



# THE STARS AND STRIPES



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## Berlin Hints Big Retreat In the East

### Soviet Sweep Continues In North as Reds Thrust Deep in Lithuania

MOSCOW, July 12 (UP)—Three great new battles are opening in Russia for eastern Poland, East Prussia and the Baltic States.

The ferocity with which the Germans are resisting the great march forward by the forces of Marshal Rokossovsky and Gens. Chernyakhovsky and Bagramyan is indicative of the gravity with which the German high commanders view their position.

The possibility that the Russian forces may have achieved a complete breakthrough was contained in a German Overseas News Agency admission that hard fighting was going on east of Olita, which lies south of Kaunas, on the Memel River, only 52 miles from the East Prussian border.

#### Big Retreat Hinted

At the same time the German military spokesman, one of the most reserved of military spokesmen anywhere in the world, practically admitted a big German retreat was impending.

"It is obvious the front cannot remain as it is," he was quoted as saying. "There are two alternatives: One, a large-scale offensive, and the other the adaptation of the entire front to new lines. Since we are on the defensive in the east the second alternative is the one to be applied."

(An Associated Press Moscow dispatch said that if the Soviet advance continued at its present rate "there is a good chance the armies will be fighting on German soil." It pointed out that the Red Army now was within striking distance of its last objectives before Poland, with Kaunas 45 miles away, Grodno 56 miles, Bialystok 51 miles and Pinsk 15 miles.)

Russian columns are eating up the miles to the Polish and East Prussian borders, especially west of Baranovichi, where Rokossovsky's army, after taking

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## The War Today

**France**—Americans fight within sight of St. Lo as they reach a point two miles east of the center of the city . . . Yanks northwest of St. Lo knock out 20 German tanks . . . American drive toward Periers is only four miles from the town . . . Germans withdraw toward Lessay on a ten-mile front . . . Brief lull sets in south of Caen after heavy fighting by British and Canadian forces.

**Russia**—Red Army drives toward Kaunas as German resistance stiffens . . . Rokossovsky's army covering 13 miles a day in advance toward Bialystok and Grodno, on enemy's main defense line . . . Berlin reports fighting east of Olita, 52 miles from East Prussian border south of Kaunas . . . Enemy spokesman hints big retreat impending.

**Italy**—Mitchell bombers blast concentration of 1,700 railway wagons at Alessandria, 40 miles east of Turin . . . Fifth Army units occupy Castiglione, two miles farther along road to Leghorn . . . Eighth Army opens artillery barrage against big harbor installations of Ancona, on the Adriatic coast . . . Swiss diplomatic source reports Germans are installing a new GHQ in Bavaria in preparation for total retreat from Italy.

**Pacific**—U.S. troops continue to mop up Japanese on Saipan Island . . . Navy planes bomb Kuriles, Truk and Jap positions in Marshalls . . . U.S. Liberators attack Yap in Carolines, shooting down five enemy planes.

**Asia**—Two Chinese divisions link up west of Mogaung to clear Ledo road between Kamaing and Mogaung of Japanese . . . Chinese report Japs again using gas in Hengyang area . . . Tokyo claims Jap air force bombs U.S. airfields in China.

## They Smell a Bad Egg, Cheat Nazis of a Cackle

SOUTHEAST OF BAYEUX (UP)—The latest in German booby traps was a real egg left at the side of a lane.

British soldiers, rationed to one egg a month, almost rushed for the prize. Then some sixth sense warned them. They held back, sent for a mine detector. The detector showed it conclusively—that egg was a bad one.

## WPB to Start Civilian Output

### Part of Program Deferred As a Concession to Military Leaders

WASHINGTON, July 12—The War Production Board announced last night that Chairman Donald M. Nelson's program for resumption of civilian production in plants not needed for war work would go into effect Saturday.

A concession to military leaders, who opposed the program on the grounds that it would divert labor from arms production, provides for staggered dates which defer operation of part of the plan to Aug. 15.

The aircraft industry meantime came forward with plans for a vast expansion of civilian and commercial flying after the war. The industry, represented by the Aeronautical Chamber of Commerce, made its recommendations to a Senate Military Subcommittee on war contracts.

#### Planes for Colleges

Among the many suggestions was one that military aircraft of no commercial use be turned over to colleges and other schools after the war to encourage civilian flying and maintain a stream of flying talent as a safeguard against future wars.

Final WPB orders effective in mid-August will permit WPB field offices to authorize manufacture of civilian goods, hitherto prohibited or restricted, in plants or companies which have labor and machinery not needed in the war effort.

In his original announcement of the program, Nelson said there would be "precious little in the way of expanded civilian production in the immediate future." He declared that it was nevertheless essential to prepare at once for the return of civilian production to prevent dislocation of economy when war contracts terminated.

## Chinese Units Link in Burma

CHUNGKING, July 12—The Allied campaign to drive the Japanese out of northern Burma and complete a land supply route to China reached another milestone yesterday when the Chinese 22nd and 38th Divisions effected a junction seven miles west of Mogaung.

The junction cleared the enemy from the area between Kamaing to Mogaung and stretched the Allied control of the Ledo Road, which leads into China, to around 300 miles.

Meantime, the Chinese High Command repeated charges that the Japs were using poison gas in the Hengyang area. The Chinese also said that Jap forces striking northward west of the Canton-Hankow railway had reached a point 12 miles from Yingiak, 70 miles north of Canton.

Tokyo Radio claimed the Jap air force bombed U.S. airfields in China, destroying 11 planes and damaging at least 95 others.

#### Luftwaffe Ace Killed

German Radio, quoted by Reuter last night, reported the death in action of Maj. (acting General) Wolfgang Redlich, group commander of a Luftwaffe fighter wing credited with 41 air victories.

## One-Way Piggyback Ride

### Single 'Chute Brings 2 Fliers Safely Down From Burned Lib

A LIBERATOR BASE, July 12 (UP)—Two members of a Liberator crew recently leaped from their burning bomber with only one parachute between them. Holding on to each other, they dropped safely into a field.

The plane was returning to Britain when fire broke out in the bomb bay. The parachute of the bombardier, 2/Lt. Robert L. Sanders, of Chicago, was burned.

When the pilot gave the order to bail out, the bombardier climbed on the back of the navigator, 2/Lt. Robert Callahan,

# Yanks in Sight of St. Lo; Nazis Fall Back on Lessay

## Crack Negro Artillery Outfit Praised for Work in France

By Allan M. Morrison  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

A U.S. ARTILLERY CP, France—Showing utter contempt for "master race" divisions facing them, U.S. Negro artillerymen, firing 155mm. howitzers, are blasting German installations and troop concentrations, pounding to pieces the Nazi theory of "inferior" and "superior" races.

First Negro combat artillery team to fight in this sector, this outfit is the howitzer member of a 4-unit artillery group that includes a battalion of 105s and two of 155 Long Toms.

They make music horrible to enemy ears, but to U.S. doughboys of the infantry division being directly supported

by their fire it's the sweetest song this side of a taxi dance hall in Harlem.

A few short weeks ago these were the kids who enlivened English villages when they "swung" cadence drill on training hikes to the tune of "Whatcha Know Joe?" Now, when these cannoners join in a group "serenade," the rhythm is not as regular, but Yanks in observation posts on the line report that the Jerries are dancing to it. Results: Shattered tanks, wrecked 88s, smashed fortifications, dead Nazis.

"It's a hell of a different tune," observed T/5 Joe Hodge, a survey section man from Detroit, "and we know those Germans up there don't like it a bit."

The battalion's uniqueness far trans-

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## Americans 4 Miles From Periers; Lull On Caen Front

American troops fought within sight of the battered spire of St. Lo, strategic heart of Hitler's defenses in the eastern sector of the 48-mile U.S. front in Normandy, while in the western sector German forces continued to withdraw southward toward Lessay yesterday.

Yanks advancing southwest from Carentan toward Periers, in the center of the front, reached the villages of Maugerie and La Roserie, about four miles from Periers.

On the British and Canadian front southwest of Caen, a lull occurred in the battle between the Odon and Orne Rivers, after some of the heaviest fighting since D-Day.

#### Two Miles from City

Fresh American forces poured forward in new attacks toward St. Lo from a 640-foot ridge overlooking the city from about three miles east, and one column reached a point two miles from the center of the city. Fierce fighting raged on the highway from Bayeux to St. Lo, east of the city, as Yanks bypassed St. Andre de l'Epine and swept through La Calvaire for a gain of two miles.

Northwest of St. Lo, other American units knocked out 20 German tanks. A group of 35 German tanks made an unsuccessful counter-attack in the Pont Hebert area, four miles north of St. Lo, in what captured German orders showed was an attempt to regain Isigny and break the bridgehead.

Simultaneously with the repulse of this drawal on a ten-mile front southward from La Haye du Puits toward Lessay. "Suicide squads" of Germans covering the retreat from the hilltop town of Mobeq, about four miles northeast of Lessay, were blasted by American dive-bombers and artillery. Some American troops reached the outskirts of Angeville-sur-Aye, three miles north of Lessay.

With the whole dominating height at the Forest of Mont Caestre, about three miles east of La Haye, in American hands, the next Yank objective was Point 92. This high ground slopes down to Lessay, from which a main road runs southeast through Periers to St. Lo.

#### Wait All-Out Attack

An all-out American drive for St. Lo was expected at Von Kluge's headquarters. Vichy Radio said, and another German source declared, that a new German armored division had been thrown into the battle in the St. Lo area.

SHAEF disclosed yesterday that Allied front-support planes had executed one of the most intensive attacks yet on German armor, with fighter-bombers and rocket-firing planes destroyed 28 German tanks and damaged 16 Tuesday. This equaled about one-fifth of the tank strength of an entire German panzer division.

German counter-attacks against British and Canadian forces southwest of Caen died down. Hill 112—"Crucifix Hill"—was again held by the British last night, after it had changed hands three times. British troops repelled strong

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## Tank Retrievers Save the Cripples Right in the Fight

By Earl Mazo  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

A TANK UNIT, Normandy, July 12—They gave John Derden a tank fitted with a retrieving boom instead of a gun, but that didn't keep him out of combat. He and his repair crew figured if they couldn't fight, they could fix tanks that would—and that's how "Derden's Darlings" have been operating.

In one battle near Carentan, the Ellijay (Ga.) warrant officer and his men went into the fight to pull out five crippled mediums and one banged-up light tank, and in the process their own tank retriever was knocked out.

Within hours "Derden's Darlings" had three of the tanks and their vehicle back in the fight.

Another time they went behind the German lines to bring in a white-starred armored car, light tank and assault gun lost from their outfit some time before.

The "Darlings" include Sgt. Frank Hans, of Baltimore, Cpls. Loren Garret, of Steamboat Springs, Colo., and Walter Kurbauer, of Chicago, T/4 Dan Juhl, of Burbank, Cal., and T/5 Kenneth Beckham, of St. James, Mo.

## D-Day Began to Dawn Feb. 20 With Death Blow at Luftwaffe

### 5 Days' Fierce Pounding Left Nazis Impotent, USSTAF Says

By Joe Fleming  
Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

SHAEF, July 12—USSTAF weather officers on Feb. 20, predicting a period of phenomenally good weather, gave the word that loosed more than 800 British-based heavy bombers at Germany's first line of defense—the Luftwaffe and D-Day began to dawn.

Over a 350-mile front, Eighth Air Force Fortresses and Liberators struck, driving into the heart of the Reich from the southwest, north and east. The fliers returned to their bases to report that they had cut enemy fighter production by more than 30 per cent and had shot 126 planes out of the air.

The Stars and Stripes of Feb. 21 termed the savage assault the "greatest blow of the war against German aircraft output."

Yesterday at SHAEF a senior USSTAF officer called it the "blow that made possible the invasion without fighter opposition."

#### Battered Factories

For five days, from both the ETO and Italy, warplanes of the Eighth and 15th Air Force destroyed the Luftwaffe at its source, battering factories in such strength and in such diverse places that the German air force never recovered.

The continuous attack, in which between 5,000 and 6,500 sorties were flown, saw, according to the high-ranking airman, who may not be publicly identified, the realization of the first two goals drawn up when the USSTAF started operations six months ago—the reduction and neutralization of the Luftwaffe and the achievement of complete air supremacy before D-Day to prevent aerial interference with Allied landings.

The Luftwaffe, unable to replenish its losses, declined from a potent force as

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## Stimson Reaches Britain To Visit Bases, Wounded

Secretary of War Henry L. Stimson arrived in Britain yesterday from Italy. He plans to visit military installations and wounded soldiers in Army hospitals.

Accompanying him are Maj. Gen. Norman T. Kirk, surgeon general, and Harvey A. Bunday, Stimson's executive assistant.

## Munich Area Bombed Again

### 1,200 Forts and Libs Paste Reich Targets; Mediums Attack in France

Boosting the weight of bombs dropped on the area of southern Germany housing the Reich's fourth largest city to more than 6,000 tons in 24 hours, more than 1,200 Fortresses and Liberators yesterday hit communications and other targets around Munich.

For the second successive day the escorted heavies slashed to Munich through cloud and intense flak without encountering a single interceptor on their 1,000-mile round-trip.

Ninth Air Force warplanes, flying in support of Allied armies in Normandy, pounded fuel dumps supplying German panzer forces.

Marauders blasted two fuel dumps and enemy troops south of Caen, while Havocs smashed at gas and oil supplies east of Domfront.

Although there was no Luftwaffe opposition over Germany yesterday 26 bombers were lost, presumably to flak.

## Big Air Force In Peace Asked

WASHINGTON, July 12 (AP)—Robert P. Patterson, undersecretary of war, today proposed that a formidable post-war military air force be maintained with stand-by production plants ready for any emergency and that civilian flying should be vastly expanded.

Appearing before a Senate Military Subcommittee he gave the following outline of the War Department's ideas:

1—A post-war military establishment must be maintained on the assumption that America would not again have a period of grace between the start of war and the necessity for full scale military effort.

2—The protective isolation of U.S. war plants could not be taken for granted in another war because of the development of heavy bombers.

## Ankara Talks Under Way On Turks' Entry into War

ANKARA, July 12 (AP)—Conversations between Turkey, Russia and Britain are afoot which may lead to Turkish participation in the war before the end of the summer.

The present conversations, which are at the level of talks between the Soviet and British ambassadors and Turkish leaders, have taken up where the failure of the Cairo conference left Turkey's position within the United Nations undefined.

They must first surmount the bitterness which followed Allied charges that Turkey failed to keep her word.

#### Nazi Prisoners Escape

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., July 12—FBI agents and State Police are seeking eight German prisoners of war who escaped from two camps in western Michigan.

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What Is Needed

A SMART boxer, when he has his
opponent groggy, keeps punching
away with all he has got.
Carrying this principle into the present
world conflict the Allies, in view of present
victories, must continue to fight as they
have never fought before, never laying
down their weapons or tools until the
enemy is in a position for the knock-out
blow which will make him call it
"quits," unconditionally.

Spare Time Idea

IF there are any American soldiers
finding little to do on these rather
uncertain nights of periodic raids,
here's an idea from Sgt. Tietelbaum, of
Milwaukee, Wis., which might interest
you.
Lately, Sgt. Tietelbaum and a lot of
other Yanks have been spending some
very interesting and profitable odd
moments mingling with British civilians
staying in the air raid shelters under the
city. They report that this is not only a
safe way to spend one's spare time, but
it affords an excellent opportunity to get
acquainted with the British and perhaps
do a good turn for the youngsters by
taking along a few cookies, candy or gum.
For these little tots especially the time
hangs heavy in these unnatural surroundings
under the glare of artificial lights,
amid the noise of tube trains and shuffling
feet.
So next time you walk through an
underground passageway and a youngster
hails you with, "Got any gum, chum?"
you might stop for a chat. Perhaps, in
return, he'll tell you how many farthings
there are in a sixpence.

All About Bombs

AN ingenious release which greatly
increases the bombing accuracy of
America's fighter-bombers has been
announced by Col. Philip Schwartz, Ordnance
Chief of the Air Service Command
in Britain.
Electrically-operated, the new bomb
release allows fighter-bomber pilots to
drop their lethal load in strings, one
bomb after the other, so that fast-moving
targets on the Continent can be bracketed.
Previously, fighter-bombers
dropped their entire bomb load at one
time, by means of a simple mechanical
release.
Col. Schwartz says that fighter-bombers
are now equipped to carry
loads ranging all the way from 20-pound
fragmentation bombs to 1,000-pound
demolition bombs. The most "popular"
bomb with the American Air Forces is
the 500-pounder which allows a maximum
loading of planes. It disperses well
and will demolish any target that doesn't
require armor-piercing bombs. Of the
300,000 tons of bombs dropped by the
U.S. Strategic Air Forces since August,
1942, 175,000 tons have been 500-
pounders, the Colonel said.
All of which should make interesting
—if distasteful—reading for the Nazis.

Yo-Yos May Soar

IT looks like the price of yo-yos back
home may soar to the skies as far as
the Office of Price Administration is
concerned.
The Newark, N.J., district office
recently announced that it considered
them relatively unimportant items in the
cost of living.
Also freed from regulation were wood
hair-curlers, artificial stem flowers,
novelty glass ice balls, cat and dog beds
and bee feeders.
What about fur-lined syrup pitchers
and cut-glass fly swatters?

Hash Marks

Cpl. John A. Szveda of a Fighter
Station received a letter from his one
and only . . . immediately wrote:
"OH, my back,
She's a WAC!"
Still they come in: Newest member of
the ETO Club is Pvt. Edward Thomas
O'Brien.

Each day and twice on Sunday, S/Sgt.
Manuel Gonzalez writes no less than 25
pages to his wife. He says he writes of



his hopes, ambitions, plans for the future
and love. At the rate of 6,000 words a
day, that's a lot of love.

Definitions by Pvt. H. T. Holzinger:
K. Rations: A dietician's dream of a
substitute for food; a miscellany of
edibles in concentrated form
can be shipped to all parts of the world,
undamaged, since the packages contain-
ing them are reinforced with hard tack,
guaranteeing against shock, concussion,
submersion—in fact against almost every-
thing except indigestion.
Peninsula: A long neck of land rapidly
cut off by Allied military offensives.

What They Won't Think of Next
Department. A room orderly had to
serve a cup of coffee to a colonel in his
bed every morning at 6.00. He had to
go across the street into the officers' mess
to get it. Whenever he reached the
colonel's bed he had spilled about a third
of the coffee. One day the colonel became
angry and told his room orderly,
"Johnson, if you bring the coffee cup
once more only two-thirds filled you'll
get KP for a week." From that time on
the cup was filled to the top every morn-
ing. The colonel was smiling and after
a few days he could not help but ask
Johnson how he does it now. Johnson
explained, "Sir, I have the cup filled
to the top in the kitchen. After I leave
the kitchen I take a mouthful of it and
let it drop back before I enter your
room." Since then the colonel is in the
hospital with a diagnosis nausea
and Johnson is on permanent detail in the
coal yard.

A W.O. lays claim to fame because his
name is often used in papers and maga-
zines, it is used to refer to a band of
barbarians, it is used by lovers, sweet-
hearts and married people in ordinary
conversation, it is not uncommon to see
it in personal letters, the British use it
even more than Boche in this war as
well as the last. He is W/O JG Herman
C. Hunn Jr.

And a few of the guys sweating out
a return to France want to know what



they are making spaghetti of these days.
When they remarked about the scarcity
of the stuff at a recent meal, they were
told it dissolved while it was being
cooked.

GI Mess Hall Philosophy:
Optimist: Pass me the cream.
Pessimist: Pass me the milk.
Cynic: Pass me the pitcher.
H. A. H.



Try, Try—Yanks Did With Results

Driven From Town
4 Times, GIs Win
It on Push No. 5

By Bud Hutton

St. Georges-d'Elle is American,
and it has been for enough days so
that the men of a Texas battalion who
have fought here since June 12 are sure
it will not change hands again until the
people of the town come back at length
to mend the roofs and mortar the broken
walls and fill the shell holes.

As a matter of fact, the number of
times St. Georges-d'Elle has been won
and lost isn't certain; none of the men
who have fought there is sure just how
many times they surged up to the battered
church and the houses to the south.
They know it began June 12. After
that it became a long weird time of
shuttling across heading barley fields, of
Germans and Americans separated only
by two feet of matted hedgerows; a
time of fighting by squads and teams
of two and three men, until I and L and
K companies had new commanders, and
so did most of the platoons and squads.

The battalion has won Silver Stars and
Bronze Stars in the bitter fields around
St. Georges-d'Elle, but the winners point
out that there really hasn't been any sure
way of picking out the men who did the
medal jobs. Every man in the outfit has
fought, including the chaplain's assistant
and the telephone operators, the head-
quarters clerks and the sergeant major.

Just after noon on June 12, 2/Lt. James
M. Bihlmire, of Three Oaks, Mich., started
out from the edge of Cerisy Forest with
his platoon, and headed for St. Georges-
d'Elle, a little over a mile away.
"We fought snipers all the way," Bihl-
mire remembers now. "We got to the
edge of town, in two or three houses,
and were pinned down. They sucked us
in. After a while we got out."

Helped the Wounded

What Bihlmire doesn't tell is that in the
process of getting in and out of the town
he went back after better than a dozen
men caught in fire, helped the wounded
and got them out. His was St. Georges-
d'Elle's first Silver Star.

Bihlmire, who had picked up a total
force of 69 men on his approach to the
town, came back with 30.
On the 13th, the three units cleaned out
the wooded patches and the hedgerows
between the forest and St. Georges, and
on the 14th the scouts from one unit
went up in the early afternoon. They
found the Germans waiting, and although
with help they slugged in to the center
of the crossroads and reached the church-
yard, they were pushed back by 3 o'clock
to a field 50 yards to the north.

"It was pretty obvious by then that
the enemy was going to do all he could
to keep this place," explains 1/Lt.
Laurence Ballard, of Gadsden, Ala. "Lt.
Col. Nazur (battalion commander) called
for artillery in the evening, and we got
five tanks. Ten minutes of our artillery
and two of our units followed the tanks
in."

But by 11.30 that evening Jerry had
regrouped his strength on the draw south
of the town. He opened heavy mortar
concentrations on the American foxholes
and hedgerows. Behind the Yanks, some
buildings caught fire. Silhouetted by the
flames, easy prey for sharpshooters, the
Yanks had to pull back and leave St.
Georges-d'Elle.

They were getting tired now. As part
of the Second Division, the outfit had
come rolling south from the beaches,
stormed through a dozen miles a day. Up
ahead and to their right, however, Jay
Hill 192, strategic sentinel to St. Lo, and
St. Georges-d'Elle guarded the eastern
flank of 192; it couldn't be by-passed.

At 10.06 on the morning of the 15th,
artillery hammered at the German con-
centrations in and around the town, then
the two units went in, with a third in
reserve. Two hundred yards past the

town they dug in. This looked good,
but German heavy mortars came up the
back roads. At 5.40 PM the Yanks were
back in the fields north of town.

The 16th was the day that made St.
Georges a place of evil. That day the
dead, khaki and gray and green, piled up
so high in the gullies that they called a
truce to bury them. American platoon
fought German platoon hand-to-hand for
30 minutes, which is a very long time
with bayonets and gun butts.

The attack jumped off at 8.30 in the
morning, and in two hours they were
back in the positions they had left the
day before. Artillery rolled out a mat
of steel before them, and artillery
observers dropped from sniper fire as they
kept it as close to the advancing infantry-
men as they dared. The Germans, how-
ever, were dug into their fantastically
deep points and when the artillery lifted
a lot of them were still there. The call
went back for reserves, and there were
none.

"Everybody went up to the line," says
Pfc James Riggins, of Camden, S.C. "I'm
the chaplain's aide, normally, but before
that day was over I had been an ammo
carrier, a rifleman and pretty near every-
thing else in an infantry outfit. The
chaplain was in there (Harold A. Carlson,
of St. Paul, Minn.) tending the wounded
and they gave him a Bronze Star, but he
deserved a lot more."

In the churchyard, mortar shells up-
rooted tombstones, and infantrymen dug
deep into the graveyard and stirred old
bones to escape the rain of fire which fell
all day. In the draw just south of town,
a hundred yards or so, the dead and
wounded began to pile up, bloody in the
tall grass where rain had made the smell
of the earlier dead heavy and foul. A
truce was arranged so that the Medics
might go out and care for the still living.

"We waited three hours after the
Medics went out," the battalion's men
remember. "But they never came back.
Fourteen aid men and two infantrymen
showed them the way. They never got
back."

In Exposed Position

In the evening, the outfit was in an
exposed position, and had to go back to
the same old fields north of the town,
which had become a no man's land.

On June 17, I and L companies
attacked, as best anyone can remember,
but there was heavy shelling and they
had to leave, and that afternoon they set
up a perimeter defense in the fields above
the town, because the expected Nazi
counter-attack was long overdue.

"About this time things were shaken
down," explains red-headed T/Sgt. Joe
Murphy, platoon sergeant from San
Antonio. "The Germans didn't really
come back to the town when we left it.
It was sort of a place for us to get cider
in the daytime, and they'd come in at
night."

Before the morning of June 21, when
the battalion had organized a new assault
and behind anti-tank weapons moved
into the town, hedge-row by hedge-row,
to stay, the men who took St. Georges
had left their stories as part of the
Normandy front.

There was a tall, husky, longtime buck
private from Texas, who is a sergeant
now but who has to ask Murph every
once in a while to be sure it's so. The
private got five out of eight Boches with

Even Office Workers
Are Called on to
Engage in Fight

his BAR while he was covering two
squads who had been pinned down by
enemy fire. He covered them alone, and
when a burst of Nazi machine-gun fire
tore his helmet from his head he kept
on firing, although the people who were
watching swear the machine-gun hit the
helmet three times before it touched the
ground.

He got wounded in the head on that
one, wounded later in the back, the hand
and the heel. He stayed in the line, and
he's still there. ("Sergeant now, huh,
Murph?")

Then there were Heilig and Kubala.
On the 16th, that tough day, Pfc George
Heilig, of Lebanon, Pa., and Pvt. Willie
Kubala, of Gerald, Tex., were pinned
down south of the town. Kubala's M1
was put out of action. Kubala said he'd
stay with Heilig. Together they stayed
there five days, in an old German dug-
out, and on the fifth night, after trying
each darkness, they were able to crawl
back to the American lines.

Learn Lot of Things

From Cerisy Forest to the fields 100
yards beyond St. Georges-d'Elle, the
three companies have learned a great
many things about how to live and keep
on living. They learned that the Germans
have been studying Japanese sniper
tactics, and that German snipers fre-
quently will take a string of firecrackers
into the woods with them. They fire
once, then touch off the fuse of the fire-
crackers which are so arranged that one
bursts every 20 or 30 minutes for five or
six hours. The sniper, meanwhile, moves
to another position and waits for the
crack of the bursting firecracker to force
an eager American to betray his position.

They've learned, as 1/Lt. James V.
Lester, of Fayetteville, Ark., will tell you,
that Jerry has an awesome respect of our
artillery and our mortars. They've learned
that German patrols will lay doggo for
two or three nights, listening to American
conversation, until they know the nick-
names of the men. Then Jerry will slip
up through a rainy night to a squad front
and call, "Hey, Red! Red!" and if Red
is very careless and answers he gets a
grenade for his trouble.

Beyond St. Georges-d'Elle there are
more wooded slopes, that is, when you
get past the gully where the dead are still
piled deep. And beyond those slopes
there are more, and there is all France to
go through. The battalion figures it's
learned the hard way so far, and ought to
do all right until there are no more
wooded slopes and two-foot thick hedge-
rows left.

But at the cross roads where they have
left their dead, the battalion's men—the
infantrymen and the chaplain's aide and
the telephone operators—will remember
the sound of a mortar's cough in the rain
and how the shells sounded as they
whistled downhill while the squads sat
around and tried to figure out just how
many times it was they'd taken St.
Georges-d'Elle and how many times they'd
lost it.

Pyle Calls 9th Division's Job
In Cherbourg Battle 'Beautiful'

By Ernie Pyle

NORMANDY—During the Cherbourg
peninsula campaign I spent nine days
with the Ninth Infantry Division—the
division that cut the peninsula and one of
the three that overwhelmed the great port
of Cherbourg.

The Cherbourg campaign is old stuff
by now. But the Ninth Division has
been in this war for a long time and will
be in it for a long time to come, so I
would like to tell some things about it.

The Ninth is one of our best divisions.
It landed in Africa and Sicily. Then it
went to England last fall and trained all
winter for the invasion of France. It
was one of the two American divisions
in the invasion that had previous battle
experience.

Now an odd thing had happened to
the Ninth while we were in the Mediter-
ranean. For some reason which we have
never fathomed the Ninth wasn't released
through censorship as early as it should
have been, while other divisions were. As
a result the Ninth got a complex that it
was being slighted. It fought hard,
received heavy casualties and did a fine
job generally, but nobody back home
knew anything about it.

Wants Some Credit

Your average dogfoot will go through
his normal hell a lot more willingly if he
knows that he is getting some credit for
it and that the home folks know about it.
As a result of this neglect in the Mediter-
ranean the Ninth laid careful plans so
that it wouldn't happen again.

In the first place, a new censorship
policy was arrived at, under which the
identities of the divisions taking part in
this campaign would be publicly released
just as soon as it was definitely estab-
lished that the Germans knew they were
in combat. With that big hurdle accom-
plished the Ninth made sure that the
correspondents themselves would feel at
home with them.

Of course, in addition to providing
facilities for correspondents, a division
has to be good in the first place if it is
going to get good publicity. The Ninth is

good. It performed like a beautiful
machine in the Cherbourg campaign. Its
previous battle experience paid off not
only in individual fighting but in a perfect
way the whole organization clicked.

As I have tried to tell before, war
depends a great deal more on organization
than most people would ever dream. The
Ninth did something in this campaign
that we haven't done in the past. It kept
tenaciously on the enemy's neck. When
the Germans would withdraw a little the
Ninth was right on top of them. The
Ninth moved so fast it got to be funny.

Plenty of Moving

It was based at division command post,
and we struck our tents and moved for-
ward six times in seven days. That works
the daylight of the boys who take down
and put up the tents. I overheard one
of the boys saying, "I'd rather be with
Ringling Brothers."

Usually a division headquarters is a
fairly safe place, but with the Ninth it
was different—something always was
happening. One night they had a bad
shelling and lost some personnel. Every
now and then snipers would pick off
somebody. In all the time I was with
them we never had an uninterrupted
night's sleep. Our own big guns were all
around us and they would fire all night.

Usually German planes were over, too,
droning around in darkness and making
us tense and nervous. One night I was
sitting in a tent with Capt. Lindsey
Nelson, of Knoxville, when there was a
loud explosion, then a shrill whine through
the treetops over our head. But we didn't
jump or hit the dirt. Instead, I said I
knew what that is. That's a rotating
band off one of our shells. As an old
artilleryman I've heard lots of rotating
bands.

Sometimes they sound like a dog howl-
ing. There's nothing to be afraid of.
"Sure," said Capt. Nelson, "that's what
it was, a rotating band." But our harmless
rotating band, we found a few minutes
later, was a jagged, red hot foot-square
fragment of steel from a 240mm. German
shell which had landed a hundred yards
away from us. It's wonderful to be a
wise guy.

# 4th-Term Foe Balks at Going To Convention

## Sen. Gillette Withdraws As Delegate For Slate Pledged to FDR

DES MOINES, Ia., July 12 (ANS)—Sen. Guy Gillette (D-Ia.) announced yesterday he was withdrawing as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in Chicago next week because "I couldn't conscientiously vote for the renomination of President Roosevelt."

Gillette, who opposed a third term for Mr. Roosevelt and as a result withdrew also as a delegate in 1940, pointed out that the Iowa delegation was instructed to vote for the President's renomination.

### Helen Hayes Attacks Rep. Fish

NEWBURGH, N.Y., July 12 (ANS)—Helen Hayes MacArthur, stage and screen actress, speaking at a Republican political rally in behalf of Augustus M. Bennett, candidate for nomination to Congress from the 29th District, yesterday called Rep. Hamilton Fish, Bennett's opponent, a "cat's got your tongue" congressman.

The actress, a resident of Nyack in Rockland County, was making what she termed her first "political" speech.

She charged Fish had "boasted" he had kept the country out of war for six months by his votes against defense measures.

"The cat's got your tongue, Congressman," she said. "What about what might have happened in this sick world had we been fully armed?"

"You can ask the Marines on Wake Island or the boys on Bataan, but their voices are muted behind Japanese barbed wire."

### Candidates Named

MINNEAPOLIS, July 12 (ANS)—Republican Gov. Edward Thrye and Byron Allen, Democratic Farmer-Laborite endorsed by a convention which formed the new party last April, were nominated for governor on the basis of unofficial returns from Monday's primaries.

Thrye was picked by Gov. Harold E. Stassen to take over the governorship when Stassen went on active duty as a Navy lieutenant commander 15 months ago.

Allen, a former Iowan who describes himself as a "Wallace Democrat," based his primary campaign on a plea for continued support of the national administration and the re-election of President Roosevelt.

### Farley's Successor Named

ALBANY, N.Y., July 12 (ANS)—Paul E. Fitzpatrick, of Buffalo, described as "one hundred per cent for Roosevelt," has been chosen New York state Democratic chairman to succeed James A. Farley.

### Southern Democrats Warned

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 12 (ANS)—Southern Democrats, many of them boomer their own favorite sons for the vice-presidential nomination, are "treading on thin ice" in failing to get together on a choice for the nominee, Gov. Chauncey M. Sparks said.

Sparks expressed the view that Henry A. Wallace was "not out of the picture" and added:

"Unless we get together and present a united front we may lose out on our recommendations for a better deal in the South. North Carolina wants Broughton (Gov. J. M. Broughton), Tennessee wants Cooper (Gov. Prentice Cooper), Texas wants Rayburn (House Speaker Sam Rayburn) or Connally (Sen. Tom Connally), Missouri wants Truman (Sen. Harry S. Truman), Kentucky wants Barkley (Sen. Alben W. Barkley) and so on."

### The Light That Failed

READING, Pa., July 12—William A. Nagle filed suit for divorce against Imogene Nagle, charging desertion. They were married 61 years.

### Radio Highlights

- AFN in the United Kingdom—1000 hours—2300 hours
  - On Your Dial
  - 1375 kc 1402 kc 1411 kc 1420 kc 1447 kc
  - 218.1m. 213.9m. 212.6m. 211.3m. 207.3m.
- Thursday, July 13
  - 1000—Victory Parade, with Les Brown.\*
  - 1015—Personal Album, with Yvette.\*
  - 1100—Morning After—Mail Call.
  - 1130—Duffie Bag.\*
  - 1315—The Male Man.\*
  - 1400—Visiting Hour—the Great Gildersteeve.
  - 1545—On the Record.\*
  - 1630—Music We Love.\*
  - 1700—Downbeat.\*
  - 1725—Army Hour.
  - 1755—American Sports Roundup.\*
  - 1805—GI Supper Club.
  - 1905—Bing Crosby.\*
  - 1935—Fibber McGee and Molly.\*
  - 2000—Home News from the U.S.A.
  - 2005—Comedy Caravan, with Jimmy Durante and Gary Moore.\*
  - 2030—Glen Miller Orchestra.
  - 2145—Fred Waring's Pennsylvanians.\*
  - 2200—Ten O'clock Special.
  - 2300—Final Edition.
- AEF on the Continent—0555 hours—2300 hours
  - On Your Dial
  - 1050 kc. 285m.
- 0600—Rise and Shine.
- 0815—Bandwagon.
- 0830—London Studio Players.
- 0920—Joe Loss Orchestra.
- 1215—Jose Norman's Rumbleros Orchestra.
- 1330—Canadian Army Dance Band.
- 1400—Gilbert and Sullivan.
- 1430—AEF Radio Playhouse.
- 2030—Glen Miller Orchestra.
- 2115—Stephane Grappelli Quintet.

## Corlett in France



Maj. Gen. Charles Harrison Corlett, 54, is commanding a U.S. Army Corps in Normandy, it was announced officially yesterday. Corlett commanded the U.S. and Canadian forces which drove the Japs out of Kiska, in the Aleutians, and later commanded the Seventh Division in its assault on Kwajalein atoll, in the Marshall Islands.

## Hit Rail Yards East of Turin

More than a hundred Mitchell bombers yesterday blasted railway yards at Alessandria, 40 miles east of Turin, while Fifth Army units pushed forward two miles toward Leghorn by occupying the coastal town of Castiglione.

On the Adriatic coast, the Eighth Army began shelling Ancona's big harbor installations.

The Mitchells dropped 200 tons of bombs on a concentration of 1,700 railway wagons at Alessandria. Photographs showed that more than 1,400 of them were destroyed or damaged.

Along the whole Italian front, bitter enemy opposition was reported, with the Germans playing for time to strengthen the Gothic line.

A Swiss diplomatic source reported that the Germans had installed a new headquarters in Bavaria in preparation for total retreat from Italy. The new headquarters were said to be designed for use "for the future battle zone of south Germany," with some 300 strong-points being constructed from the Brenner Pass into the heart of Bavaria.

## USSTAF - - -

(Continued from page 1)

of January, 1944, to where it was powerless to interfere with the landings on D-Day and now has become a "negligible" force, the USSTAF spokesman asserted.

From Feb. 20, he said, the German air force, although still able to inflict losses on raiders, "has not been a major factor on any war front."

In addition, he declared, the American heavies, in a six-month period in which 263,483 tons of explosives were dropped, severely damaged 64 vital Nazi oil targets and a great variety of other key objectives.

# Negro Artillery Praised for Work

(Continued from page 1)

cends the fact that it's a Negro combat unit. Its firing record, accuracy and output are acclaimed from corps artillery headquarters to the foxhole-pitted ridges of Hill 122 where muddy, tired infantrymen fight.

### Fabulous Amount

A fabulous amount of intricate mathematics—plotting and computing—precedes the sending of fire directions to the individual batteries. It's a chain that runs from the forward OPs, consisting of an officer and a couple of EMs usually dug in with the infantry up on the lines, to divisional artillery CP, and down to the battalion CP, where the computers work. This CP is the hub of everything the battalion does. Teams of computers and horizontal and vertical control operators alternate every six hours under the gunnery officer and his assistant.

These men are considered the "brains trust" of the outfit, though they credit the other two departments, communications and gun sections, with more vital jobs.

When this reporter entered the CP dug-

## NEWS FROM HOME Army Steps Up Its Production Of Giant Shells

### 100-Million Acceleration Program Under Way With High Priority

WASHINGTON, July 12—Future Allied offensives will place greater emphasis upon heavy artillery, it was disclosed today with a War Department announcement that the Army is increasing production of big shells by several hundred per cent.

Capitalizing on combat experience, the Army said contracts for 155-mm. and eight-inch and 240-mm. shells have been placed with 60 metal manufacturing concerns alone whose facilities are being expanded under a \$100,000,000 program.

Brig. Gen. Robert Hardy, chief of the ordnance ammunition division, said the program was so urgent that WPB had granted highest priorities on equipment and material.

The program is in keeping with the Army theory that the greater the weight of ammunition used, the more lives can be saved. The effectiveness of big shells was attested recently by German prisoners in Normandy who complained of the "terrific concentration" of Allied artillery.

### Oil Boom Looms in South

VICKSBURG, Miss., July 12—Oil industry leaders, believing the deep South may be on the threshold of an oil boom, have sent trained men into Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia and Florida in quest of new fields. The Petroleum Administration for War has placed the new exploration effort second only to vital war demands as far as priority on materials and manpower is concerned.

### Ah, the Glorious Future

ST. LOUIS, July 12—Shineless blue serge suits and wrinkleproof clothing for men after the war were promised by the Monsanto Chemical Co. It announced discovery of new techniques for chemically treating natural fibres so that even long train rides or a walk in the rain won't mar the crease in trousers.

### Bea Lillie Back on Broadway

NEW YORK, July 12 (UP)—Beatrice Lillie, the English actress, has been engaged for a Broadway revue opening Dec. 7, Billy Rose, the producer, announced today.

### Wreck Yields 33rd Body

JELICO, Tenn., July 12—The 33rd and apparently the last body was removed last night from the wreckage of the Louisville-Nashville troop train which piled up in a gorge near here last Thursday.

### Predicts Philippines Seizure

NASHVILLE, Tenn., July 12—Bataan and most of the Philippines will be in American hands by Nov. 11, Warren Atherton, national commander of the American Legion, predicted yesterday.

### Bequest to School

HOUSTON, Tex., July 12—Rice Institute has received an estimated \$2,000,000 under the will of Houston philanthropist William Marsh Rice Jr., who died last week.

## Out to Junk the Junkers



With Vilna cut off and Russian troops well on the road to Kaunas, the Red Army strikes west toward the German fortresses of Grodno, Bialystok and Brest-Litovsk, moving ever closer to East Prussia.

## Berlin Hinting Retreat in East

(Continued from page 1)

Slonim, is moving forward on Volkovsk at the rate of 13 miles.

(Volkovsk, a railway junction, is almost on the main German defense line which runs between Bialystok and Grodno in this area.)

### Strike Toward Prussia

In East Prussia the Germans are desperately preparing to do battle on Germany's own territory. The Russian columns which bypassed Vilna are striking toward Kaunas and the East Prussian border. In Vilna the last bitter battle is going on between the trapped Germans and the victorious Russian units who are mopping up on a large scale in the narrow streets of the old city.

German Tommy-guns are installed in the belfries of Vilna's medieval churches, firing down on the Russian troops in the streets.

Prisoners said they were threatened not only with court-martial but with reprisals against their families in Germany unless they held out to the end.

When the Germans tried to reinforce the garrison with a parachute unit the Russians destroyed the unit as it flew in and floated down so that contact with the German garrison was never even made.

"The biggest German defeat of the war is in the making here on the northern plains" is how one report reaching Moscow from the front describes the operations now going on.

Thrusting forward into Lithuania, Gen. Bagramyan is striking for Kaunas, the last great German hedgehog position before the East Prussian frontier. They are astride the Kaunas-Dvinsk road for nearly 15 miles and are beginning to move around Dvinsk itself. Many hundreds of prisoners have been taken in this area in the last 24 hours.

## Loyalist Troops Quell A Revolt in Colombia

BOGOTA, Colombia, July 12—President Alphonso Lopez resumed his duties as head of the Colombian government today after being held captive for two days by a rebellious military faction.

Loyal government troops freed the president from a rebel stronghold and sent his captives fleeing toward the Ecuadorian frontier.

## Free Fort Gunner Hidden by French Nearly 2 Months

By Bud Kane

Stars and Stripes Staff Writer

ST. SAUVEUR LE VICOMTE, July 12—A fortress tail gunner, S/Sgt. Kenneth N. Hougard, bailed out over France May 12 and was fed, sheltered and clothed by the French until Allied troops reached his area.

Hougard was in a wagon going toward St. Sauveur when M/Sgt. Harold L. Smith of Civil Affairs Intelligence Interrogation stopped a French peasant woman to inquire directions.

Unable to understand Smith, the woman turned to Hougard, whose wagon had drawn abreast, and began to expostulate in French. To Smith's amazement the man blurted out, "Hell, don't ask me, I'm not French, I'm an American."

Hougard related that on a few occasions he was at the dinner table when German military police came to the house to question the occupants. He was a little shaky, he said, and more than once thought "my number was up."

Military authorities accompanied Hougard to homes where he had hidden his watch, identification tags and bracelet, one in each place.

"I thought if I left them in several homes the French could say they found them," Hougard explained.

Authorities said Hougard would probably be sent back to England to rejoin his unit after a short rest.

## France - - -

(Continued from page 1)

counter-attacks at Eterville, and held high ground there from which they could cover the German line controlling the Orne River crossings. Further ground was gained by the British northeast of Caen, around Colombeles.

British and Canadian forces knocked out about 80 tanks northwest of Caen, and between the Odon and Orne Rivers, in the last 72 hours, according to a spokesman for Gen. Dempsey, commander of the British Second Army.

### Beaches Quiet

Along the Normandy beaches "it's more peaceful right now than in London and southern England," Col. Walter B. Goodrich, U.S. Army anti-aircraft expert, said at SHAEF. American anti-aircraft units guarding the beachhead have shot down more than 100 planes, mostly at night, in their share of keeping the beach-head safe.

Special air service regiments, composed of Allied soldiers, have been operating well behind the German lines after dropping by parachute. The Allied command disclosed yesterday. Although concentrating their activities against enemy communications, they have also taken and are holding prisoners.

As Gen. Montgomery visited Caen yesterday, it was estimated that 25,000 French civilians, or about half the normal population, were left in the city, and that 1,300 had been wounded by shells and bombs before the city was taken.

## Demand Reds Take Stand On Money-Fund Quotas

BRETTON WOODS, N.H., July 12 (AP)—The American delegation to the United Nations monetary conference has demanded a final answer from the Soviet representatives on the question of quotas as proposed for the multi-billion dollar currency stabilization fund.

Russia is demanding credit for her war-devastated areas in the form of a gold contribution smaller than that required of other nations.

