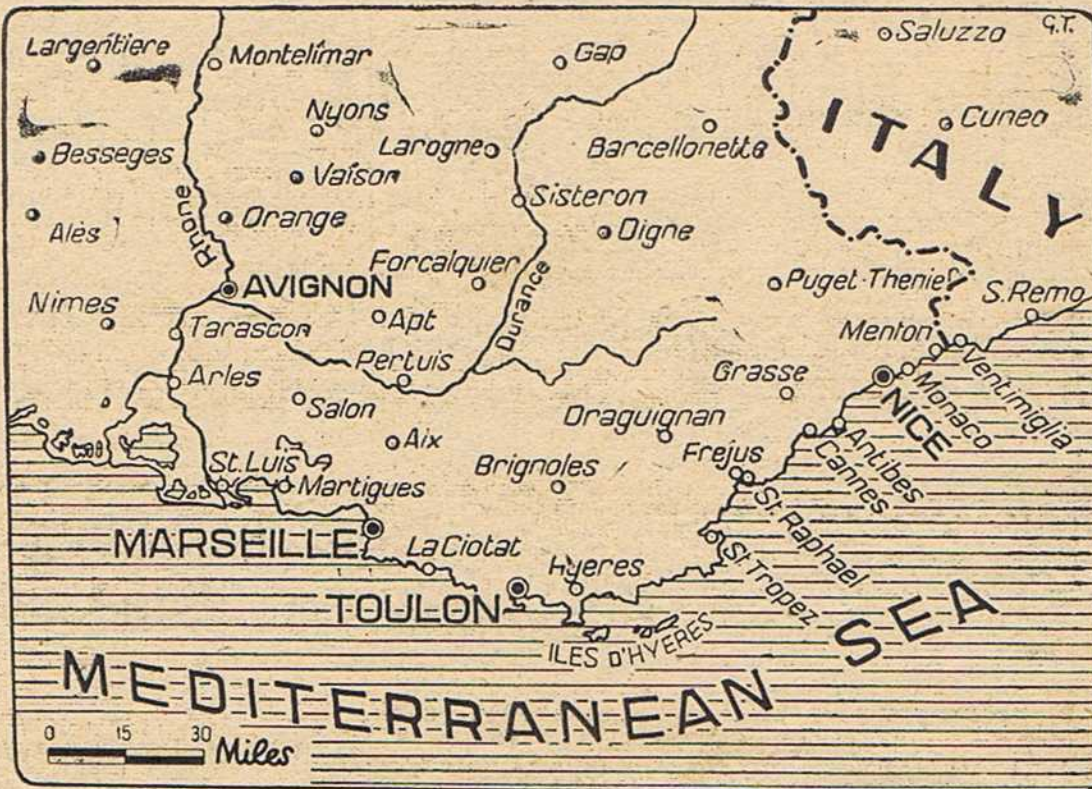
During World War I, Marseilles was used by the British as a major port of supply and thousands of Indian, Australian and African troops, bound for the battlegrounds of northern France, landed at the Mediterranean port. Thousands of Yank troops sailed from Marseilles for home after the Armistice. Capture of the great city and its harbor by the Allied forces would provide an invaluable funnel through which equipment, supplies and additional men could be poured into France.

Leading north from Marseilles is the Valley of the Rhone—the gateway from the eastern Mediterranean to Germany.

Two hundred and thirty miles north of Marseilles at the great industrial city of Lyons, the valley swings in a sweeping arc to the right through the vital Nazi industrial cities of Karlsruhe and Stuttgart into the Rhine Valley. At Lyons, also, the Rhone intersects with the valley of the Saone River which in turn provides a natural corridor to the Seine, Paris and northwest France.

Lyons, the third largest city of France, sits astride the intersection of these two valleys like a gateman at a busy crossroads. The city is like the hub of a giant wheel as eight "spokes"—major highways—extend in all directions. The city, which also is a junction point for many rail lines, is most famous for its products but it is important also as a machine industrial center.

WHERE ALLIED SQUEEZE PLAY STARTS



Ground and airborne troops of the United States, Great Britain and France landed yesterday morning on the southern French coast in another major thrust to Hitler's Fortress Europe. A Navy announcement indicated that the landings had been effected between Nice and Marseilles.

Red Army Masses On Reich's Border For New Assaults

LONDON, Aug. 15—The shadow of a new battle of Tannenberg in which the Germans, not the Russians, will suffer disastrous defeat is now hanging over the Reich, as the massed tanks and guns of General Zakharov's Red Army maneuver for a decisive breakthrough on the East Prussian border, Reuter's reported today.

Only the Biobrza River separates the Soviet troops from the direct highway into East Prussia, 16 miles to the northwest. There was no news this morning of the crossing of the river, but it was not regarded as a formidable obstacle. The Russians were expected to smash forward to the border town of Grajewo, which lies only 14 miles on the other side of the river.

From Grajewo the highway leads through bogs and marshes of the Masurian Lake country to the German town of Lyck, long since a target of Russian front-line aircraft. From Lyck it runs northward through the heart of East Prussia to Koenigsberg.

General Zakharov's approach finds the Germans inadequately grouped for an effective stand, it was said here. The Nazi High Command was believed in Moscow to have been mistaken in judging the line of the Red Army's approach. At the first threat from the direction of Kaunas, East Prussian forces, already battered after a series of counterattacks, were hastily moved to the eastern side.

Vichy Government Reported Fleeing

ZURICH, Switzerland, Aug. 15—Marshal Henri Petain, French chief of state, and a number of other French government officials have left Vichy for an unannounced destination, the newspaper Journal de Geneve said today.

Others in the party were said to include Joseph Darnand, secretary general for maintenance of law and order; Marcel Deat, minister of labor; Jacques Doriot, leader of the French Popular Party, and Paul Marion, minister of information and propaganda.

The London Times correspondent in Geneva reported that a state of siege prevails in Vichy and that many inhabitants were leaving the town to seek refuge in the country.

A Daily Mail correspondent in Madrid wrote that people in Paris, confident of their early liberation by the Allies, were openly reading underground newspapers, listening to the BBC blaring through open windows and keeping military situation maps on the walls of buildings.

Lt. Gen. Bradley Heads New 12th Army Group

AEF HEADQUARTERS, France, Aug. 15—Lt. Gen. Omar N. Bradley, American 1st Army commander in France and formerly head of the 2nd Corps in Sicily, has been named commanding general of a newly formed American 12th Army Group in France, it was officially announced today.

At the same time Lt. Gen. George Patton, who commanded the 7th Army in Sicily, was named commander of the American 3rd Army, whose presence in France was disclosed for the first time.

Lt. Gen. Courtney H. Hodges succeeds Lt. Gen. Bradley as 1st Army chief. The 12th Army Group will be composed of the 1st and 3rd Armies.

Paratroopers As Casual As If On Practice Jump

(Continued from page 1)

Mont.; Pfc. Edward Kocholek, Sharon, Pa.; Pvt. Albert A. Gallwas, Tacoma, Wash.; Pvt. Ralph Olinger, Denver, Colo.; Pvt. Crispin F. Reyna of Mercedes, Texas, and Captain Vogel.

Then they fastened their equipment and immediately proceeded to fall asleep until about 20 minutes before they reached the drop zone. When that time came, very quietly, quickly and with no fuss, they hooked into the static line and when the command "jump" was given, cleared the "Hound" in a few seconds.

The ship cleared, Capt. Albert S. Harwell, Jr., 22-year-old Memphis, Tenn., pilot, banked, opened the motors wide and the big C-47 roared away just about as fast as a Lightning.

The setting for the jump was perfect. The planes rode atop a slight overcast which shielded them from any prying eyes on the ground and the troopers dropped through, right on the nose. Barely discernible were the white puffs of silk opening just before the men and their marker bundles disappeared from view through the mist.

As the "Hound" roared for home, Capt. Harwell, his co-pilot, 1st Lt. Ronald H. Warrell, DeKalb, Ill., and the navigator, 1st Lt. Lawrence H. Williams, St. Paul, Minn., wondered at the ease of the first stage of the mission.

There was no question of the element of surprise. Everything depended on it said Col. Maurice

M. Beach, Detroit, Mich., wing commander, earlier in the day. But he was optimistic and Lt. Col. Paul LeMay, Minneapolis, radiated the same unconcern. Of course, they said, there always was the element of the unknown to be considered. But, apparently we knew something Adolf didn't. It was a "milk run" because he was outguessed again very badly and because the Air Corps and Paratroopers didn't hold his Wehrmacht in anything resembling awe.

Tunnell For Truman

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15 — Sen. James M. Tunnell (D., Del.) was appointed today by Vice President Henry A. Wallace to succeed Sen. Harry S. Truman (D., Mo.) on the special Senate War Investigating Committee.

JEEP ON A FRENCH ROAD

(Continued from page 1)

a number of fields, assembled to form their train at a point along the Italian coast. From the tail position of the B-25, all you could see for miles were towplanes and gliders.

Covers of fighters wheeled and sported gracefully, thousands of feet overhead, as the long train methodically plodded its way west. One C-47 pilot gave the photographers in our bomber an elaborate high-sign as Capt. Norman R. Clark, Toledo, Ohio, our pilot, closed in to give the cameramen a better vantage point. From a faster plane, and in the early morning light, the lumbering towplanes and gliders seemed to be standing still.

They kept a precise formation, with the gliders generally riding a little higher than their towplanes to avoid propwash. The only serious mishap en route came when one glider, apparently caught in the propwash of its towplane's two engines, vibrated and shook until its tail fell off. The glider disintegrated, and the plane and its cargo tumbled over a wide area into the Tyrrhenian. There were dozens

of individual splashes. We saw rescue craft, on the return trip, searching for survivors.

Coming in over the coast, the train dropped as low as it could, just about inviting ack-ack fire, but still there wasn't any. This was all the more surprising since C-47s, ordinarily slow, lose more speed when they're towing gliders; usually they're just sitting ducks for flak.

From the air, the landing areas seemed smooth and even, and the only accident spotted was one glider which hit a rough spot on a farri and turned over on its back.

Beyond the glider landings, there was utterly no activity visible. But the evidence of the paratroopers' arrival was all over the place. White parachutes dotted the hills in tight clusters, indicating excellent landings, and there were only a few in such untoward spots as trees and roofs—not bad, when you consider they were done in total darkness.

Returning to their fields in Italy, pilots, wing and group commanders reported completely successful glider landings and para-drops. Col. John Cerny, Harrison, Idaho, a group CO who led his formation into action, said, "Our boys did their usual good job." Lt. Col. William A. Tesch, St. Joseph, Mo., CO of one of the squadrons in the formation and veteran of five para-drops, was even more pleased. "There was nothing to it," he said. "We went in, dropped and came home."

Old Soldier

AUGUSTA, Me., Aug. 15 (ANS)—Even if he has to hire two nurses to attend him, George F. Jones, 95-year-old Commander in Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, said today he would be at the National encampment at Des Moines, Iowa, September 10.

LI'L ABNER

(Courtesy of United Features)

By AL CAPP

