

# Captured Nazi Films



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photo

Four American soldiers lie dead, face down in the slush of a crossroads on the Western Front, casualties in the German counter-offensive launched Dec. 16 in the Belgian sector. The Americans are already stripped of equipment. The circles show the bare feet of the American, (left), and a predatory Nazi on the right adjusting his newly-acquired boots. The photograph was made by a German Army cameraman whose film was later captured by American forces. (See page four for other photos taken from captured films.)

## Churchill In Athens to Seek a Peace

ATHENS, Dec. 26 (AP)—Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden arrived in Athens yesterday to take a personal hand in attempting to end the undeclared civil war which has battered Greece and strained United Nations relations for three weeks.

Churchill was scheduled to address the opening session of a Greek all-party conference this afternoon. Under the chairmanship of Archbishop Damaskinos, proposed regent to run an interim Greek government until a general election could be held, the conference's avowed aims were "to put an end to fratricidal strife in Greece and to enable her to resume her place among the United Nations."

Representatives of the ELAS (resistance) central committee were invited to attend and safe conduct was promised them.

The U.S. ambassador, W. J. McVeigh, was reported planning to attend the conference. Fighting continued in and around Athens throughout Christmas Day. Today an alleged plot to blow up the Grande Bretagne Hotel—headquarters of Maj. Gen. Ronald M. Scobie, British commander—was thwarted when a ton of dynamite was discovered under the street-car tracks and in a sewer just outside the building.

## Leyte Battle Over-M'Arthur

The Leyte campaign was described officially as "closed except for minor mopping-up" by Gen. MacArthur's headquarters yesterday, soon after 77th Division troops, after an amphibious landing on Leyte's west coast, took the last Jap stronghold of Palompan.

The nine-week-old campaign resulted in 11,217 American casualties, the communique disclosed. Of this total, 2,624 were deaths. The rest were wounded and missing.

Jap casualties were listed as totaling 113,221. From Oct. 20, Jap planes destroyed in the Philippines totaled 2,748. Forty-one enemy transports and 27 warships were sunk in the same period. Superforts raided Iwojima in the Bonin Islands Saturday, while American warships shelled shore positions. Adm. Chester W. Nimitz announced yesterday.

## Michigan Ex-Chief Dies

DETROIT, Dec. 26 (ANS)—Former Lt. Gov. Frank Murphy, 46, who had confessed to charges of graft brought against him by a grand-jury indictment, died last night of a heart ailment.

## Glenn Miller Is Missing On Hop From U.K. to Paris

Maj. Glenn Miller, whose hot licks on the trombone brought him fame and fortune as one of America's top-flight band leaders, was officially listed as missing in action since Dec. 15. SHAEF announced yesterday in Paris. Miller had been flying to Paris from England, it was stated. No members of his band were with him.

Previously, Miller's mother-in-law, Mrs. Fred Burger, at her home in Duarte, Calif., had disclosed that the band leader was missing.

The Iowa-born musician—whose "Moonlight Serenade" was a nation's



GLENN MILLER

New York London Edition Paris

# THE STARS AND STRIPES

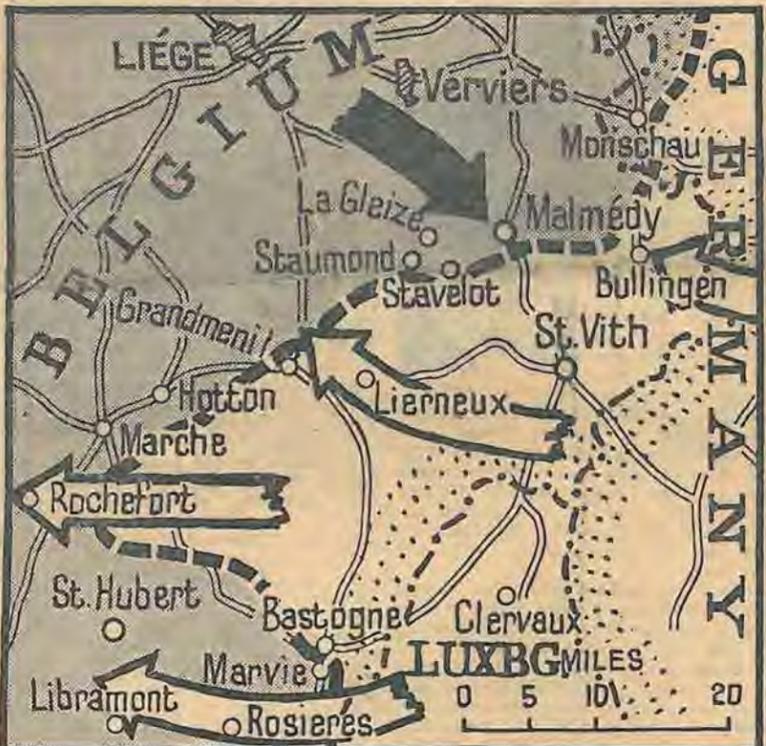
Daily Newspaper of U.S. Armed Forces in the European Theater of Operations

VOL. 5 No. 46—1d. WEDNESDAY, Dec. 27, 1944

Daily French Lesson

S'il vous plait, montrez moi  
Seel voo play, mahn tray mwa  
Please show me

# Nazis 4 Mi. From Meuse



## 50 Mi. Into Belgium On a 40-Mile Front

Reports from SHAEF last night indicated that two German armies and possibly a third had succeeded in forcing a bulge in the American line in Belgium that by Christmas Eve, last Sunday night, had reached to within four miles of the Meuse.

The Germans were reported to be rolling ahead on a 40-mile front which they have pushed some 50 miles into Belgium on their way to the Meuse. It was thought that the Meuse was the first major objective of Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt's Christmas offensive.

## 150 Heavies Hit Nazi Rail Lines

Escorted by more than 300 P47s and P51s, approximately 150 Fortresses and Liberators of the Eighth Air Force pounded two rail yards in the Coblenz area and rail bridges between Coblenz and Bonn yesterday. Most of the bombing was done visually.

(For a complete account of the weekend air activity, see page 2.)

Meanwhile, 15th Air Force Forts and Libs struck at German synthetic-oil plants at Oswiecim, in Poland, and Blechhammer and Odertal, in Silesia.

Also in daylight yesterday, RAF Lancasters and Halifaxes attacked German troop and armor concentrations in the St. Vith area.

## 25 Nazi P/Ws Escape in U.S.

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 26 (ANS)—A Christmas Eve break by 25 German prisoners from an internment camp near here resulted today in the disclosure by the FBI that Guenther Prien, one of Germany's foremost U-boat skippers, was a prisoner at the camp.

The news of Prien, whose submarine sank the British battleship Royal Oak at Scapa Flow early in the war, was given by the FBI in denying that he was among those who escaped. Nineteen of the men are still at large.

Apparently all 25 scaled an eight-foot-high barbed-wire fence.

## Stettinius Warns U.S. Of Future Robot-Threat

CHICAGO, Dec. 26 (AP)—Robot bombing within 15 or 20 years is "almost certain to befall this country and all other countries" unless we are able to establish an "efficient" peace organization, Secretary of State Edward R. Stettinius Jr. wrote today in *Kiwanis Magazine*.

## Aircraft Fowl Up Yule Dinner in Burma

MYITKYINA, Dec. 25 (delayed) (AP)—Live ducks and chickens were dropped by plane for the Christmas dinner of American infantry and artillerymen fighting in the jungle of north Burma.

Meanwhile, a U.S. 10th Air Force pilot flew his P47, named Santa Claus, over a Jap concentration and dropped a 500-pound bomb as a Christmas present.

## Budapest Ring Closed by Reds

BULLETIN  
Capture of Esztergom, 20 miles northwest of Budapest, thus cutting off the German-Hungarian garrison in the capital from escape in any direction, was announced late last night by Moscow.

Russian forces on the west bank of the Danube last night battled forward to close the German garrison's last escape gap from Budapest as the Nazis dug in for a suicidal defense of a hopeless position.

The fate of the German-Hungarian defenders of the capital city apparently was sealed, however, as the only corridor out of the city was raked by Red planes by day and pounded by Soviet artillery.

Heavy tank battles preceded the Soviet breakthrough across German communication lines west of the city. At one point more than 300 tanks, including big King Tigers, were thrown into the battle but were beaten off.

From northwest of Budapest down to the eastern shore of Lake Balaton, troops under Marshal Malinovsky and Marshal Tolbukhin were being merged into a single striking force aimed toward Austria. No confirmation was forthcoming from Moscow on the reported new offensive in Prussia and Poland.

## Horse, Dog Tracks Ordered Closed by Jan. 3

NEW YORK, Dec. 26—All horse and dog racing tracks in the U.S. have been ordered closed by Jan. 3 as the result of a White House edict by War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes Saturday.

favorite—volunteered for duty with the AAF in 1942, despite the fact he was over age, and was commissioned a captain in Special Services.

After arriving in the U.K. with a 45-man band of GIs, including such former swing luminaries as Ray McKinley, Mel Powell and Bobby Nichols, Miller immediately began a series of one-night stands up and down England.

"Gen. Doolittle put it best," the band leader told *The Stars and Stripes* Aug. 20, "when he told us that every soldier over here is bucking for one thing—to get home. He can't do that until the job's done, so the next best thing is to bring a little bit of home to him. That's our mission."

Miller's group—which he thought was the best he ever led—was officially known as the American band of the Allied Expeditionary Force. In the U.S. it was called the band of the AAF Training Command.

## Orders Cut, M'Arthur Puts Up His 5 Stars

LEYTE, Dec. 26 (ANS)—Gen. MacArthur began wearing today his five stars as a General of the Army. The insignia authorized by the War Department for the new rank—five silver five-pointed stars fastened together in a circle with the inner points touching, the whole about the size of a lieutenant colonel's oak leaf, were made for MacArthur by a Filipino silversmith out of silver coins.

(Continued on page 4)

THE STARS AND STRIPES

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NOTE: Lack of space forces us to limit all letters published to not more than 200 words.—Ed.

A Goldfish for Hooton

Dec. 13, 1944.

To the B-Bag: One Dr. Ernest A. Hooton, Harvard anthropologist, seems to think that it might be a good idea to use men over 45 for the army of occupation. We of this section of the army think that perhaps the Doctor must be taking more ideas from the well-known Harvard fish bowl.

We cannot figure out just what sort of family life the Doctor enjoyed, or is enjoying, but it must be pretty terrible if he thinks that a man or woman's life is practically completed at the age of 45. We would certainly hate to be going home and pass a boat carrying Mom and Pop this way as GI Joe and Jane.

Such articles should not be printed in our estimation, even though some crackpots might entertain such thoughts. How about feeding the Doctor another goldfish and forget the whole thing.—Three Amused GIs, Overseas Issue Section, Ordnance.

Our German Readers

Dec. 12, 1944.

To the B-Bag: The boys in this ward want you to know how we feel about the things you write about the ammunition and tire shortage. Don't you know every German all the way to Berlin reads The Stars and Stripes, and how do you think it makes him feel? Put yourself in his place and see what you would think. "They can't win; they don't have ammunition and tires."

If all you can do is build up their morale, they might as well fire Goebbels. I'd like to know what a military secret is. It sure isn't Dick Tracy and Little Abner. We think the war would be over much quicker if you would just stick to Dick Tracy and Little Abner. Don't let those Heinies know anything about the situation.—Sgt. H. D. Ferguson and the Patients of Ward 9D, U.K., H. Plant.

Recommendations on Russia

Dec. 15, 1944

To the B-Bag: Frequently on the front lines or here in the hospitals, I hear GIs worrying about having to fight Russia next. Why don't these guys go and read some books by Americans who were in Russia in the past few years and discover how ridiculous that fear is. I get disgusted listening to people talk about war against Russia when both nations are fighting a common enemy, Germany.

Some books I recommend to enlighten those "Russia Haters" are Mother Russia by Maurice Hindus, Moscow Dateline by Henry Cassidy, Moscow Diary by Joseph E. Davies, former Ambassador to Russia, a wealthy business man, certainly not a communist.—Pvt. Fred Kohn, hospital patient, formerly with Armd. Div.

18-Year-Olds

Dec. 4, 1944

To the B-Bag: I'm not much of a guy to go around telling people what to do, and I don't like bitching in public, but when a guy like this Pfc Gordon K. Stark gives his opinion about 18-year-old kids—that they should be put in uniform, and after the war send 'em over here to "police up"—it burns me up, and plenty of other GI Joes feel the same way as me.

There are 12 million men in the services, seven million overseas. After the war, why not send that other five million over here and let them do the "policing up." I have a younger brother at home, and I don't want to see him in uniform.—Pvt. George Hainrock, Inf.

Dec. 7, 1944

To the B-Bag: Perhaps I should keep my big mouth shut, as I wasn't asked my opinion for your Vox Pop-off column, but I'd like to disagree with Pfc Stark's statement of Dec. 4.

Maybe he thinks it's O.K. for the kids of 18 to police Germany, but damn if I can see it. I wonder if he or anyone else would like to see their son or brother sent overseas to some hole like Germany for training.

Maybe he didn't grow up like the rest of us, but I know when I was 18 that I had a hell of a good time and I sure wish that I was that age now.

Can you or anyone else imagine taking a high school kid from his Model A's and drug stores and sending him to Germany for training. Hell, no, and neither can I.

We should have training, but let's wait till the kids are 21. Don't spoil those glorious teen ages.—S/Sgt. W. Hill, Sub Depot.

Hash Marks

Tokyo Radio Report "We are pleased to announce the destruction of an American torpedo by one of our largest cruisers."

Today's Daffynition. Alimony; The high cost of leaving.

Overheard in the Blackout. "My girl



has a seven-day kiss. It makes one weak."

Another unsigned verse left in our type-writer:

Mary had a little limb. In fact, she sported two. And every time she took a swim, The soldiers cried, Woo-Woo.

A recreation center hostess introducing a GI to his WAC date remarked, "Your date is the Corps' best pistol shot and teaches ju-jitsu. Now go ahead and have a good time."

Food for Thought. A Joe who signs his letter "A permanent fixture in the ETO" has an interesting idea. According to the demobilization plan, he sez, a WAC may apply for a discharge upon her husband's release from the service. His wife has just been honorably discharged from the air WACs. Now his \$64 question is: "Does the plan work both ways and where do I line up for the discharge?"

After weeks of K-rations in Normandy, Cpl. Ward Carheat got a package from his mother with a note saying, "This is something new, just out. They are grand in your coffee and full of vitamins." The "something new" was a case of 500 malted milk tablets.

Front-line hit parade. Pfc Al Capasso has new words for the song "Mairzy Doats":

88s and hand grenades and lotsa screaming mimis, I dive for my hole, too—wouldn't you?

And then there was the woman who got mad because her husband never talked in his sleep he only smiled.

Our spy on the Home Front sez, "The



scarcity of men has made many girls good and lonely."

Who said that? A second lieutenant starts at the bottom and works up. A private starts at the bottom and works. J. C. W.

Record Bomb Blow 8th AF's Yule Gift to Nazis

Over 2,000 Heavies—Biggest Single Mission—Unload on Christmas 'Eve'

While the weather closed in again yesterday to curtail air activity against the enemy the Eighth Air Force was still counting up the results of its Christmas present to the Nazis, delivered Sunday by more than 2,000 heavy bombers and 900 fighters, the largest force of heavies ever flown on a single mission.

Sunday's big air attack was part of a weekend pattern, which continued yesterday, designed to pound the hell out of all communication lines supplying and reinforcing the German armies in their current counter-offensive. It was in direct support of the U.S. First Army forces which have been rolled back into Belgium by the weight of the German drive.

Taking advantage of clear weather, the Dec. 24 mission started for Germany in the morning and the first bombers were entering Germany as the tail of the tremendous column was leaving England.

Airdromes Hit

The Eighth started its Christmas blow last Saturday, when a force of more than 400 heavies, protected by some 700 fighters, struck at airdromes in the Frankfurt area from which the Germans had been operating tactical aircraft in support of their offensive. At least eight of the 11 airdromes attacked were rendered unserviceable.

Marshalling yards at Coblenz and rail centers near Trier, close to the Luxemburg border, Kaiserlautern and Homburg were also hit. The Luftwaffe came up to meet the attackers and lost 77 planes in the resulting dogfights.

Col. David C. Schilling, of Traverse City, Mich., 26-year-old commander of the 56th Fighter Group, top-scoring group in the Eighth Air Force, came out of Saturday's fights with a kill of five to



Col. David C. Schilling

become the Eighth's highest-scoring pilot now on active duty. His kill of five Saturday was the biggest individual score of the day, and brought his total to 34.

"My major trouble," Schilling said, after the attack, "was to get my fighters back into formation to come home when we were running low on gas. They just wouldn't quit fighting."

Sunday's big attack continued the pounding of the airdromes at Frankfurt. These lie across the Rhine just opposite the bulge the Germans have driven into

the 1st Army line. The heavies dropped 100-, 250- and 500-pound bombs on hangars and fields.

Most of the targets the heavies went for were tiny road junctions, railroad crossings, bridges. Clear weather enabled crews to see the targets and to bomb visually. Reports were that the bombing was all "good."

The fighters had a good day Sunday, too, taking on the Luftwaffe in a series of dogfights from which 76 of the Nazi fighters failed to return.

Luftwaffe Weakens

On Monday, the Eighth sent 400 heavies and 400 fighters into the attack. The Luftwaffe failed to put up quite as big a show of resistance and came out of the fighting with 46 of its planes shot down. In addition to the Luftwaffe, however, the attacking force ran through some moderate ack-ack.

The Ninth Air Force took part in the Christmas show, too, its fighters flying 1,172 sorties Sunday in support of the 1st Army. Its activities resulted in the destroying or damaging of 116 Nazi tanks and armored vehicles, 778 motor vehicles, 56 railroad cars and 28 horse-drawn vehicles. In addition, a fuel dump was blown up, rail lines were cut at 20 places, and two bridges were destroyed and two damaged.

The RAF, too, was out over the weekend, hitting at V2 launching sites in Holland on Sunday in addition to bombing airfields at Essen, Dusseldorf and Bonn and the Cologne marshalling yards.

The Eighth Air Force's three-day total of enemy planes knocked out was 218. Its losses for that time were 38 bombers and 40 fighters, some of which are believed to have landed safely in friendly territory.

An Echo From St. Paul's

Gloomy Dean Prognosticates An Uncheerful Little Earful

By Irvin S. Taubkin

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

BRIGHTWELL, Berkshire, England, Dec. 26—The Gloomy Dean, at 84, is still bating 1,000. And if you let him

the Very Rev. Dr. W. R. Inge, former dean of St. Paul's, will convince you that there should be no joy in this Mudville of a world. Because, as he tells it, Casey—that mighty Casey that is mankind—has struck out.

It has been ten years since the Dean quit his post at St. Paul's after 23 years in the massive gray cathedral as head of the Anglican Diocese of London. They were turbulent years. The bitter-coated barbs the Dean let loose from there were hard pills of truth for the world to swallow. That's how come he got dubbed the Gloomy Dean, a monicker he never liked and one his family thinks quite undeserved.

There was nothing gloomy about him today. He was a pleasant old man hugging a pleasant fire in a pleasant study looking out on a pleasant garden. His smile, more of the eyes than the lips, was easy and often. His chuckle, especially when he got off one of his quips, was deep and sly. One of his eyebrows points north, the other south, and the effect on one of the world's great ecclesiastical intellects—was strangely rakish.

No, there was nothing gloomy about him at all—except what he said.

Europe, he said, will see a lot of revolution before it sees a little peace. "You can't trust these foreigners," he chuckled. And what the outcome of it all will be he didn't say.

"Our people aren't rotten," he said,

referring to the British, "but they've lost their power in the world. The dominance of the Atlantic nations is at an end. Russia will be the great power in Europe after this war.

"The future of the world will belong not to the high-standard nations, like Britain and America—you know British and American workmen are never welcomed as immigrants by other nations; they want too much—but to those industrious nations whose people work hard and long for very little."

Russia and the U.S., the Dean said, are the world's two invulnerable nations. But he raised an eyebrow over Russia. "Democracy," he defined, "is only an experiment in government that has been moderately successful in the English-speaking nations. You don't have democracy in Russia. You don't have Communism either. One of Russia's most brilliant writers said the other day that today for the first time Russia has a bourgeoisie."

In Britain, he said, organized labor will become the privileged class, and there will be a "slum class" proletariat. "And when they've run through the loot," he chuckled, "there won't be anything."

The world's moral laxity brought on by the war—illegitimacy, divorce, sexual looseness—worry the Dean. He wasn't sure what the outcome of it all would be—nor what could be done about it. He was sure that the church, as a church, should have no part in the peace conference.

"The church," he chuckled again, "is only a secular institution in which the half-educated speak to the half-converted." He said it ought to stay out of anything "political," like trying to help shape a lasting peace.

"I'm a Victorian," he said, "and I hope for a reaction that will bring the world back to some of the moral standards of that age which had the highest standards of morality."

"But nothing is ever as bad as it seems. The body politic generates toxins and antitoxins within itself. The Greeks used to speak of the deeds of the young, the councils of the aged and the prayers of the old. At 84, I can only pray."

Vignette of War Greater Love Hath No Man

By Harry J. McLaughlin

Stars and Stripes Special Writer

WITH 94TH INF. DIV. Dec. 26—The small figure crawled forward, edged close to a hedgerow and started digging in. At his side was the telephone with which he was to observe the enemy's artillery fire and report back to his company.

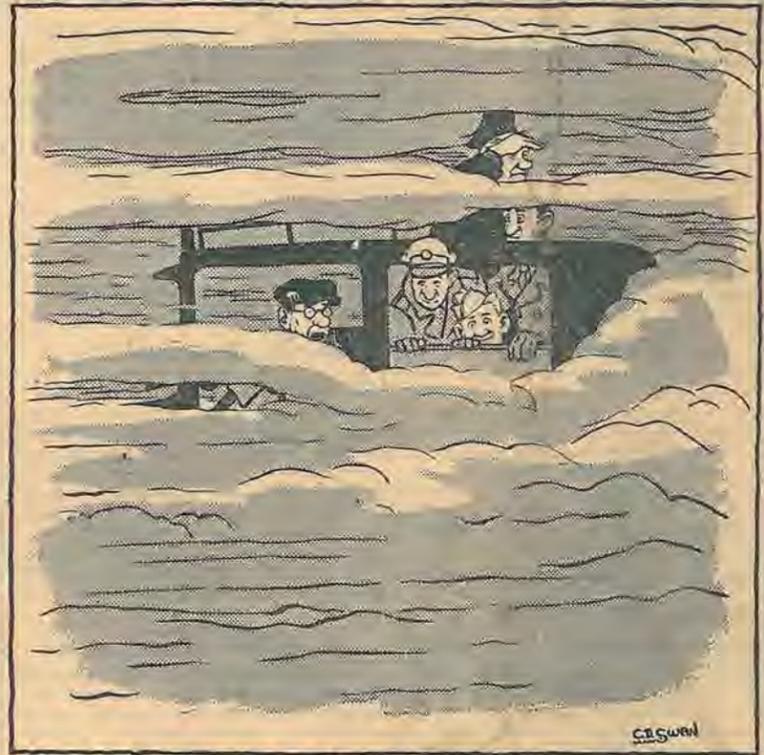
Suddenly the Jerries opened up with 88s and mortars. A piece of shrapnel hit him in the abdomen.

Gritting his teeth, he called back to the CP: "Sarge, there is someone wounded up here. Send an aid man quickly."

Half an hour later he interrupted his observations to repeat; "Sarge, I'm dying, please hurry."

The aid man arrived, but the observer refused to stop work, while aid was being given. He was credited with neutralizing seven 88s and saving many lives. His own, though, could not be saved.

The posthumous recommendation for the DSC for Pfc Dale T. Proctor, of Bruno, Neb., reads: "He was a credit to his outfit and his country."



"Just take m' word for it, lads, that's Bucking'am Palace!"

U.S. Santa Flies to Paris

By George Maskin

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

PARIS, Dec. 26—Santa Claus in the person of T/Sgt. Reuben Brockway, of New York, a French-speaking B24 radio operator, brought a real Christmas—something they didn't have under the German occupation—to several hundred Paris youngsters, ranging from babes-in-arms to ten-year-olds, at the American Red Cross Rainbow Corner here.

Brockway passed out gifts and candy-filled stockings on behalf of American soldiers of the 453rd Bomb Group. GIs supplied the candy from their PX rations.

Brockway and the crew were really only the go-betweens on this "mission." The real Santas were the hundreds of youngsters—who live in the neighborhood where the 453rd is based somewhere in the U.K.—who built the toys which were flown to Paris. They originated the idea, broached it to Lt. Col. Lawrence M. Thomas, of Cooper, Tex., the CO, who liked it so well he agreed to supply a carrier for Santa's bag—a Lib with 74 missions. Flying on the mission, this reporter can testify that the appearance of Santa and his seven reindeer couldn't have produced greater joy.

For the occasion, the plane was christened "Liberty Run" by 11-year-old Judith McDavid, who tossed a jug of hot coffee onto the ship.

The youthful toy makers, who after tossing their handiwork into Santa's huge duffle bag, were in turn feted—with plenty of ice cream and cake, by the station personnel.

The all-French-speaking crew of the Lib included:

Maj. Thomas J. O'Dwyer, Hasbrouck Heights, N.J.; Lt. Robert Van Herlingen, Orange, N.J.; Lt. Marc P. Maldower, Philadelphia; Sgt. Edgar Domingue, Opelousa, La.; and Sgt. Robert W. Nicholson, San Gabriel, Colo.

AFN Radio Program

American Forces Network—With the AEF On the Road to Berlin

On Your Dial 1375 kc. 1402 kc. 1411 kc. 1420 kc. 1447 kc. 218.1m. 213.9m. 212.6m. 211.3m. 207.3m.

Wednesday, Dec. 27

- 1200—World News. 1205—Duffle Bag. 1300—Headlines—Sports News. 1305—This is the Story. 1335—Yank Swing Session. 1400—Headlines—Vigilante Hour. 1405—Headlines—German Lesson. 1505—Strike up the Band. 1530—On the Record. 1630—Great Moments in Music. 1700—Headlines—Melody Roundup. 1715—Amos 'n' Andy. 1740—Music in Three-quarter Time. 1755—American Sports News. 1800—World News. 1805—Mark up the Map. 1810—GI Supper Club. 1900—Headlines—Take the Air (Eighth Air Force). 1930—Bandwagon. 1945—Strings with Wings. 2000—Headlines—Combat Diary. 2015—Johnny Mercer's Music Shop. 2030—British Band of the AEF. 2100—World News. 2105—Eddie Condon's Jazz Session. 2130—Bob Hope with Frances Langford, Jerry Colonna and Shinnay Ennis. 2200—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A. 2205—Listen Characters. 2300—Final Edition.

Thursday, Dec. 28

- 0755—Sign On—Program Resume. 0800—Headlines—Combat Diary. 0815—Personal Album. 0830—Light Music. 0900—World News. 0905—Music in the Modern Manner. 0925—Waltz Time with Abe Lyman's Orchestra. 1000—Headlines—Morning After (Bob Hope). 1030—Strike up the Band. 1100—Headlines—Home News from the U.S.A. 1105—Duffle Bag.

On the Continent listen to your favorite AFN programs over the Allied Expeditionary Forces Program: 583 kc. 514m. Also shortwave: 6.195mc. (49m. band) between 0800 and 1900 hours.

# Behind the Sports Headlines

**WASHINGTON**—Another outstanding Annapolis athlete is prepared to go down to the sea in a ship. Cdr. Frank Wickhorst, tackle and captain of the great 1926 football team, will go to the Pacific for carrier duty shortly after the first of the year. Wickhorst has been in charge of the Navy's aviation physical fitness program for the past 18 months and under him the carrier flight decks started to look like ball fields and gymnasiums. Cmdr. Tom Hamilton, Wickhorst's teammate at Annapolis, organized and headed the program until '43, when he went to sea.

**NEW YORK**—Branch Rickey, who sprouted baseball's farm system, admitted today that he is interested in professional football. Not from a spectator's standpoint, understand. Anyone who knows the Brooklyn Dodgers' boss realizes his interest is centered on the clicking turnstiles, and that means he would like to own a professional team. Rickey has already engaged in consultations with John "Chick" Meehan, president of the Trans-America League, and the only thing thought to be holding the shrewd former owner of the St. Louis Cardinals from plunging headlong into the football business is assurance from Meehan that other members of the new league are financially equipped to withstand the occasional reverses bound to crop up. Rickey has had a hand in the formation of many minor leagues and well knows that financial instability in one or two teams can draw the whole bunch under. At present the Brooklyn Tigers are approximately 60 grand in the red on their books, and Brother Rickey undoubtedly feels he could improve things.

**ITHACA, N.Y.**—Henry Frnka, coach of the Orange Bowl-bound Tulsa University football team, is rumored here as the likely successor here to Carl Snavelly, former Cornell coach who signed last week to coach at North Carolina University. Like Snavelly, Frnka is a single wing disciple and has had marked success with the Golden Hurricanes, who are headed for their third bowl game in the last five years. Among the stars Frnka has developed are Glenn Dobbs and Clyde LeFlore.

**ORLANDO, Fla.**—Joe Tinker, the former great Chicago Cubs shortstop, who was brought to the Orange General Hospital last week suffering from nasal hemorrhages, high blood pressure and diabetes, is reported to be "out of danger unless complications develop."

**NEW YORK**—Dr. Davis Reese of Dayton, Ohio, and Snison College, was victim of the oddest happening in the sports world in '44 according to 88 sports writers voting in the Associated Press poll. He was head linesman in the Army-Noire Dame football game and during

the course of the contest found himself in the unfortunate position of being between Felix Blanchard, Army fullback carrying the ball, and two Irish tacklers bent on stopping Blanchard. The Notre Dame men stopped Blanchard and Reese, too, who left the game with a broken arm. Overlooked was Ernie Lombardi's sensational feat of beating out an infield hit at Boston.

**WASHINGTON**—Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal awarded the order of the Purple Heart yesterday to two sports writers, one posthumously. Jack Singer, former baseball writer of the New York Journal-American and International News Service, died in 1942 when the carrier Wasp went down in the Pacific and his medal and certificates will be given his next of kin. The other sports scribe, Joe James Custer of the United Press, was aboard the cruiser Astoria at the naval battle of Savo Island and lost his left eye when a shell exploded on the ship's deck just before she sank. He dictated his dispatches from a hospital ship and after recovery returned to the New York sports staff of United Press.

**WASHINGTON**—Cmdr. Gene Tunney, retired undefeated heavy-weight champ, has been assigned to spend more time with the fleet in Navy's physical fitness program. The Navy yesterday announced Tunney's new assignment as special assistant to Vice Admiral Randall Jacobs, chief of Navy personnel, with complete charge of physical training. Lt. Cmdr. C. M. Farrington, former athletic director at George Washington University, will succeed Tunney when the former champ goes out with the fleet.

**BOSTON**—Ray "Sugar" Robinson, Harlem welterweight, scored a TKO victory over Sailor George Martin, of Boston, in the eighth round of a scheduled ten-rounder here. Martin puzzled Sugar in the early stages of the bout with his crouching style, but the uncrowned welter king straightened him out with uppercuts to the head and a bad cut over Sailor's left eye convinced the referee that the fight should end. Ralph Zanelli, of Providence, won a ten-round decision from Izzy Jannazzo, of New York, in the semi-final.

**DES MOINES, Iowa**—The annual search for football's "Man of the Year" narrowed to five men following conclusion of preliminary voting in a poll conducted by the Football Writers' Association of America. The nominees are Carrol Widdoes, acting head coach at Ohio State; the late Maj. John Griffith, Big Ten commissioner; Gen. "Hap" Arnold, Army Air Force commander; Les Horvath, Ohio State's All-America back, and Earl "Red" Blaik, head coach at West Point. Final balloting will be completed Dec. 31.

# Trojans Are Strong Favorites Over Rose Bowl-Bound Vols

**LOS ANGELES, Dec. 26**—The Southern California Trojans, who acquired the habit of winning Rose Bowl games back in 1923, will be favorites to come through for the eighth time when they tackle Tennessee in the Pasadena classic this year. The unbeaten but twice-tied Trojans are generally regarded as the top service or collegiate team on the Coast, and even Coach Jeff Cravath admits that if the Trojan T-formation is clicking Tennessee's young, inexperienced, all-civilian squad should be in for a rough time.



**JIM HARDY**  
Southern California

Quarterbacking the Trojans will be Capt. Jim Hardy, regarded by Californians as one of the best collegians ever to handle the job. He is a good passer, standout punter and dangerous runner. Hardy has given his coach heart failure many times this year by his unorthodox play calling. He passes on first down, runs on fourth down, punts on second down and generally confuses everyone. Folks out here think he will confuse the Vols, too.

**Whitehead Standout on Defense**  
At fullback, Duane Whitehead has been a standout defensive player and key blocker, but strangely enough he has seldom been used as a ball carrier. The team's real problem is a pair of halfbacks. Gordon Gray, ace leather toter, was transferred by the Navy, and George Callanan, a late season standout, may be out of the Bowl game with an injury. So Coach Cravath has borrowed two men from the track team and is working two freshmen—Don Burnside and Bob Morris—into the backfield.

There is nothing to worry about in the Trojan line. It is big and tough from end to end, with 235-pound Tackle John Ferraro, named on many All-American elevens, just about the toughest.

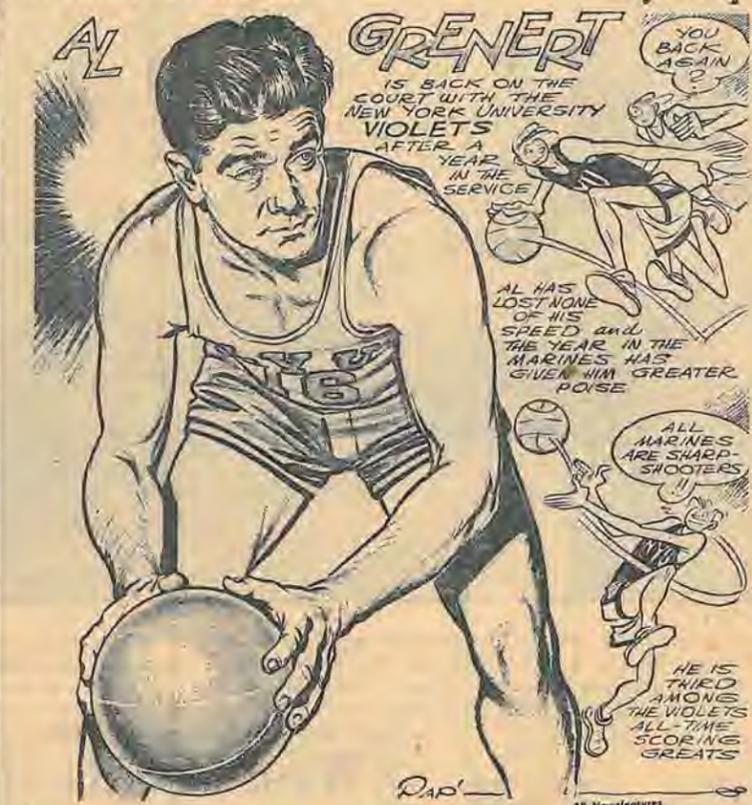
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**Dick Tracy Runs Into Priority Trouble**  
Jolly old St. Nicholas was so busy toting packages from the home folks on Christmas day that he overlooked Dick Tracy in the rush of things. The comic strip will be resumed as soon as the plane space is found for the famous detective.

# Byrnes Orders Ban on Racing

## Violet Veteran



## By Pap

# AL Batting Title to Boudreau; Musial Cops Slugging Honors

**CHICAGO, Dec. 26**—Lou Boudreau, 27-year-old manager of the Cleveland Indians, survived all sorts of trouble with his athletes during 1944 and still found time to win the American League batting championship with an average of .327, official figures released today revealed.

At the same time, the National League announced that Stan Musial of the St. Louis Cardinals, who was beaten for the elder loop's batting crown by Dixie Walker of Brooklyn, had paced his league's sluggers with an average of .349 on the basis of 312 total bases in 568 times at bat. Bill Nicholson won the NL's runs-batted-in crown with 122 and was second to Musial in the heavy slugging department with a .545 average.

In winning the American League batting crown, Boudreau participated in 150 games and made 191 hits in 584 trips to the dish. His average was the lowest to cop the title since Ty Cobb's .324 in 1908.

Bobby Doerr of the Boston Red Sox amassed a .325 mark before he was grabbed by Uncle Sam to take second place in the race, Boston's Bob Johnson was third with .323, George Stinweiss of the Yanks was fourth with .319, and Pete Fox of Boston rounded out the big five with .315.

The Red Sox grabbed team batting honors with a .270 mark while Stinweiss of the Yankees won the most specialized batting honors, his 205 hits, 125 runs and 16 triples leading the loop. His teammate, Johnny Lindell, also got 16 triples and he beat Snuffy out for the total bases lead with 297 to 296.

The American League home-run crown, the cheapest in years, went to Nick Etten of the Yankees, who hit only 22.



**LOU BOUDREAU**

# Wings Conquer Toronto, 6-4

**DETROIT, Dec. 26**—The Detroit Red Wings edged the Toronto Maple Leafs, 6-4, to take a firmer grip on second place in the National Hockey League.

The Motor City six moved into the lead early in the opening period on goals by Joe Carveth and Carl Liscombe with

## Hockey League Standings

Montreal	W	L	T	Pts.	Boston	W	L	T	Pts.
14	4	2	30	8	11	1	17		
Detroit	13	5	3	29	New York	3	11	5	11
Toronto	10	8	2	22	Chicago	3	12	3	9

Nick Metz getting the lone Leaf first-period tally on a thrust from Lorne Carr. Ed Bruneteau netted one for the Wings in the second period and Art Jackson followed with one for the Leafs.

After Steve Wochy and Don Grosso scored for Detroit in the third, the Leafs made an attempt to go ahead when Carr and Metz were successful but Wochy scored his 101st tally of the season to end the evening's scoring.

## American Hockey League

EASTERN DIVISION					WESTERN DIVISION				
Buffalo	W	L	T	Pts.	Ind'n'p'lis	W	L	T	Pts.
15	10	3	33	20	14	7	7	35	29
Hershey	13	10	3	29	Pittsburgh	13	12	3	29
Providence	8	16	2	18	Cleveland	12	8	5	29
					St. Louis	5	16	3	13

# Tea Bowl Tilt for U.K. Crown

**By John Wentworth**  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

The undefeated Eighth Air Force Shuttle-Raders, who rolled to their tenth straight victory of the season Monday, and the Air Service Command Warriors, who also have ten victories against no losses or ties, will be playing for the U.K. Base title when they meet in the second Tea Bowl game at White City Stadium in London on New Year's Day.

The two powerful and colorful grid teams, who are expected to draw upwards of 50,000 people, were given that "something definite" to shoot at yesterday when Capt. Ralph Ifft, U.K. Base athletics officer, announced that his office, in view of the especially outstanding records of the two teams, would recognize the Tea Bowl game winners as out and out champions of the United Kingdom.

The Raders tangled Christmas Day with the Big Reds, Second Bomb Division champs, and were held scoreless for three periods before coming through with two touchdowns in the final chapter for a 13-0 victory.

In the first half Big Red Halfback George Cherokee, former Ohio State star, plowed through the Rader line for sizeable gains and Lt. Joseph King, of Orono, Me., skirted the ends for first downs, but when the chips were down the Raders had it. In the final session Jim Hamilton snatched the ball out of the hands of Lt. Cherokee and dashed 18 yards for the game's first score, and a few moments later ex-Purdue Star Earl Dosey sliced off tackle for 48 yards and another touchdown. Pvt. Ed Snow, Berwick, Me., quarterback, accounted for the Rader extra point after his team's first touchdown.

# Pro Athletes To Undergo Strict Exams

**WASHINGTON, Dec. 26**—With only one week left before all horse and dog tracks in America will be closed under one of the most drastic manpower acts of the war, professional sports promoters and fans prepared to cooperate and hoped an early end of the war in Europe would solve their problems.

The move to close all U.S. tracks by Jan. 3 was made Saturday by James F. Byrnes, War Mobilization Director, with President Roosevelt's approval. Simultaneously, Byrnes asked Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service director, to review the qualifications for military service of all men known to be engaged in professional sports.

The ban on racing was ascribed to the need to conserve manpower, transport and critical materials. Though Byrnes called his action a "request," it was, in effect, an ultimatum to close up or face action by the War Manpower Commission, Office of Defense Transportation and the War Production Board. These agencies could deny the tracks manpower, motor and rail facilities and critical materials.

**Swope, Winn Pledge Support**  
Almost immediately after Byrnes issued his order, racing officials swung in behind the ruling. Herbert Bayard Swope, chairman of the New York State Racing Commission, and Col. Matt Winn, head of Churchill Downs, Empire City and Lincoln Fields, said they were "ready to comply instantly with regulations."

While promoters of most professional sports looked into the future with misgivings, club owners and league officials showed no undue concern about major league baseball carrying on in 1945, though there was a possibility that the new year would see a shortened season.

Clark Griffith, owner of the Washington Senators, said: "Whatever Uncle Sam says, baseball goes 100 per cent.!" He said he was accustomed to having his players reclassified, drafted or reviewed by Selective Service.

Ford Frick, National League president, said he was not surprised by Byrnes' order. He recalled that "three years ago we said we would play baseball as long as we could get nine men on the field—and that still goes."

There was less optimism among the minor league leaders and directors of professional football, hockey and golf, all of which have a large percentage of physically deferred athletes.

**Will Hit Ringmen**  
Boxing also expects to be hit pretty hard, but promoters and state commissioners voiced no regrets. Abe Greene, NBA president, stated: "No activity in the country, leastwise sporting activity, transcends in importance anything which has a direct influence on the progress of the war. When men are willing to die, certainly a matter of temporal pleasure or excitement cannot be of consideration." And Nat Rogers, Madison Square Garden matchmaker, said: "The war comes first. If enough boxers remain after that, then we will continue."

When the gates of the country's 80 tracks close, at least 16 states will lose more than 50 million dollars in revenue. Horse racing also contributed 16 million dollars to charity during the past year.

In his request to Hershey for re-examination of athletes, Byrnes said he "understood" some professional athletes were 4Fs and others had medical discharges. "In either event," he said, "they prove to thousands, by their great physical feats in football and baseball, that they are physically fit and as able to perform military services as are 11 million men in uniform."

# CAGE RESULTS

**FRIDAY'S GAMES**

Bainbridge Naval 61, Camp Bradford 50  
Eastern Illinois 46, Miami (Ohio) 30  
Great Lakes 60, Purdue 47  
Indiana Teachers 67, Concordia 49  
Kansas 63, Kansas State 40  
Minnesota 55, Nebraska 54  
Morehead Teachers 65, Central Normal 42  
Murray State 39, Loras 38  
NYU 57, Brooklyn College 48  
Norman Naval 53, Enid Airfield 32

**SATURDAY'S GAMES**

CCNY 74, Trinity 49  
DePaul 74, LIU 47  
Holy Cross 41, DePaul 35  
Iowa 63, Notre Dame 46  
Kansas State 41, Nebraska 46  
Kentucky 53, Ohio State 48  
Michigan 38, Wyoming 33  
Murray College 54, Morehead (Ky.) 34  
Norman Naval 53, TCU 22  
Northwestern 68, Western Michigan 54  
St. John's 41, Puerto Rico 35  
Samson Naval 43, Cornell 29  
Wisconsin 46, Marquette 39  
Yale 45, Dartmouth 42

**MONDAY'S GAMES**

Brooklyn College 49, Western Kentucky 45  
Tennessee 50, NYU 48

## Li'l Abner



## By Al Capp



## By Al Capp



**APOs Wanted**  
LT. MINGAN, Inf., AAA-4; S/Sgt. John MAZZI, North Adams, Mass.; T/Sgt. Walter PIERER; Lt. Raleigh RAGSDALE; Pvt. Robert R. RYAN, 39471449; Lt. Charles J. ROSINI; Pvt. William G. RUNDBLAD, Effield, Wisc.; Fred REICHERT, Bourbon, Ind.; T/Sgt. William S. SHEPHERD, Fall River, Mass.; Lt. Dale M. SPERRY; S/Sgt. Stanley SOKOLOWSKI, Cleveland, Ohio; T/4 Gaston VALCOURT, 39025138; Paul J. WALKER; Pfc George WRIGHT, Jump-river, Wisc.

**Greeting Cards Wanted**  
PLEASE save your old greeting cards for the benefit of children and wounded in hospital.—Send them to Help Wanted for distribution, and mark the packet "Greeting Cards."

# Captured Films Show the War—Through German Eyes



U.S. Army Signal Corps Photos

German infantrymen pass burning captured American vehicles somewhere on the Western Front during the German drive into American lines. Center—Columns of American prisoners being marched to the rear are passed by German tanks moving up. These Americans were captured during the Nazi counter-offensive. Right—German troops rush across a Belgian road, blocked with vehicles and armor. These photographs were made by a German Army cameraman whose film was captured by American forces.

## Life in Those United States

### Army Heads May Roll In Wake of Nazi Push

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (ANS)—Sources close to the War Department expressed belief today that the heads of some American and British military chiefs would roll because of recent reverses on the Western Front, with the primary responsibility for the German breakthrough apparently being laid at the door of the intelligence service, The Associated Press reported.

Meanwhile, in Philadelphia, J. A. Krug, War Production Board chairman, said WPB was operating now on the theory that the war in Europe would go on indefinitely. He pointed out that new factories to make trench mortars could not go into production until August. If the war ended before August a good deal of money would be lost, but if it didn't end by then, "as probably it won't," said Krug, the new plants—costing \$200,000,000—would save many American lives.

Although it was indicated that a complete report of the circumstances leading to the German winter drive had not yet reached here, the finger was pointed at the intelligence division by the Washington Post and by two U.S. correspondents, William L. Shirer, of the Columbia Broadcasting System, and Charles A. Michie, of the Chicago Sun.

Said The Post: "The disquieting thing to the people is that our command was caught napping. Blame is attached to the intelligence service. For the mistake, both the British and ourselves must accept joint responsibility, for at SHAEF the chief intelligence officer is a Briton with an American as his deputy. The deficiency will no doubt be remedied."

Shirer, who returned Friday from a six-week tour of the front, said the 1st Army commanders were "are of a German attack three weeks before it began and guessed correctly where it might come, but that events indicated G-2 had failed to apprise the high command of the strength of the projected Nazi attack. Michie said military analysts in Washington believed the Allied commanders did not know enough about the preparations for the German counter-thrust to ready adequate defenses, adding his own conclusion: "What they mean is that our military intelligence service failed in its job of reporting accurately the movements

of the enemy."

Two other columnists commented on America's use of military manpower. Hanson W. Baldwin, of the New York Times, said the U.S. was "luxurious and wasteful" in using its men and called for a more thorough "comb-out" of the Army and home front for replacements for the ground forces—"the arm of ultimate decision."

Drew Pearson charged that the War Department itself was responsible for "a lot of favorable news which gave the public a general feeling of overconfidence."

One item, he said, was that some 800,000 German troops were killed or captured in the cleanup in France. "Of these, however, about 400,000 constituted Russian Ukrainian labor battalions," Pearson said. "Thus the American public mistakenly believed that a large slice of Germany's army was decimated."

Pearson contrasted German and American methods of employing troops in the front line. U.S. troops are kept on the front line, with fresh men being brought up only as replacements, Pearson said, whereas the Germans took out their first-line troops after Normandy and sent them to rest camps. "Experienced Germans, refreshed after a long rest, are now taking the offensive against us," Pearson asserted.

### House Group to Probe 'News Blackout' to Troops

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26—Rep. Overton Brooks (D-La.) said today the House Military Affairs Committee would investigate what he called "a complete blackout" of news to American soldiers abroad.

Brooks, a member of a committee which recently completed a four-week inspection of the European fronts, said American troops complained that they were not getting enough news about the rest of the world and that most of what they got was old.

Brooks added that troops "craved" news from the U.S. and that failure to provide it was "unfair" and injurious to morale. Whether the blame for "the news blackout" lay in this country or abroad, Brooks could not say, but he said the committee intended to find out as soon as the new Congress convened next month.

### 'Philanthropist' Kills Self

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (ANS)—Oscar Gropper, 57, a leather-goods merchant, leaped to death from his hotel room today, leaving a note saying his book-keeper had ruined him financially. The book-keeper, Mrs. Madeline Dunnigan, confessed on Dec. 8 she had been financing personal philanthropies with Gropper's money—\$40,000 worth.

### New Midwest Cold Wave

CHICAGO, Dec. 26 (ANS)—With one cold wave following close upon another the Midwest shivered again today in sub-zero temperatures. No relief was promised for the next two days. It was two degrees below zero in Chicago today, but elsewhere in Illinois, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas the temperature ranged from 5 to 18 degrees below zero.

### Harmon's Wife Pregnant

HOLLYWOOD, Dec. 26 (ANS)—Mrs. Tommy Harmon—she's movie starlet Elyse Knox—announced today she was expecting a baby next July. Harmon, former All-American halfback, is an AAF lieutenant now on flight duty in the U.S.

### New Chapter, Same Book

NEW YORK, Dec. 26—New York cops assigned to rounding up handbook operators will not have their duties curtailed because of the government's ban on horse racing, announced Saturday. Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, chortling over the "good news" of the red light on racing, said today he had ordered police to concentrate on policy operators.

### New Combat Award

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26 (ANS)—A new service award for Army personnel who have participated in a combat parachute jump, combat glider landing or an initial assault landing on a hostile shore was announced today by the War Department. It will be a bronze Indian arrowhead, one quarter of an inch high, and will be worn on a theater ribbon.

### Predict United Nations Confab

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (Reuter)—The New York Herald Tribune reported today that a full United Nations conference would be held in this country, probably in March, following a Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin meeting outside the U.S. in February.

## West Fronts -

(Continued from page 1)

least 48 hours, a SHAEF expert was reported to have explained.

Although the weather yesterday began to turn unfavorable for air activity, the Ninth Air Force flew several hundred sorties in support of the ground forces and up to noon yesterday had shot down 22 enemy aircraft and destroyed six tanks and 237 motor transports.

In their drive westward, the Germans occupied Rochefort, about 20 miles southeast of Dinant. They also sent parachute troops over the American lines, dropping small groups of fewer than 50 each in the Stavelot area and, southwest of Dinant, near Givet. Both groups were reported to have been wiped out.

American forces were reported to be fighting bitterly all along the line. Those holding out at the Stavelot-St. Vith wedge, before they were withdrawn, were credited with possibly slowing up the German advance to such an extent that Von Rundstedt's original timetable may have been upset.

A report from the U.S. forces in Belgium indicated that Von Rundstedt might be running short of gasoline, saying that 13 German self-propelled guns had been captured because they ran out of fuel west of Bastogne. Von Rundstedt has been able to capture only one substantial fuel dump in his counter-drive, containing about 85,000 gallons, enough to keep one armored division rolling for two days.

## M'Arthur in Gotham? Just a sLeyte Hoax

NEW YORK, Dec. 26 (ANS)—Gotham hotel owners, night-club managers and newspapermen were still in a whirl today after a man who said he was an Army captain made reservations for Gen. MacArthur last week at several spots in town.

"Capt. Dennenberg" first called the Astor Hotel, where he asked for a "suite of six rooms for Gen. MacArthur." Later the same voice reserved a table for six at the Copacabana and six tickets for the musical "Oklahoma."

Then "Dennenberg" phoned every newspaper in town, saying the General's presence was top secret. That started a flurry of calls from newsmen to Army Public Relations. When a PRO attempted to reach "Capt. Dennenberg" at the telephone number he left, it turned out to be a delicatessen store.

## Three 8th AF Chiefs Promoted to Brigadier

Three Eighth Air Force combat leaders, pioneers in heavy bombardment in the ETO, have been promoted to brigadier general, it was announced yesterday. The new one-stars: Archie J. Old, of Atlanta, Tex., and Frederick W. Castle, of Washington, D.C., wing commanders, and Jack W. Wood, of Riverside, Calif., chief of staff of the 14th Bomb Wing.

## Paris Combed For Nazi Spies

PARIS, Dec. 26 (UP)—After lying low since September, German spies in Paris are beginning a full-scale plan of campaign, Edgar Pisani, assistant chief of Paris Police, revealed yesterday. A band of about 30 was arrested recently.

The large-scale spy hunt, which has been going on in Paris for some time, is difficult. The Gestapo forced Paris police to hand over several thousand blank identity cards.

Last week, one German wearing a U.S. officer's uniform was recognized and arrested by a former member of the FFI at a night club. Two Nazis were found in a house where a French girl supplied them with food.

## Eighth Army Resumes Advance in Italy

Eighth Army troops in Italy, after a brief holiday respite from war—all operations Christmas Day stopped because of heavy snows—were reported by the United Press on the move yesterday, closing in on Alfonsine, eastern anchor of the German defense line.

## Quiet Yule for Quints

CALLANDER, Ont., Dec. 26 (ANS)—The Dionne quintuplets, now ten years old, celebrated their usual quiet Christmas yesterday, attending two masses in their nursery chapel, eating a big turkey dinner and opening a few gifts.

## Vile Plot, Vial Mission

# Nazi Chutists Hunt U.S. Chiefs With Acid

By Stars and Stripes Staff Writers

WITH U.S. FORCES, Belgium, Dec. 21 (delayed)—German parachutists dropped behind U.S. lines to sabotage communications and kill high-ranking officers constitute a well-organized task force especially trained and equipped, a U.S. spokesman disclosed today.

They carry small vials of sulphuric acid which fit into match boxes and can be thrown in the faces of any who try to intercept them.

Their American uniforms were taken weeks ago from captured U.S. officers and men who were forced to strip to their underwear and then shot.

The parachutist force, equivalent to two battalions in strength, was specially organized to operate with the Nazi drive whenever it should start.

WITH AMERICAN FORCES IN BELGIUM, Dec. 26—Seven members of the SS—Hitler's elite—today signed sworn statements that they had participated in the Dec. 18 massacre of more than 20 civilians in the Belgian town of Parfondruy, south of Stavelot.

The men were among nine prisoners captured from the engineer platoon of an SS armored reconnaissance battalion. They freely admitted their part in the slaughter and added that members of the same unit were responsible for the slaying of 23 old men, women and children at Stavelot on Dec. 19.

The statements, which were witnessed by an SS officer, offered only the explanation that the platoon commander—also captured, but so severely wounded that he died in an American hospital before he could make a statement—had given the order that the soldiers should shoot anyone who got in their way.

The only crime of the 23 murdered at Stavelot had been that they were in the basement of a house which the Germans had captured and the crying of five small children annoyed the Nazis.

AACHEN, Dec. 26—Fifteen thousand German "traitors"

in this skeleton city of rubble were back to normal today after quaking with fear of reprisals from Von Rundstedt himself.

The "traitors"—so called because they refused to evacuate into the Reich with 60,000 others last October—were panic-stricken last week when Von Rundstedt announced that Aachen had been selected as Hitler's Christmas present to the Fatherland.

Goebbels screamed over the radio that the Aachen civilians were doomed and on Christmas morning they would be shot.

For the next few days they listened wild-eyed to British and German radio reports telling of the Wehrmacht's advance. They rushed through their bomb-pocked streets to the city's military governor.

"They were terrorized and their burgomaster was badly shaken," said Maj. Jack Bradford, of St. Paul, Minn. "We talked to them quietly and soothingly of the might of the American armies. They calmed down and walked back to their shattered homes."

WITH SEVENTH ARMORED DIV., HOLLAND, Dec. 26—A group of "Lucky Seventh" infantrymen, just out of the line, were patiently waiting for the truck that was to take them to a rear-area movie. A six-by-six came rumbling down the road.

"Hey, buddy," yelled one of the men, "headed for the show?" "Yup," said the driver. "Hop in."

The truck roiled on—and on some more, as the GIs exchanged speculative but not too inquisitive comments.

After the big vehicle had halted at last, a gruff-looking first sergeant, appearing from nowhere, whammed down the tailgate and began to bellow a list of names.

The moviegoers listened, fascinated but unresponsive. Suddenly the topkick whirled on the truck driver.

"Look here," he bawled. "What-n hell d'you mean by bringing up a bunch of guys I never heard of? These ain't the Joes going into the line."

The driver chewed his gum in unaffected tempo. "Heck," he yawned, "they said they were going to the show, didn't they?"

## Terry and the Pirates

By Courtesy of News Syndicate



## By Milton Caniff