

**WASHINGTON
MERRY-GO-ROUND**

(Continued from Page One)

adelphia and the Atlantic seaboard, thereby decreasing the consumption of bituminous coal.

Significant fact is that shipping oil east by pipeline is much cheaper than by tanker. Nearly 23 cents a barrel for crude oil and 11 cents a barrel for gasoline. In contrast, rail shipment cost \$1.60 per barrel from Texas to New York, while tanker shipment costs 60 cents per barrel.

Despite this, the oil companies want the pipelines closed down and are going back to more expensive tanker shipment. Their friends on the RFC are gracefully complying.

Furthermore, the RFC is filling up the two pipelines with salt water, on the excuse that if they remain full of oil they are a fire hazard. Opinions differ as to whether this will cause the inside of the pipelines to rust.

Senator O'Mahoney has asked officials of the RFC and the Petroleum administration for war to give him all the facts in the matter.

Note—The War Emergency pipeline operated efficiently for the government during the war that they made a profit of \$135,000,000. On the other hand, Jesse Jones paid the railroads a total subsidy of \$37,000,000 to carry oil and gasoline from Texas to the East coast.

Merr-Go-Round

Inside fact is that President Truman didn't particularly want to make public the Earl Harrison report on sordid conditions in Jewish refugee camps under the U.S. Army. But on Sept. 29, he learned that Governor Dewey was to speak on Sept. 30 regarding Jewish refugees. So the White House rushed the report to the public on Sept. 29. Word of the report had reached General Eisenhower two weeks before and he had raised Cain with some of his generals, especially Patton. That was why conditions had improved somewhat and denials were issued from Eisenhower's headquarters. The Red army has brought its demobilization age down to 32, but the U.S. army still keeps G.I.'s of 35 and sometimes older in uniform. Sidney Weinberg, formerly of WPB, now of Wall Street has been maneuvering to get legions of merit for some of the desk generals who handled production at the WPB. Astute secretary of agriculture Anderson has made other sugar savings in addition to discovering 160,000,000 tons in Java. He has ordered 60,000,000 bushels of potatoes, bought by the government to keep up the price, turned into glucose and maltose syrups. These in turn can be used for soft drinks, candy, etc., thus releasing large amounts of sugar for housewives.

Capital Chaff

President Truman is having a lot of trouble with one fellow-Missourian — Congressman Clarence Cannon, chairman of the Appropriations committee. Cannon is so astute in appropriating money that

can committee members to help him out. Add valuable reading: "Alan Cranston's new time, "The Killing of the Peace." It gives vivid inside details on how American hopes of peace were torpedoed in Woodrow Wilson's last years. Gracious, hard-hitting Josephus Daniels, Woodrow Wilson's secretary of the navy, has completed a second valuable volume on the Wilson era to be published this fall. George F. Williston of Democratic headquarters is the author of a best-seller on the Pilgrim Fathers. Bill Murphy of the GOP GHQ is corraling high-powered aides to help elect a Republican Congress in '46. Maury Maverick will probably be assistant secretary of commerce if Henry Wallace's commerce department reorganization plan goes through. Even the NAM approved Wallace's program for converting the stodgy commerce department into a first-class service organization for businessmen.

G.I.'s Confirm Generals

This column recently revealed the fact that prior to the disastrous German bulge attack, Col. Monk Dickson, intelligence chief for the Second Army had written a report warning that the Germans were about to attack. He based his information on interrogating German prisoners and supplied a map of German reserves which he urged should be bombed out. His warnings were ignored. Since then, further information has come from enlisted men participating in the bulge operation which cost 60,000 American casualties. Both being still in the army ask that their names be withheld. One writes as follows:

"I served with the 106th Infantry Division and was taken prisoner on December 22. We captured German prisoners a few days before the big push and they told us that the Germans were ready to make a big push, they also told us just what they had. "But our officers laughed at them and said it wasn't possible for them to make a big troop movement like this and we not know anything about it. "The men of the 106th fought like hell with what they had, but a rifle isn't much good against a tank."

Another letter from a man in the 106th Division who tells a graphic story of the bulge operation follows:

"I was serving as an automatic rifleman in Co. L, 423rd Infantry, of the 106th Division. Naturally we who were in the ill-fated division would be greatly pleased with a complete examination of the bulge as practically all the infantry were either wiped out or captured. As prisoners, our lot was especially bad. It would be a bitter pill to swallow indeed if it were revealed that the tragedy could have been either averted or lessened.

"Of the overall picture of the battle, I do not pretend to be in the know. But as for the part that the 106th Division played, I naturally know considerable. The 106th left England December 1st. It assembled in France, near Le Hav-

er, and then was transported immediately up to the front, relieving the Second Division. In the opinion of most of us, we were not equipped for combat. Indeed, our artillery trucks did not even have their machine guns mounted as we reached the front. We had no winter equipment and in the first week most of us incurred frozen feet to various degrees. Indeed in my squad we even had a one-eyed fireman.

"At the time of our capture, the commanding officer of our division, Maj. Gen. Alan W. Jones, was nowhere around. In his stead, Brig. Gen. Herbert T. Perrin assumed command, and from all reports did a damn good job with the 424th Regiment, the only one which was not captured. I believe that morale was dangerously low throughout. On the 16th, word came down from regimental headquarters that the Germans had broken through and that we might expect to be surrounded. However, we were to stay in our series of dugouts and outposts and hunt for reinforcements could reach us. Where they were to come from was beyond our imagination.

"On the 18th, the decision to remain in line was hastily changed and the 423rd Regiment, followed by the 422nd swung out to try and break through to Belgium. My company, Co. L, was selected as the point. That day we did not meet any appreciable opposition, but the next morning all hell broke loose. We were subjected to an intense artillery barrage by 88 batteries and from Tiger tanks. The only weapon we had was our mortar shells which were quickly exhausted. But why shouldn't they be? In H Co., the Second Battalion weapons company, jeeps carried ammunition to the front. We managed to inflict severe casualties on enemy infantry which moved in to wipe us out, but then companies to our rear began to surrender. Our C.O., Captain Huyett, was forced to sur-

render after fighting gallantly despite severe leg injuries.

"When we were being assembled for a 45-mile hike to a collection depot for PW's, I saw my colonel, Colonel Cavanaugh, for the first time since disembarking at Greenock, Scotland. This is a somewhat sketchy history of our fate, but includes many of the important points. But our common feeling for our commanding general and colonel is too low to be expressed."

NOTE — Senator Ed Johnson, acting chairman of the Senate Military Affairs committee has asked the War Department for certain data regarding the bulge operation and may investigate any negligence.

Future G.I. Rights

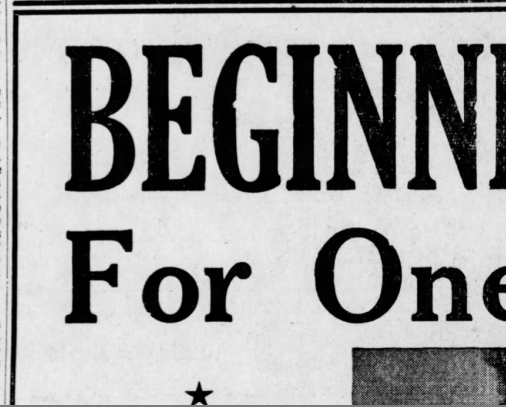
A sharp battle is looming in the Senate over the extent to which men drafted into the army since the war should share in the G.I. benefits extended to men in the army during the war.

This was the subject of much debate within the Senate Military Affairs committee last week, with West Virginia's Republican Senator Chapman Revercomb arguing for full G.I. benefits on the ground that army service now means just as much as an interruption in the life of young men as it did during the war. His Republican colleague, Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, disagreed with him.

Revercomb also led the battle for a one-year enlistment term, but Democrat Ed Johnson of Colorado insisted that a one-year term, during which the new soldier would have to be trained, would not be long enough, especially if he had to be shipped to Europe or Japan.

Revercomb won out on his first point, but a compromise was effected on the second, with the term set in the bill at 18 months.

Spinach shaped into cups and filled with spiced beets gives a different tone to beef pot roast.



1945-10-07 Washington Merry-Go-Round. 106th GIs confirm Generals PART TWO

Clipped By:



criswest

Mon, Nov 20, 2017