

PHILADELPHIA RECORD

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SUNDAY, MARCH 25, 1945

TWELVE CENTS

ALLIES SMASH FIVE MILES ACROSS RHINE; LINK UP WITH 40,000 AIRBORNE TROOPS; 'THIS IS LAST ROUND,' MONTGOMERY SAYS

RUSSIAN PUSH GAINS 43 MI. IN HUNGARY

Battle Raging in Drive to Reach Berlin

By RICHARD KASISCHKE
LONDON, March 24 (AP)—Joseph Stalin tonight announced Russian troops have advanced 43 miles on a 62-mile front in a great new offensive across Western Hungary.

The Germans said a savage, swaying battle was raging in Berlin's outer defenses 31 miles east of the Nazi capital.

92 Miles From Vienna

The massive breakthrough in Hungary, synchronized with the Allied assault in the West, has already ground within 49 miles of Austria and 92 miles of Vienna. The Soviets said 70,000 Nazis were killed in the drive. The Austrian capital is the gateway to the Southern Germany "mountain redoubt" where the Nazis are reported planning to make their last-ditch stand.

The Vienna-bound offensive exploded as the enemy said the Red Army has built up a 17-mile long, six-mile deep bridgehead across the Oder on the road to Berlin and hurled powerful new forces into an assault with the Anglo-American offensive across the Rhine.

Take Industrial Cities

Soviet forces in Upper Silesia, meanwhile, captured the industrial cities of Nisles and Loebeschuetz and were probing the Sudeten mountain passes leading from Silesia to Brno, Prague and Hitler's Czechoslovak arsenal.

The capture of Neisse and Loebeschuetz was announced in a second order of the day issued by Stalin. They are nine and three miles from the Moravian frontier. Elsewhere, by German and Russian account, the Red Army was attacking on five major sectors from Western Latvia to Yugoslavia's northern border.

In three of these operations, the Russians battered the perimeter defenses of the isolated Baltic ports of Danzig and Gdynia, inched into the southern fort guarding Stettin, Berlin's northern anchor, and battled under German naval fire to wipe out a Nazi pocket in East Prussia southwest of Königsberg.

350 Towns Captured

In Hungary, Marshal Feodor I. Tolbukhin's 3d Ukrainian Army captured the great Hungarian rail city of Veszprem, 115 miles east of the Austrian mountain fortress of Graz, in its new offensive and swept up more than 350 other towns and villages, Stalin announced.

Tolbukhin's troops surged over territory conquered last December and lost to a German counteroffensive in January, advancing as much as 13 miles beyond previous Soviet positions, Stalin disclosed. They smashed the blows of 11 enemy tank divisions.

In this powerful sweep across Western Hungary, the Soviets also recaptured the great 13-way communications center of Szekesfehervar, 32 miles southwest of Budapest, and 14 miles to the northwest overran the town of Mor.

Burst Into Veszprem
Eighteen miles southeast of Szekesfehervar, Tolbukhin's troops captured Ening, and 23 miles southwest of Szekesfehervar burst into Veszprem beyond the west shore of Lake Balaton. This important nine-way road and rail center is on the direct line to Graz and Italy.

The enemy said Tolbukhin's forces, which were within 57 miles

Continued on Page 5, Column 2.

The Weather

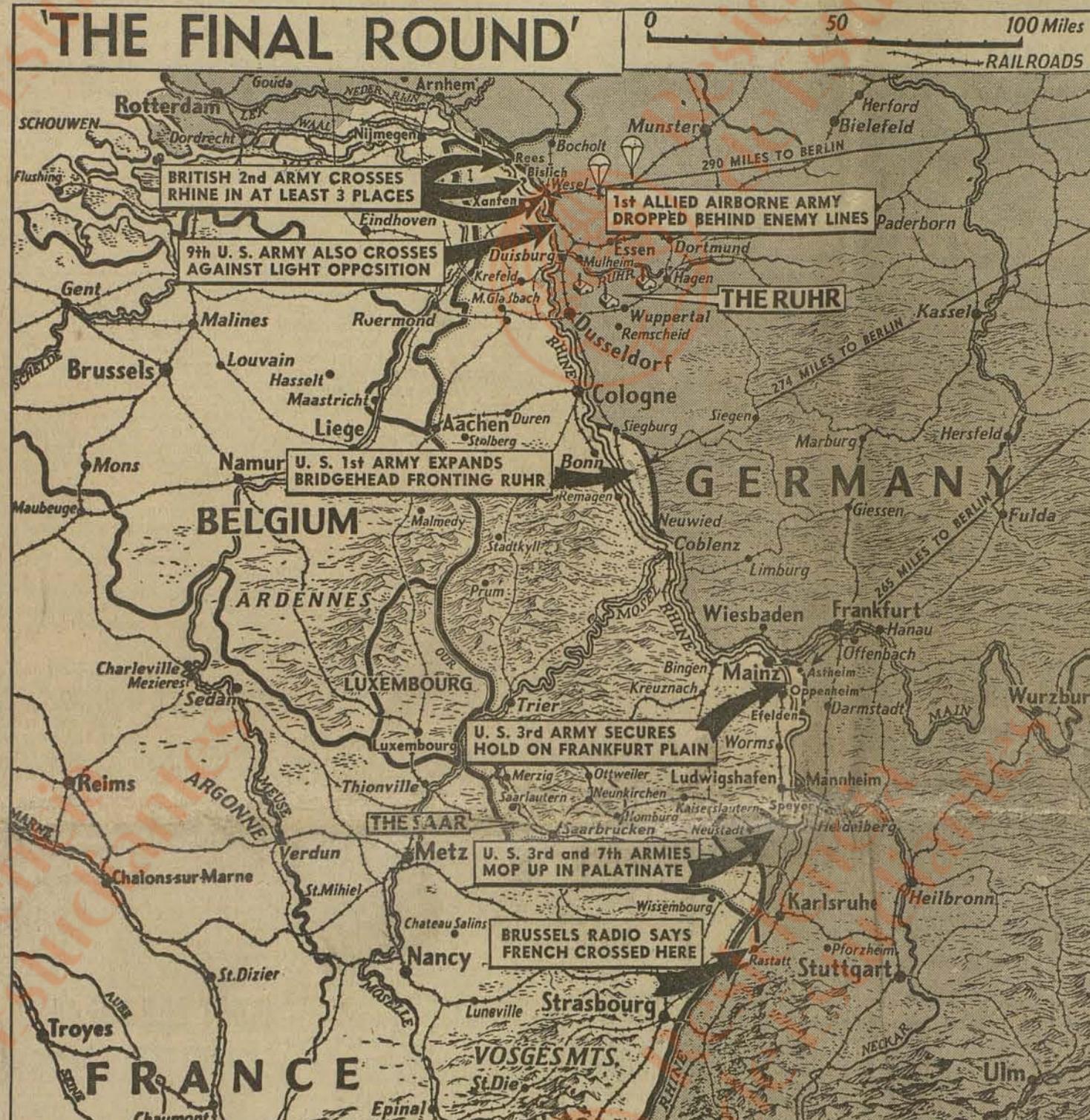
(By U. S. Weather Bureau)
Eastern Pennsylvania: Fair to day, moderate temperatures.

New Jersey: Fair to day, moderate temperature in interior, cool along the coast.

Newsprint Conservation

Many pages of advertisements have been deleted from the Sunday Record-Standard. The Record is co-operating with the Government in conserving newsprint. But this edition contains all current news and all features complete. The Record is the only newspaper in the city which carries dis- patches from five great news services. The Record is the largest International News Service, New York Times Foreign Service and Chicago Sun Foreign Service.

Philadelphia Record



225 SUPERFORTS BOMB BIG NAGOYA AIRCRAFT PLANT

Carrier-Based Planes Continue Raid on Ryukyu Islands

By LISLE SHOEMAKER

GUAM, Sunday, March 25 (UPI)—A fleet of at least 225 Superfortresses attacked the Mitsubishi aircraft industry at Nagoya with hundreds of tons of demolition bombs early today.

The strike was designed to cripple Japan's airplane engine production. A communiqué issued at the 21st Bomber Command headquarters announced Marianas-based B-29s resumed their raids against centers of warming facilities in the Japanese homeland.

After-Midnight Attack

The Superfortresses, carrying a huge but undisclosed tonnage of "general purpose" bombs, dived over blacked-out Nagoya shortly after midnight at 5000 feet.

The five previous raids against major Japanese cities—Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka and Kobe—were incendiary bomb attacks designed to burn out target areas.

It was the second attack against Nagoya—the Far East's greatest aircraft center and Japan's third largest city—within a week. And it was the fifth time the Mitsubishi plant has been the target for Superforts.

Through Bad Weather

Reports on the results of today's attack were not available immediately. It was the first time B-29s have dropped demolition bombs from such a low altitude, and greater accuracy could be expected.

Pre-raid forecasts indicated the strike would be made through bad weather, which has prevented taking reconnaissance photographs since last Monday's fire raid on Nagoya. At that time crewmen said big fires were touched off in the city.

In the previous incendiary raid on Nagoya March 12, two square miles in the heart of the city were attacked.

The Mitsubishi plant occupies 10,000,000 square feet—slightly less than a half square mile—on the outskirts of the city.

Nagoya is located at the head

Air Army Fills the Sky Like Times Square Jam

Armada of 1500 Transports 500 Miles Long Lands Thousands of Parachutists and British Glider Troops; Luftwaffe Offers No Opposition

By ALEX H. SINGLETON

ABOARD A GLIDER TUG EAST OF THE RHINE, March 24 (AP)—I saw history's mightiest air armada—officially 500 miles long—soar triumphantly across the placid Rhine today and deposit thousands of battle-toughened American and British airborne troops in the thick of an enemy defense zone plastered in advance by an unprecedented artillery and bomb barrage.

The strike was designed to cripple Japan's airplane engine production. A communiqué issued at the 21st Bomber Command headquarters announced Marianas-based B-29s resumed their raids against centers of warming facilities in the Japanese homeland.

Thousands of Yanks Jump

The size of the airborne Army was not announced—although some said it ranged up to 40,000 men.

But from a bird's-eye view in the co-pilot's seat of a sturdy RAF Stirling transport, I saw thousands of American paratroopers spill into the air and descend to the smoke-shrouded battlefield within sight of the Rhine.

British Arrive in Gliders

Simultaneously, gliders carrying British troops cut loose from tugs and swooped gracefully to the shell-pocked ground. Sharp fire bursts around gliders showed the troops almost immediately within sight of the Reich.

With Nazi defenses thrown into turmoil by this tremendous attack from the West, American heavy bombers from Italy leaped the Alps and smashed a tank factory in Berlin in a 1600-mile round trip, the longest escort mission ever flown over Europe.

From dawn to dusk, one great procession of bombers and fighters swept across the Channel, to be joined over the continent by thousands of other warplanes streaming up from advanced bases in Belgium, Germany, Holland and France.

Fly in Five Layers

Each phase of the mammoth operation was run off with split-second timing, with as many as five layers of planes roaring toward their objectives at the same time or criss-crossing at different altitudes.

Sixty seconds after a group of transports, towing gliders filled with combat troops, passed over one Belgian city, there came the roar of 200 swift American fighters diving into the fray. A total of 1500 transports and gliders followed fighting men into the seething battle east of the Rhine.

A force of 240 Liberators dropped 600 tons of supplies to the airborne troops.

In the crucial hours before daybreak 1900 American bombers and fighters beat up a dozen Nazi airfields around the battle zone and made searing attacks on German positions near the Rhine.

Late in the day another 450 Flying Fortresses and Liberators smashed four enemy night fighter bases in Germany and Holland. And on Friday night RAF Lancasters smashed the German garrison in Wesel, paving the way

Continued on Page 5, Column 4.

Women, a patriotic duty, be physically fit. Tarr System. KIN 2271—Adv.

10,000 PLANES BLAST REICH AS ALLIES ADVANCE

U. S. Bombers From Italy Attack Berlin for First Time

By HENRY B. JAMESON

LONDON, March 24 (AP)—The greatest co-ordinated aerial blow in history rocked Germany today as 10,000 Allied planes joined the assault across the Rhine and then laid a protective wall of fire around the troops as they charged toward the heart of the Reich.

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turmoil by this tremendous attack from the West, American heavy bombers from Italy leaped the Alps and smashed a tank factory in Berlin in a 1600-mile round trip, the longest escort mission ever flown over Europe.

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Continued on Page 5, Column 5.

NAZIS PUT UP ONLY SPOTTY RESISTANCE

British and Yanks' Skill and Guts Conquer River

By WES GALLAGHER

ON THE RHINE, March 24

(AP)—Fighting the most intricate battle ever planned by American and British soldiers, elements of three armies were

making amazing progress to day after crossing the Rhine by a combination of skill and guts.

Flies Across Rhine

To get a ringside view of the greatest co-ordinated attack ever staged on the Western Front, I followed the Doughboys and Tommies from their secret assembly areas to the Rhine over moonlit roads, watched the attack develop from a front line regimental command post, went across the river, and finally took a flight in a C-45 airplane for a 3000-foot-high seat over the Rhine for the air drop by the thousands of paratroopers and glider troops.

There is not a man, American or British, from generals to privates, who does not feel that this is the beginning of the last major battle that will bring the war to a quick end.

GI's Usually Pessimistic

It is the first time that this feeling has permeated into the hearts of the always pessimistic GI's who have to do the fighting.

Everything the Allies have learned in three years of war has been thrown into this battle against the most powerful German fighting force left on the Western Front.

German defeat now means loss of the Ruhr, opening of the gate to Berlin, an eventual linkup with the Russian armies and loss of the war for the Germans.

Despite these stakes, German resistance at first was spotty. Abnormal numbers of German prisoners were taken in small attacks. One division alone had nearly 1000 before the morning was over.

It was the same type of feeble resistance that was encountered at the Roer last month when German soldier morale slid down and the front collapsed.

Why Attack Is Succeeding

But the Allied attack was succeeding primarily, not because of German morale. It was because of these factors and hundreds like them:

The calm, icy courage of British Commandos who lay within 1500 yards of Wesel while the RAF put on one of the greatest night precision attacks of the war.

Three hundred Lancasters flattened the town in 15 minutes. The commandos rushed into the flaming rubble and crushed the resistance of tough German parachute troopers.

Transport Pilots Brave

The bravery of American transport pilots who flew their cumbersome ships with heavy gliders in tow into a storm of flak and dropped grim air-borne troops.

Sometimes they came back across the Rhine in flames, sometimes not at all.

But these are only snapshots in the great battle. Here is how it went down:

Yesterday afternoon a pall of smoke hung over the entire Ruhr and the Rhine from Dusseldorf to Arnhem. Some of it was the result of Allied smoke pots along the river, but most of it was from flaming buildings of the Ruhr and the impact of thousands of American and British bombers and fighters.

There was little movement behind the

Allies 5 Miles Beyond Rhine; Link Up With Airborne Army

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

By DREW MIDDLETON

Deutsch, commander of anti-aircraft formations in this area, was killed.

The southernmost crossing was hacked out by doughboys of Lt. Gen. Simpson's 9th Army. They crossed the Rhine south of Wesel between 2 and 3 A. M. this morning after a violent artillery barrage.

Resistance Light

Our doughboys found the resistance relatively light aside from scattered fire from enemy infantrymen and machine-gunners who dragged their weapons from their fox holes as the barrage died and waves of doughboys swept up from the river bank.

None of the crossings is as yet a bridgehead in the sense that it is free of small arms and light artillery fire. However, the lightness of the opposition, probably as a result of the heavy aerial and artillery barrages, indicates that the task of punching out larger positions should not be difficult. Several hundred paratroopers have been taken in the battle, but thus far only two German divisions have been identified. These are the 8th Parachute Division and the 84th Infantry Division of the 1st Parachute Army.

Several Crossings Made

By 9 A. M., the operation was going "according to plan." Several crossings had been established and troops were well into the first German defensive position. The critical period will come when the Germans counter-attack in strength if, indeed, they are able to do this with their communications and rear areas under attack by the Allied Airborne Army.

Canadian troops are also taking part in the battle, it was revealed today, although their location has not yet been revealed.

Prime Minister Churchill is at Marshall Montgomery's headquarters watching the progress of what he called a "memorable battle" in a message to the troops.

Churchill Forecasts Victory

"Once the river line is pierced and the crust of German resistance is broken, a decisive victory in Europe will be near," he wrote. "May God prosper our armies in this noble venture after our long struggle for our King and country, for our dear life, and for the freedom of mankind."

As the sun rose over the ravaged countryside north of the Ruhr, the first formations of Allied fighter-bombers and bombers wheeled over their targets on the Westphalian plain to begin a day of punishing aerial attack on the enemy. The Allied tactical air forces immediately concerted in the crossings of the Rhine, being co-ordinated by Air Marshal Sir Arthur Coningham, commander of the British 2d Tactical Air Force.

600 Tons of Bombs Dropped

Hundreds of Marauders, Invaders and Havocs of the 9th Air Force opened their assault at precisely 8 o'clock when they dropped 600 tons of fragmentation bombs on 11 different enemy installations north of the Ruhr.

Fighter-bombers of the same force flew protective patrols for the sky train of 1500 American troop carriers and gliders which brought paratroopers and airborne infantry over their targets. Then fighter-bombers swooped down to blast gun positions and German reinforcements moving to the front and other targets marked by Allied artillery. Pilots reported that the entire position east of the Rhine was covered with smoke and said that they encountered only light flak.

Sky Train 500 Miles Long

These airborne landings represented the largest single concentrated lift of airborne troops ever undertaken by the Allied Forces. The sky train was more than 500 miles long, exclusive of the hundreds of fighters and bombers which assisted in the operation.

The 8th Air Force made a notable contribution to the battle this morning when 1050 of its Flying Fortresses and Liberators blasted 12 Luftwaffe airfields north of the Ruhr.

Mitchells and Bostons of the RAF's 2d Tactical Air Force carried out sharp attacks on German gun positions in the battle area during the morning and again hammered the enemy's communications. Typhoons and Tempests attacked similar targets with rockets, cannon and machine-guns.

Navy Ferries Troops

Ships, boats and men of the U. S. Navy and the Royal Navy took part in landings, ferrying thousands of troops across the Rhine.

After exhaustive experiments on American and British rivers, it was found that LCM's and LCV's (P) were the two largest types of craft suited to meet the Army's requirements which could be carried overland on trailers.

The type of craft have bows lower to form ramps for loading or unloading and which speeds up their "turn-around" time.

The operation called for a new amphibious technique. Instead of

Associated Press Wirephoto
A HASTY LUNCHEON is taken by Field Marshal Montgomery while visiting forward British and Canadian troop positions before the start of the Rhine offensive.

Germans Warned Not to Execute Allied Air Troops

DON'T FRATERNIZE MONTY CAUTIONS

LONDON, March 24 (AP)—Field Marshal Montgomery, warning his invading troops against fraternization with the enemy, said today it was too soon "to distinguish between 'good' and 'bad' Germans" and that the soldiers had a "definite part in winning the peace by a definite code of behavior."

"Peace does not exist merely because of a surrender," he said in a letter to each soldier. "Nazi influence penetrates everywhere, even into children's schools and churches."

Asserting that the Germans "remained unrepentant and attached to their worship of brute force" after occupation by the Allies in the last war and that their general staff prepared for a new war, Montgomery said: "Our occupation of Germany is an act of war, of which the first object is to destroy the Nazi system. There are Allied organizations whose work it is to single out, separate and destroy dangerous elements in German life."

"In streets, houses, cafes, cinemas, etc., you must keep clear of Germans, man, woman and child, unless you meet them in the course of duty. You must not walk out with them, or shake hands or visit their homes, or make them gifts, or take gifts from them. You must not play games with them, or share any social event with them. In short, you must not fraternize with Germans at all."

The stiffest fighting was to the north and northeast where several small counter-attacks were repulsed east southeast of Hemer on Friday.

The 1st Army took 1642 prisoners yesterday and has captured 26,970 since it crossed the Rhine March 7. Its total since D-Day is 29,120.

The German pocket west of the Rhine dwindled under steady pressure from the 7th and 3d Armies Friday and early today. The 36th Division of Lt. Gen. Alexander Patch's army broke through the Siegfried Line Friday and thrust six miles to the northeast across the northern end of Bielendorf Forest, capturing Hattenbuhl, only four miles west of the Rhine. Several other villages, six to eight miles southeast of Landau, were taken by this division.

Lauterberg Cleared

The 14th Armored Division, operating in the same area, cleared Kendal north of Lauterberg and smashed to the northeast for further gains.

The 5th French Armored Division pulled out of the line in Bielendorf Forest and followed behind the 14th Armored in an attempt to relieve pressure on the 3d Algerian Division attacking Siegfried Line positions in Bielendorf.

Elsewhere in this area, there were only mopping up operations to report. The 94th Division of the 3d Army has completed the clearing of Ludwigshafen. The junction of the 3d and 7th Armies south of Landau has completely isolated German forces west of the north-south line through the city.

"New" Task Force

One Japanese broadcast reported by the FCC said the attacks were made by planes from a "new" American naval task force, rather than by Vice Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's famed Task Force 58 which carried out the assaults on Japan earlier this week, including the blasting of the Japanese fleet in its hideout in the Inland Sea.

Okinawa, a big air and naval base island, is 185 miles south of the southernmost Japanese island of Kyushu and 750 miles south west of Tokyo. Miyako lies 235 miles east of the northern tip of Formosa and 1000 miles west of newly won Iwo Jima.

NEW RATION INCLUDES FUDGE FOR U. S. Fliers

WASHINGTON (AP)—A new AAF ration that gives hungry fliers a snack while in the air for three hours or more is being issued by the air quartermaster.

Known as the air crew lunch, it includes fudge, assorted candy and gum to help alleviate fatigue.

Outstanding feature is the container designed to be opened with one hand while wearing heavy flying gloves. Sliding the inner container forward releases the fudge and gum from a hole in the side of the container. Sliding the container in the opposite direction releases the candy.

WANTED to buy: radios, diam's, rifles, carbines, shotguns, machine guns, etc. Public: 13 S 16th St. Rte. 1092—Adv. Published Daily and Sunday. Entered at second-class matter October 28, 1937. Entered at the Post Office in Philadelphia under Act of March 3, 1939.

Phone BIL 2418
Open Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, Eves.
BUY WAR BONDS

1824-26 MARKET ST.
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Over Horn and Hardart Shop

Nazis Put Up Only Spotty Resistance Beyond Rhine

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

By WES GALLAGHER

the British 2d Army lay quiet.

But with darkness, the front stirred to life. From the forests came the rumble of tanks and trucks, and on the roads long convoys sprang forth like magic with loads of every conceivable weapon, thousands of tons of bridging material and huge landing craft on their giant trailers.

Some Weapons Secret

Some of the weapons were still on the Allied secret list.

You wondered how this vast assortment of equipment could get untangled and arrive at the right place at the right time. Most of it did. When it did not or failed of its purpose American or British ingenuity found a way to do without it.

But far more impressive, as always, were the long lines of silent infantry hiking across the fields and along the roads. The sight brought a tightness to one's throat.

Near the river dike, a barrage from mortars kicked up dust and steel whistled about the veteran regimental command post in a ruined house.

Orders Go by Phone

In the cellar, the commanding colonel—a short man with a 45 slung on his hip—was just getting his communications in order. It all had to be done by telephone, for this division had been moved to the front secretly and could not use the wireless for fear of advertising its presence to the Germans.

"The worst thing about this period," he complained, "is that you have to sit and wait. There is nothing you can do, just sit and wait. You can't stop all this stuff from going on nor can you help it until the battle starts."

Shortly after dark, there is a thunder to the north from the big guns. The British have begun their preliminary barrage, a barrage that is to go on for four hours.

Jump-off Staggered

The jump-off was staggered, with the British northern flank launching its attack at 8 P. M., the southern flank at 9 P. M. and then the 9th Army to the south at 2 A. M.

From the time those guns opened up, the front was a continuous roar, reaching such a crescendo that plaster fell from the walls. The concussion of the guns pulled at your clothes.

Commandos Slip Across

Just north of this command post, British Commandos slipped across the river in the darkness at 10 P. M. and sliced through the river defenses. Then they hid out a scant 1500 yards from the key German strongpoint in Wesel.

At 10:30 P. M., there was a heavy throning in the sky and more than 300 Lancasters with blockbusters labored overhead with railway schedule precision.

It was their job to find the town in the dark and flatten it without hitting the Commandos.

Standing in the back yard I could see the attack. The first bombs hit and for 15 minutes the town flamed and jumped. Overhead, almost in a funnel straight into the sky, burst hundreds of flak flashes. These flashes were

repeated.

Back at command posts, lines on the maps ranged deeper and

ed about above the battle in a fighter plane, supervising his fighters and bombers and shepherding tow planes and gliders to the dropping areas.

Mustang and Lightning fighters escorted the Italy-based heavy bombers on their long flight to Berlin and three pilots were credited with shooting down Nazi jet planes.

Maj. Gen. Nathan Twining, commander of the 15th Air Force, declared his Italy-based bombers had completed their campaign against German oil production.

"At this moment no gasoline is being produced at any of the known German refineries within the operational area of the 15th Air Force," he said. "The prevention of resumption of German gasoline production will be pursued relentlessly until the enemy finally is defeated."

20 Nazis Shot Down

Twenty German planes which attempted to rise from a field near Munster were pounced upon and shot down by one American Mustang group before the Nazis reached 1000 feet.

By sundown, with planes still banging away in support of Field Marshal Montgomery's newly won bridgehead, each American 8th Air Force and British bomber had completed three separate missions from bases in Britain. Their targets included just about everything in the 1000-square-mile death trap east of the river, from dug-in German troops to tank columns and rail yards crammed with Nazi reinforcements and supplies.

Therefore, the OPA announced tonight that beginning next Wednesday, new ration books issued to discharged service men and women will contain two valid shoe coupons, instead of only one as in the past.

It's all part of what OPA describes as a program to make ration regulations "assist veterans in their return to civilian life."

REICH WARNS SPAIN

Germany, it was reported reliably, has presented a note to Spain saying that any Madrid action against Japan would be considered an unfriendly act.

Spain's decision to stop representing Japanese interests created a profound impression in Argentina's diplomatic circles, a dispatch from Buenos Aires said. Argentina's military government is debating whether to declare war on the Axis and any Spanish move in that direction certainly will be taken into consideration.

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

BARR'S COSTUME GLORIFIERS MAKE FINE GIFTS FOR EASTER

Just Opened!

Another Branch for Dr. A. Reed Shoes

5537 Germantown Ave.

Over Horn and Hardart Shop

The Same Posturcheck Balanced Fitting Based on Shoe Engineering by Morris Wan

24-PIECE Stainless Steel Dinner Set

9th Finds Few Germans On Rhine's 'Berlin Bank'

By CLINTON B. CONGER

ACROSS THE RHINE WITH AMERICAN 9TH ARMY, March 24 (UP)—The 9th Army stormed the Rhine en route to Berlin in the darkness early Saturday and achieved their initial objectives against surprisingly light opposition.

I came across the Rhine with our infantry, and after two hours on the east bank of the great river not a single casualty had been reported by the group which I accompanied.

Opposition was so light that hopes were running high among the American men and officers that they were engaged in the war's last campaign in Europe. Rhine Slow-Flowing

Battalion after battalion of our forces are pouring across the Rhine, which is slow-flowing at this point.

Our assault boats are chugging back and forth, spilling troops on the "Berlin bank" as fast as they can be shuttled across.

We hopped off at 2 A. M. Ahead of us American and British gliders and parachutists of the 1st Allied Airborne Army already had landed well beyond the river. Main German Forces Held Back

The main German forces have not yet engaged us. They are known to include the remnants of the crack German 1st Paratroop Army. Possibly they are being held back while the Nazi command tries to figure out where the main weight of our attack will fall.

My crossing was almost an anticlimax after the days of tense waiting. Before the kick-off possibly the world's greatest artillery barrage crashed down on the Nazi positions across the river. But as we crossed the Rhine it was deathly still. Only the quiet lap of the water against the sides of our boat could be heard. Later there was a burst of small-arms fire all around, but none seemed to be coming our way.

Stunned Prisoners Taken

We rushed up to what we had expected to be the first German line of resistance. All that happened was the capturing of some stunned prisoners.

From a railway embankment beyond us and from both our flanks there came the occasional chatter of machine guns. Snipers were still active in the darkness behind us.

But the famed German artillery and even the bristling Ruhr valley flak guns were opening up with only occasional fire in the sector where I am writing this dispatch.

Power Overwhelming

Possibly the desperate German manpower crisis has forced them to pull back everything but outposts along the river and to hold their main forces farther back for a possible counterattack when the pattern of our offensive becomes clear.

But there are guarantees that the Germans won't be able to mount a counterattack as fast as we build up our bridgehead.

How Attack Began

The assault went like this: For the last two days or so we have been billeted in hiding in hamlets and villages half a dozen miles back of the river, waiting with our vehicles and weapons for D-Day and H-Hour.

About 10 P. M., after the men finished a late supper, checked and re-checked their equipment, they began strapping it on. Headquarters personnel took the last deep drags on their cigarettes, junched them out under their belts, climbed into the trucks and the first small column was rolling toward the Rhine in the dense blackout.

Everything Timed

Everything had been timed to the split second.

As the lead car passed the company area, the woods, thickets pick them up.

CHURCHILL HAILS FEAT OF ALLIES IN FORCING RHINE

Last Round Going Very Well, Montgomery Tells Men

LONDON, March 24 (P)—The "decisive victory in Europe will be near" once the Rhine River line is pierced and the crust of German resistance broken, Prime Minister Churchill declared today in a message to Field Marshal Sir Bernard Montgomery's armies.

"I rejoice to be with the chief of the Imperial General Staff (Field Marshal Sir Alan Brooke) at Field Marshal Montgomery's headquarters of the 21st Army Group during this memorable battle of forcing the Rhine," Churchill said.

Lauds "Valiant Allies"

"British soldiers, it will long be told how, with our Canadian brothers and valiant United States Allies, this superb task was accomplished. Once the river line is pierced and the crust of German resistance is broken, the decisive victory in Europe will be near."

"May God prosper our arms in this bold adventure after our long struggle for King and country, for dear life, and for the freedom of mankind."

Montgomery addressed this message to all 21st Army group troops:

"1. On the 7th of February, I told you we were going into the ring for the final and last round; there would be no time limit. We would continue fighting until our opponent was knocked out. The last round is going very well on both sides of the ring—and overhead."

"2. In the west, the enemy has lost the Rhineland, and with it the flower of at least four armies—the Parachute Army, 5th Panzer Army, 15th Army and 7th Army. The 1st Army, farther to the south, is now being added to the list."

"In the Rhineland battles, the enemy has lost about 150,000 prisoners and there are many more to come. His total casualties amount to about 250,000 since the 8th of February."

How Much Longer?

"3. In the east the enemy has lost all of Pomerania east of the Oder, an area as large as the Rhineland, and three more German armies have been routed. Russian armies are within about 35 miles of Berlin."

"4. Overhead, Allied air forces are pounding Germany day and night. It will be interesting to see how much longer the Germans can stand it."

"5. The enemy in fact has been driven into a corner, and he cannot escape."

"Events are moving rapidly. The complete and decisive defeat of the Germans is certain. There is no possibility of doubt on this matter."

"6. The 21st Army Group will now cross the Rhine."

"The enemy possibly thinks he is safe behind this great river obstacle. We will agree it is a great obstacle; but we will show the enemy he is far from safe behind it. This great Allied fighting machine composed of integrated land and air forces, will deal with the problem in no uncertain manner."

"Good Hunting to You All!"

"7. And having crossed the Rhine, we will crack about in the plains of Northern Germany, chasing the enemy from pillar to post. The swifter and more energetic our action, the sooner the war will be over. And that is what we all desire: to get on with the job and finish off the German war as soon as possible."

"8. Over the Rhine, then, let us go. And good hunting to you all on the other side."

"9. May the Lord mighty in battle give us the victory in this our latest undertaking, as he has done in all our battles since we landed in Normandy on D-Day."

Gobs Used British Rivers to Practice for Crossing

By AUSTIN BEALMEAR

SUPREME ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, March 24 (P)—

American and British naval forces which ferried Field Marshal Montgomery's troops and heavy equipment across the Rhine today rehearsed for months in England.

It was long apparent that the armies would need ferry service between the time bridgeheads were started and bridges were thrown across. Exhaustive experiments were carried out on rivers in the United Kingdom having banks and current similar to those of the Rhine.

Instead of operating through waves and surf to beaches constantly changing with the tide the crews had to learn to maneuver their craft to and from point landing spots in strong currents running at right angles to their course.

The armies needed fast craft sturdy enough to carry tanks, bulldozers and mobile guns safely. It was finally decided that LCM's (landing craft, medium), which weigh 26 tons, and LCVP's (landing craft, vehicle personnel) which weigh nine tons, were the largest types suited to the Army's requirements which still could be carried overland.

Both craft have ramps, making mechanical loading devices unnecessary.

The crews had to learn to launch these heavy craft from muddy river banks and to transport them over hundreds of miles of damaged roads. The 50-foot,



handsomely hand wrought from heavy Sterling Silver. Lights at flick of the thumb. Distinctive, windproof, dependable. Ideal for servicemen and civilians.

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8 DEAD, 3 MISSING AND 14 WOUNDED ON CASUALTY LIST

Three Reported Prisoners;
4-County Death Toll
Rises to 3706

Casualties from the Philadelphia area reported yesterday included eight men killed, three missing and 14 wounded. Three men, previously reported missing, were reported prisoners.

To date the total number of Philadelphians reported killed is 2736. The total reported killed from Philadelphia, Bucks, Montgomery and Delaware counties reached 3706.

In all cases next of kin have been notified by the War and Navy Departments and have been kept informed of any change in status.

Killed

Bent, T/4 Richard P., whose wife, Isabella, lives at 2744 N. 15th st., in Europe.

Christmas, Seaman 1/c Harold, 24, whose wife, Doris, lives at 1401 Roselle st., in the South Pacific November 10; previously reported missing on that date. A graduate of Northeast High School, he worked at the Philadelphia Navy Yard. A brother, David, is in the Navy.

Glover, Pvt. Clarence C., 20, whose sister, Mrs. Josephine Carson, lives at 2325 W. York st., in Italy February 11. He worked at the Midvale Steel Co. before induction into the Army.

Grahwohl, Pfc. Henry L. Jr., 24, son of Mrs. Sadie Grahwohl, 2353 E. Hazzard st., in Germany March 2, the day he was released from the hospital after recovering from wounds received February 19.

Kelly, Cpl. Robert J., Jr., 23, a Marine, whose parents live at the Briarhurst Hotel, 4527 Walnut st., on Iwo Jima March 1. A graduate of Simon Gratz High School, he worked for the Reading Railroad. He enlisted in the Paramarines December 9, 1941, and was transferred to the infantry before going overseas in April, 1944. A brother, Sgt. James, is in the Burma-India area.

Pfau, Pfc. Norman C., 37, a Marine, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry E. Pfau, 418 Bridgeboro st., Riverside, N. J., on Iwo Jima February 19. He served with a Marine tank unit. A brother, S/Sgt. William, is in the Army overseas; a sister, Katherine, is an Army nurse at Tilton General Hospital, Fort Dix.

Rutkowsky, S/Sgt. John, 27, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Rutkowsky, 4613 Edgemont st., in Germany December 17; previously reported missing. He attended Frankford High School and worked for the Delta File Works, 4837 James st.

Whitney, Pfc. Augustus D., 3d, 19, son of Rev. Augustus D. Whitney, Jr., 410 Linden st., Camden; on Iwo Jima February 24. He attended Camden High School before enlisting in the Marine Corps. His father is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Camden. A brother, Paul W., 17, is in the Navy.

Missing

Clements, Sgt. Leonard, 28, son of Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Clements, 147 S. 27th st., Camden; since March 4. He was a graduate of Camden High School. His wife, Catherine, lives at 4621 Crescent bld., Camden.

Horodynski, Fire Controlman 2/c Edward S., son of Karl Horodynski, 101 Osceola st., Lester.

Thompson, Pfc. Charles W., 32, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Thompson, 271 N. 13th st., in Germany since December 20. He was employed by the Charles Lennig Company. A brother, Eugene, 23, is in the Navy.

Prisoners of Germany

Dougherty, Pfc. Wesley, 25, whose wife, Trine, lives at 654 N. 52d st.; previously reported missing in Belgium since December 17.

Maple, Warrant Officer Harold S., 26, whose wife, Virginia, formerly lived at 4244 Levick st.; previously reported missing in Luxembourg since December 17.

Wagner, Lt. Harry, 26, whose wife, Jean, lives at 316 W. Biddle st., West Chester; previously reported missing in Luxembourg December 20.

Wounded

Belack, Capt. Joseph N., 24, 21, son of Louis Belack, 607 S. 63d st., in Germany March 7. His wife, Mrs. Marshall Birely, Parkersburg; in Germany March 4. His wife lives in Germany.

Brier, Pfc. Daniel, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Brier, 4758 N. 1st st., in Germany January 31.

Crossley, Pfc. Robert N., son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Crossley, 1000 Colebrook ave., Drexel Hill; in Germany January 20.

Hawkins, John R., 22, son of Walter Hawkins, 222 Bickley rd., Glenside; on Iwo Jima March 1.

Johnson, Pfc. Albert S. Jr., 29, whose parents live in Jamison, Bucks county; in Germany February 28.

Minnick, Pfc. George W., a Marine, whose father, Samuel Minnick, lives at Oakmont, Pa.

Nurent, Pvt. Robert, 21, son of Mrs. James Nugent, 251 Chelten rd., Parkside, in Germany January 20.

Perrucci, Pfc. Angelo, 26, a Marine, son of Mr. and Mrs. Q. Perrucci, Webster, N. J., on Iwo Jima March 9. A semi-professional football player, he starred at Webster High School, his brother, Col. Paul, is in the Marines, and another brother, Joseph, is in the Army. He was shot in the head, but survived.

Shields, Seaman 1/c Walter A., 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer A. Shields, 2718 Main st., in the Asiatic area February 17.

Steinfeld, Pfc. Richard M., 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard M. Steinfeld, 5th st., in Belgium January 7.

Teuchert, Capt. John, 20, son of Mr. Karl Teuchert, 304 W. 20th st., Milmont Park; on Iwo Jima February 15. His wife, Emanuelle, 19, lives at 1051 N. 10th st., 2d fl., in Europe.

Tomkje, Sgt. Stanley A. Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Tomkje, 2655 Deacon st., East Falls, in Europe.

COPS RECOVER BIKE—
THEN LOSE REPUTATION

BOISE, Idaho, March 24 (AP)—Police recovered Harlan Towne's stolen bicycle, but put it in the station garage until a license was purchased.

When Towne showed up with the tag, the bicycle had been stolen again.

WILLIAM L. SHIRER SAYS:

Small Nations Disturbed About Postwar Future Should Recall Big 3's Aid

By WILLIAM L. SHIRER

The small powers of this earth, it is already evident, have no great enthusiasm for the way the world of the future is shaping up. They did not exactly rejoice at the news from Yalta. They are full of misgivings about the coming conference in San Francisco. In short, they are not happy at all the prospect of living in a world completely dominated by a four or five great powers.

But before they or we (we Americans who along with the French and often the British fancy ourselves as the "champions of the small nations") succumb to undue pessimism, some facts about this poor, unsettled world ought to be faced and some of the lessons of recent history taken to heart.

Goebbels Sounds Off

Old Doktor Goebbels, incidentally, already is at work shedding propaganda tears for the "small nations"—for the very ones, Poland, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Roumania, Greece and Bulgaria, which the "Master Race" gobbled up, one by one, and then enslaved. And his talk, strange to say—or perhaps not so strange—is curiously similar to that of the self-proclaimed defenders of the little powers in our own country.

"The plans of the three big Allies . . . give the small countries very much to ponder about," said one of Goebbels' propaganda broadcasters after Dumbarton Oaks and then proceeded to explain how the "Big Three can do as they please with the small, defenseless nations."

After Yalta this propaganda line was further pursued. "Not only Poland but a number of other small States see in the settlement of the Polish question at Yalta an open proof of Roosevelt's and Churchill's submission to Stalin's will," said another Berlin broadcaster after the Crimea conference. Sen. Wheeler and Rep. O'Konski were quoted by the Berlin radio along similar lines.

Co-operation Expected

It is true, alas, that the lot of the smaller powers is not likely to be quite as they would like it in the next few years. The peace will be made and, for a long time at least, kept mainly by the principal Powers, the United States, Great Britain, Russia, France, and, we hope, China. The smaller countries will be expected to co-operate.

This, to be sure, is not an ideal situation. But let us remember it was brought about not by the Allies but by their Axis enemies.

It was the Axis dictators, which by their utter disregard for international law and their solemn word in treaties, which brought the downfall of so many small nations. And it was mainly the Big Three which at a frightful cost in human lives and treasure, not only defended themselves but alone made it possible for the smaller countries, not the least of which was Poland, to rid themselves of the murderous Nazis and become free again. It is a curious commentary on the human race how easily and how quickly this is forgotten.

Need to Recall Lessons

And it is becoming difficult to recall, it seems, some of the lessons we should have learned about the smaller nations and their relations to the world and peace and war. One lesson that ought to be remembered amidst the brick-bats which are now being hurled at the Big Three.

**DR. POLING BACK,
REPORTS APRIL 10**

Dr. Daniel A. Poling, pastor of Baptist Temple will report on his two-month trip to Europe at an inter-faith mass meeting at 8 P. M. April 10 at the Academy of Music.

Patterson informed Sen. Clyde Reed (R., Kans.) that a survey will be completed in about a month of the entire air technical service command in the continental United States with a view to keeping the employment of personnel down to the lowest quota consistent with the performance of the work that is required.

**HITLER NEVER OWNED
RANCH IN WYOMING**

CHEYENNE, Wyo., March 24 (AP)—The Wyoming Department of Agriculture doesn't know who won the argument, but it does know that Adolf Hitler never did, doesn't now, and never will own a ranch in Wyoming.

As chaplain in the last war, he was severely gassed. In the current war his son, Clark, a chaplain, won a posthumous DSC for giving his lifebelt to a soldier after the transport Dorchester was torpedoed in 1943. He went down with his ship.

The committee arranging for the meeting includes Attorney Harry L. Jenkins, chairman; Norman Klauder, Rabbi Louis Wolsey, Rabbi William Fineshriber, Judge Gerald Flood and Judge Vincent A. Carroll.

Dr. Poling, also editor-in-chief of the Christian Herald, was making his fifth trip overseas since 1935. He previously flew more than 125,000 miles on visits to all the active war theaters.

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The committee

NAZIS' CHOICE: 'SURRENDER OR PULVERIZATION'

Murphy Reveals Plans for Revamping Reich Education

WASHINGTON, March 24 (UPI)—Robert Murphy, political adviser on German affairs to Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, warned the German people tonight that they must choose now between "unconditional surrender and pulverization."

He also revealed plans for re-educating the German people, under Allied supervision, to make Germany a peace-loving nation. The plans contemplate elimination of all Nazi teachers, teachings and text books, and the closing of all schools in Germany until the necessary adjustments of faculties and text books have been effected.

Speaks on Weekly Forum

Murphy, who will return to Eisenhower's headquarters next week, spoke on the State Department's weekly radio program on "What About Enemy Countries?" Also participating in the forum were Assistant Secretaries of State James C. Dunn and Archibald MacLeish.

"Fortunately the debate over unconditional surrender versus a negotiated peace will soon become a dead issue," Murphy said. "Germany's choice now is between unconditional surrender and pulverization, and if they choose pulverization, they will have only themselves to blame for following vicious leadership."

Dunn said the two most important aspects of long-range treatment of Germany were re-education and establishment of the rights of labor. Murphy revealed that organization of German labor unions already is being encouraged, and that the Allies are studying plans for German workers to participate in management of industries.

Allies Must Supervise

Murphy said re-education of Germany will be a tough problem. But he stated emphatically that the job should not be left to the Germans themselves—"unquestionably the Allies must supervise this delicate operation."

The broadcast covered the broad field of Allied policy toward Germany. Here is a summary of some of its high spots:

War criminals—Hitler will be considered a war criminal and the fact that he is chief of state will be no reason for excluding him. Members of the Gestapo who have carried out criminal acts must be punished, and industrialists who supported and helped Hitler "would certainly be among those to be dealt with."

Democratic tendencies—"I don't think we should be too optimistic about the early discovery of many 'democratic' Germans," Murphy said. "But we are trying."

Occupation—General location of occupation zones for the four big Powers is decided and "several hundred officers" of the U. S. Army are training in England and France for the job.

Partition Undecided

Partition—Undecided yet, but "there may be a movement inside Germany to divide the country," Murphy said. In that case the Allies will approve and encourage it.

Postwar control—Control of manufacturing in the entire German economy by a corps of civilian observers is planned for a long time.

Dunn said no one was in a position now to determine the post-war status of Japanese Emperor Hirohito. "Certainly neither the State Department nor Undersecretary of State Joseph C. Grew is defending the Emperor's position," he added.

Plans for treatment of Japan, like the end of the Japanese war, are still in the future, he said. But he added that "we'll have no more truck with the Japanese militarists than with the Nazis."

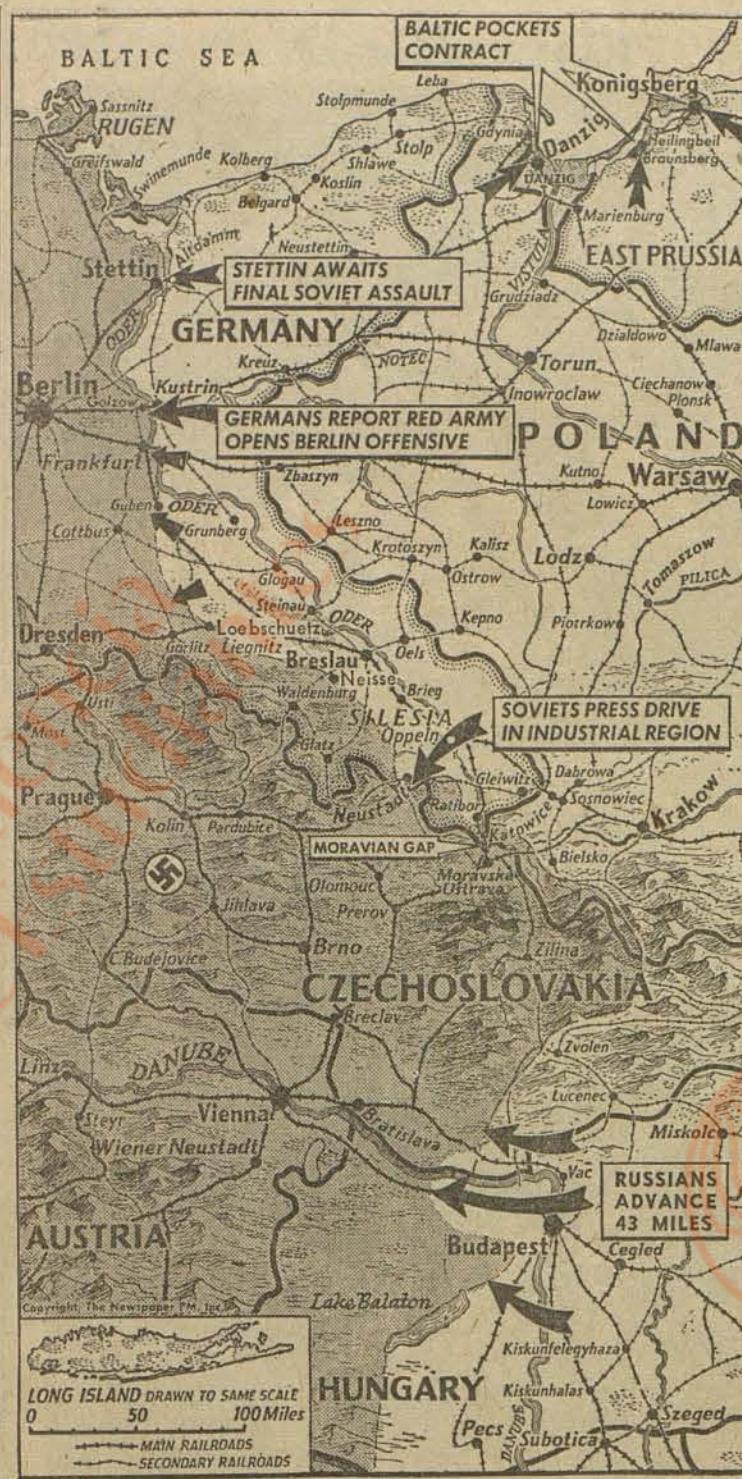
OKLAHOMA PLANS FUND TO ADVERTISE STATE

OKLAHOMA CITY (UPI)—The next Oklahoma Legislature will be urged to appropriate funds to advertise the merits of Oklahoma's resources and invite business and industry to investigate the State, Chairman Don McBride, of the State Planning and Resource Board, announced.

McBride said the board will propose a budget for the next biennium of approximately \$467,000 yearly. Complete details will be worked out between now and when the next Legislature meets in January.

WAS FIRST IN ENGLAND

According to tradition, Queen Elizabeth owned the first mahogany known in England. Sir Walter Raleigh, the sea-faring courtier, presented her with a table made of it.



RUSSIANS ADVANCE 43 MI. IN HUNGARY

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE

By RICHARD KASISCHKE

east of the great rail city of Szombathely, near the Austro-Hungarian border, were battering at the approaches to Komarom, Danube citadel 84 miles east of Vienna.

The battle before Berlin—which Moscow has not yet announced and which the Nazis called a bloody preliminary to an impending all-out frontal assault on the capital—was "now raging to a climax," DNB said.

Checked at Golzow

The Nazis said Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's 1st White Russian Army troops had been at least temporarily held at Golzow six miles west of captured Oder fortress of Kustrin, and 31 miles from the bomb-gutted capital.

Eight miles to the south, the Germans said massed tank forces of Zhukov's Army broke into Klessin, 33 miles east of Berlin, and there the Germans reported bitter house-to-house fighting.

Klessin is two miles beyond the Oder, and seven miles north of the river fortress of Frankfurt. The Germans said fighting had extended 10 miles northwest of Kustrin to a Soviet west bank bridgehead at Kleinlitz and enemy reports indicated Zhukov had established a solid bridgehead 17 miles long west of Kustrin from Kleinlitz to Klessin.

The reports indicated at least three Soviet bridgeheads across the Oder had been linked.

NAZIS STRENGTHEN DEFENSES IN ITALY

ROME, March 24 (UPI)—Aggressive 5th and 8th Army patrols, probing enemy positions all along the Italian front, reported today the Germans were constructing large scale defense works at several points.

German artillery action was stepped up along the front and there were sharp patrol clashes along the 8th's front. Strong American raiding parties attacked a large cluster of buildings near Fossoli, on the central front, and inflicted some casualties on the enemy.

U. S. PLANES HAMMER JAP TROOPS IN CHINA

CHUNGKING, March 24 (UPI)—U. S. 14th Air Force planes, including Liberators, have been hurled against the new Japanese offensive west of the Peiping-Hankow railroad which is aimed at seizing the area's wheat crop, an American communiqué announced today.

Without encountering opposition in the air in two days of operations, the planes blasted supplies and equipment west of the railroad and south of the Yellow River, in wide sweeps through Honan and Hunan provinces.

AIR ARMY FILLS SKY LIKE TIMES SQUARE

CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE
By ALEX H. SINGLETON

chutes and gliders pouring out troops and equipment.

Armed 500 Miles Long

Above the air armada curved in a gigantic "U" as the stream of planes—officially placed at 500 miles long—came in two abreast, methodically dropped their bows, banked in sharp turns, and soared back across the Rhine.

German planes gave no opposition.

The long procession, streaming out from bases in Britain and France, served as the signal to silence the smoke-screened batteries of Montgomery's big guns as the first plane nosed across the Rhine.

In broad daylight under a powder-blue sky, the fleets flowed over the landing area, across grey-green valley lands once planted for potatoes but now ploughed by tank tracks and furrowed by shells.

Nazis Numb by Barrage

From the dark patches of timberland stripped and torn by shellfire, from bomb-battered cellars of skeleton-like farmhouses, poured bursts of intermittent anti-aircraft fire as the reeling Germans attempted to recover from the pre-zero hour barrage to meet the challenge.

But when puffs of smoke betrayed the presence of flak batteries, rocket-firing fighters swooped down to blast their positions and take over where the west bank guns had left off.

In the hundreds of transport-tugs as in the Stirling in which I flew—crews tensely rode up the run in freight-train fashion to deliver their tons and drop their human cargoes.

Anxious to Land

Soon after our Stirling crossed the Rhine going in, a glider pilot called out over the intercom: "Release now?"

"No," said the Stirling's skipper.

A few seconds later again came the urgent cry, "Now? Now?"

"No, No, No!" shouted the skipper. "We'll wait until we reach the marker."

Then as the marker—railroad line 66—was approached, came back his signal, "Release now."

Suddenly the Stirling lunged forward, free of the tow.

"We're getting flak up here now," the tall gunner reported calmly.

Heads Back for England

Swiftly the pilot banked, circled, dodged a darting fighter by what seemed to be only a few yards, and headed back for England.

Below in this section were hundreds of parachutes lying discarded on the ground as the paratroopers dug in. Along the road nearby were a dozen burned-out wrecks, one of them a tank. Half a dozen smoked in a field in which several gliders were sprawled.

There was little enemy movement visible on the Rhine's eastern bank.

But back of Montgomery's

front, I saw powerful evidence of the might behind the Allied thrusts. Transports in road-clogging abundance were moving up towards the front. Freshly-built air strips were there to support the push. There were masses of men and material.

And from dawn when the operation started until mid-afternoon when the stragglers were circling their home bases, the sky was full of other planes—heavy and medium bombers—to support the drive.

Ardenes Vets Spoiling
for Chance at Revenge

By HOWARD COWAN
(Representing the Combined U. S. Press)

WITH U. S. AIRBORNE TROOPS, March 24 (UPI)—A sweeping fleet of C-47 transport planes—some laden with paratroopers, others towing gliders—launched the first aerial invasion of Germany today with a series of daring daylight landings east of the Rhine.

Thousands of battle-tested chulists and glider infantrymen swarmed over the sunlit plain shortly before noon, a few hours after Field Marshal Montgomery's forces began pouring across the Rhine on the left flank of the Western Front.

Have Score to Settle

I am flying with a glider load of men, some of whom are going into this fight with a score to settle. These were men who had fought the Germans in the Ardennes bulge.

"Now it's our turn," said Lt. Col. J. W. Paddock, Portland, Ore., veteran of North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Southern France and the Ardennes.

"All I hope is that the wings don't come off this thing," declared the 30-year-old tank and artillery expert as he climbed into the glider. "We ought to point 'V' on the side of it, it's got no explosives."

Spoiling for a Fight

This outfit is spoiling for a fight. We moved off this morning after a 5 A. M. breakfast of steak, eggs and cherry pie. The weather is warm and sunny. There is not a cloud in the sky to keep the Thunderbolts, Mustangs and Typhoons from helping in this show.

Never before have so many troops been rained from the skies on so small an area and in such a brief space of time.

For the first time the C-47s have gone into combat with two gliders instead of one in tow. Most of the transports now have self-sealing gasoline tanks, and they won't blow up like giant firecrackers if incendiary bullets strike vulnerable spots.

Plane Uses New Method

in Dropping Paratroops
By DOON CAMPBELL
(Representing the Combined
Allied Press)

WITH THE 1ST ALLIED AIRBORNE ARMY, March 24 (UPI)—The C-47 Commando, giant new troop-carrying aircraft, made history over Germany today by tumbling 1st Airborne Army paratroopers from both sides at once.

The new drop technique, used

for the first time in the co-ordinated Allied assault east of the Rhine, revolutionizes airborne operations by doubling the fire and fighting power each transport plane can take into battle.

On D-Day, in Southern France

and at Arnhem, 18 paratroops

dropped from one door of each C-47 carrier. Today 36 battle-hardened sky men fell from two doors of each C-47.

This American-produced super-

transport has a range of 1800

miles and a speed of more than

250 mph. It is fitted with radar

and can carry almost four tons.

Twin engines give it 4000 horse-

power. A further development is

a four-bladed propeller instead of

the usual three.

They say the C-47 is a honey

to fly. I've seen it take off, cruise

and land. It glides effortlessly

and smoothly through the air de-

spite its stumpy design caused by

the great accommodation ca-

pacity.

JAPS IN BAGUIO

ALMOST CIRCLED

By DEAN SCHEDLER

MANILA, Sunday, March 25 (AP)—American troops clamped

down today on Baguio, Philip-

pine summer capital and prewar

outlet for one of the world's

richest gold-producing regions.

The 33d Division doughboys,

closing in from two directions

on the scenic mountain city of

25,000 normal population, were

sealing the Japanese off into the

wild Kalinga "head hunter" coun-

try.

Airport Captured

Gen. Douglas MacArthur's Sat-

urday communiqué announced

the one force of Yanks, moving up

the Nagillian mountain road

invasion in 1941.

from the northwest, has captured

Nagillian town and airport.

Nagillian is 12 air miles from

Baguio.

Other 33d troops were some

eight miles southwest of the city

limits on the ennon rd, along

which they have been fighting for

days.

The only escape route left for

Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita's Jap-

ane garrison, which may in-

clude Yamashita himself, was by

the unfinished Bontoc road and

jungle trails through the wild

PHILADELPHIA RECORD

FOUNDED 1870

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PHILADELPHIA, MARCH 25, 1945

Those 60,000,000 Jobs Should Be 365-Day Jobs

President Roosevelt took two steps last week to prepare for peace in time of war.

He asked Congress to appropriate \$4,480,000 for preparation of plans for the development of the Missouri River Valley as one of the great Federal undertakings to provide a reservoir of jobs.

He called on James F. Byrnes' Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion for a study and recommendation of a guaranteed wage for as many workers as possible.

Those two ideas go together.

We won't be achieving the prosperity we want after the war if we provide 60,000,000 jobs that last 60 days, or even six months. We must make the jobs as nearly as possible year-round jobs, with a year-round income.

The President quoted a War Labor Board report as saying that a guaranteed annual wage is "one of the main aspirations of American workers."

He is right. The American worker knows that even if his scale calls for \$2 an hour it doesn't mean much at the end of the year if he's worked only a few months. His actual earnings may average a good deal less than \$1 an hour.

A guaranteed wage should be one of the main aspirations of American businessmen as well as American workers.

A worker employed only half-time can't buy the goods he must buy to keep the wheels of industry turning.

If he fears he'll be out of a job in six months, he won't buy an automobile or a radio, or a refrigerator or clothes, or house furnishings. He'll be hoarding his money for the lay-off ahead.

Guaranteed wage plans present varying problems in various industries and businesses.

At one extreme, a newspaper that publishes 365 days a year has little trouble in employing men throughout the year.

At the other extreme, it's obvious that a resort hotel open three or four months can't provide employment for 12 months.

There are many industries where an annual wage can be guaranteed if labor and employer work together on the problem.

Many businessmen realize this.

Last fall, for instance, W. W. Stephenson, executive vice president of the National Boot and Shoe Manufacturers Association, declared that shoes can be sold on a monthly rather than seasonal basis. He added: "I am convinced that this can be accomplished through joint manufacturer and retailer cooperation and planning."

About 100 American industrial concerns have introduced guaranteed annual wages.

There is no reason why, by intelligent planning, employment in many more industries can't be spread over the year and a guaranteed wage made practical. Before the war the automobile companies changed the date of bringing out their new models from spring to fall in order to stimulate demand in a normally slack period.

Just what Byrnes' Advisory Board, given the job of making the survey, will recommend, we don't know.

But certainly the Federal Government should take the lead in making a guaranteed annual wage feasible.

It could, for instance, extend the principle of merit rating under which employers with lower labor turnover pay lower unemployment compensation insurance rates. It could set standards under the Fair Labor Practices Act.

We have put a ceiling on wages during the war. We must devise ways of putting a floor under wages for the peace.

Warishell Department

(Enemy Division)

Because of the shortage of materials, German women must do without black stockings and men without black ties "even in case of the death of the closest relatives," a Berlin broadcast reports.

And Tell It to Congress!

On Page 4 of the second news section of The Record today you will find a second account of the tour of Norman Abbott and Mrs. Abbott through Bretton Woods.

The first trip of that famous couple, recounted recently, created nation-wide interest. Requests for Record reprints of that simplified explanation of the Bretton Woods economic program came in great volume, from economists, bankers, educators, labor unions, auditors, businessmen.

Today's story deals chiefly with the proposed new International Bank. It aims to show how that new bank will help support the 60,000,000-job program, finance reconstruction of war-wrecked Europe, and re-

habilitation of a world perilously close to economic chaos.

That bank would help us at home by financing export of the products of heavy industries, locomotives, turbines, etc., and it is in those industries where there is the greatest danger of a postwar deflationary letdown.

We hope you will enjoy this second story of Bretton Woods as much as our readers seem to have enjoyed the first. And we hope that it will inspire you to write your Congressmen and Senators to support the Bretton Woods program—without crippling amendments.

Organized Labor Must Not Abrogate Bill of Rights

Since formation of the Political Action Committee, The Record has applauded the aims of this lusty offspring of the CIO.

PAC has performed as a wholesome new political force on the American scene. It has given the workingman and other independent liberals a focal point for concerted political action.

PAC is not above criticism—no more than is the CIO leadership, or military strategy or President Roosevelt or Mayor La Guardia.

PAC is not sacred—but the right of free speech is.

That is why we are particularly shocked that Local 447 of the CIO's United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers threw two members out of the union for assailing PAC activities during the 1944 political campaign.

The ousted unionists, who didn't like PAC and said as much, will probably be forced out of their jobs because there is maintenance of union membership in the Newark plant that employs them. One of them is a veteran of this war.

Fired by their own union—because they spoke their opinion!

This is America. We want no highhanded denial of civil liberties here. Certainly not by those who should be out defending those very liberties.

If an employer were to fire workers for opposing activities of the Chamber of Commerce, union labor would rise up in wrath, denounce him as Fascist tyrant, bring him before the National Labor Relations Board on charges of unfair labor practices.

So should organized labor rise up and denounce this guilty local within its own ranks.

Certain inalienable rights belong to every man, whether he be a union member or not. They are the fundamentals of individual protection, the Bill of Rights, which guarantees freedom of speech among other freedoms.

They are a man's sacred right.

No union leadership, union majority or any other group can be permitted to take them away or diminish them.

That's what America stands for. That is what unions must stand for, too.

Note for Historians

Oranges reaching Britain from Spain now have wrappers showing crossed American and British flags, fastened with a pink bow, inscribed: "Unity Makes Peace." The pro-Allied wrappers haven't made the British forget the days when time bombs were found mixed with oranges from Spain.

Finland's Free Election

Finland, with her sturdy tradition of democracy, has elected a new Parliament, being the first European nation to do so since Hitler began his campaign of conquest.

What matters most is that Finland's was a free election.

Although Finland is still under Soviet control and partial Soviet occupation, both Prime Minister Paasikivi and the Finnish Minister of Justice have declared that the voters were not coerced, and that the results represent the will of the Finnish people.

Those results show big gains for the Democratic People's Union, which is Communist-controlled but includes Socialists and left wing liberals. This group won about 25 percent of the vote and, under proportional representation, obtains 51 seats in the Eduskunta, or Finnish Parliament. The Social Democrats lost heavily, but retain 52 seats.

Co-operation between these two parties is expected to control the new Government, even though the right wing parties polled a slight majority of the total vote.

Premier Paasikivi is due to head the new regime, and that its policy will be friendly co-operation with Russia is indicated by Paasikivi's statement after the election: "In the future, Finnish policy will never again run counter to the interests of the Soviet Union."

This should satisfy Moscow, which properly kept hands off the election machinery, although the Russian press and radio were active in propaganda. With ample justification, the Soviets have insisted on friendly regimes in their neighbor nations. The Finnish elections seem to assure that.

Just as the world watched the Finnish election, so it will now watch to see if elections equally free from coercion are held in Romania, Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Greece. Reports say that in Bulgaria, where the next plebiscite is to be held, only pro-Communist parties will be given places on the ballot. We hope those reports are wrong.

Finland's voting fits into the formula laid down at Yalta: "Free elections of Governments responsive to the will of the people."

Americans take that pledge at face value.

Add Age of the Animals

Headline in the New York Herald Tribune: "Dogs Parade With Picket Signs to Assail Rabies Law as Unfair."

Today's story deals chiefly with the proposed new International Bank. It aims to show how that new bank will help support the 60,000,000-job program, finance reconstruction of war-wrecked Europe, and re-



CAT LOOSE ON THE ARK

THE MAIL BAG

Manpower Shortage? A Mail Bagger Doubts It

To the Editor:

A case comes to the attention of the writer. An individual, middle age, college man and draft exempt, applies for a job.

He has all the qualifications, experience and background to fill the position in question. He goes through all the "red tape" of filling out application, submitting references, etc. Then is told he has the ability needed and to await the company's decision.

When Henry Wills was secretary of the Philadelphia Board of Trade (now merged with the Chamber of Commerce) he showed us an illuminated plan for a beautiful park to extend from Independence Hall down to the Delaware River between Chestnut and Walnut sts. The board hoped some day to make this a reality. Now that the Philadelphia Record has proposed to make Philadelphia the home of the United Nations, Mr. Wills, new secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, should bring forth the plan he has nursed for so many years and submit it as a working model for The Record's plan for a "United Nations City."

We would propose that this city within a city should take in much of old Philadelphia as laid out by Penn, "and be bounded on the North by Vine st. and on the South by Pine st." and run from Sixth st. to the Delaware River. In this area are innumerable historic churches and buildings.

This grand proposal of the Philadelphia Record is no impractical dream of a "starry-eyed visionary." It is a forward looking

Make City World Capital; Improvements Will Follow

To the Editor:

Let us first make Philadelphia the capital of the United Nations and there will be added wholesome water, broad avenues, clean streets, clear and beautiful rivers, and all else that would make ours the foremost city of the world.

When Henry Wills was secretary of the Philadelphia Board of Trade (now merged with the Chamber of Commerce) he showed us an illuminated plan for a beautiful park to extend from Independence Hall down to the Delaware River between Chestnut and Walnut sts. The board hoped some day to make this a reality. Now that the Philadelphia Record has proposed to make Philadelphia the home of the United Nations, Mr. Wills, new secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, should bring forth the plan he has nursed for so many years and submit it as a working model for The Record's plan for a "United Nations City."

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Would Reader Prefer Daisy Border on Pages?

To the Editor:

I heartily endorse the suggestion of "Elkins Parker" that the sports pages should be eliminated.

I never read them, anyhow, and the space thus saved could be utilized for additional comic strips, movie reviews and chat columns.

You might perform an additional public service by scalloping the edges of the pages. In this way you would save valuable newsprint and The Record would look nicer on the cupboard shelves. DAISY.

practical proposal that would bring millions of visitors to Philadelphia and millions of dollars in trade to Philadelphia merchants. DAISY.

Reader Attended Meeting—Says We Can Trust PAC

To the Editor:

The other day we attended our first meeting of the Citizens' Political Action Committee. In the same place Bill Leader's hosier union holds its meetings.

The PAC is doing a good job in education by keeping its members informed of what legislation is before Congress and the State Legislature.

The meeting was quite well attended and we saw none there with beards, no one carried any bombs, the hammer and sickle on a red background (the Russian flag) was not in evidence either by word or deed. We did note on the side wall two American flags. Between them was a roll of honor of hosiery workers who were serving in the armed forces. There must have been at least 500 names.

The speakers included a State Senator, a representative of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, the executive secretary of the Committee of Seventy and other gentlemen in public life.

There was no talk about overthrowing the "American System of Government," but only discussion as to the means to improve it, peaceably.

We were well impressed and we think that the PAC can be trusted by every American who believes in fair play.

CITIZEN JOE.

'We Should Put End To Jap Name-Calling'

To the Editor:

Many people have referred to the Japanese as monkeys, apes and other unsavory names that do not fit any of God's creatures. We as Americans should do away with this. We are supposed to be bringing light to those misguided people. I do not approve of what the Japanese did to us and other countries. But I know we must stop calling these people such terrible names.

It is a slap in the face to the loyal Japanese citizens who live here and are doing their part as law-abiding citizens. We must remember there are many Japanese youths who are serving in our armed forces and are doing a wonderful piece of work.

We must prepare ourselves to accept all peoples as equals or otherwise many international incidents may occur that will strain good feeling among various countries. JOHN A. QUILLIN.

Polish Gov't in Exile Might as Well Get Comfy

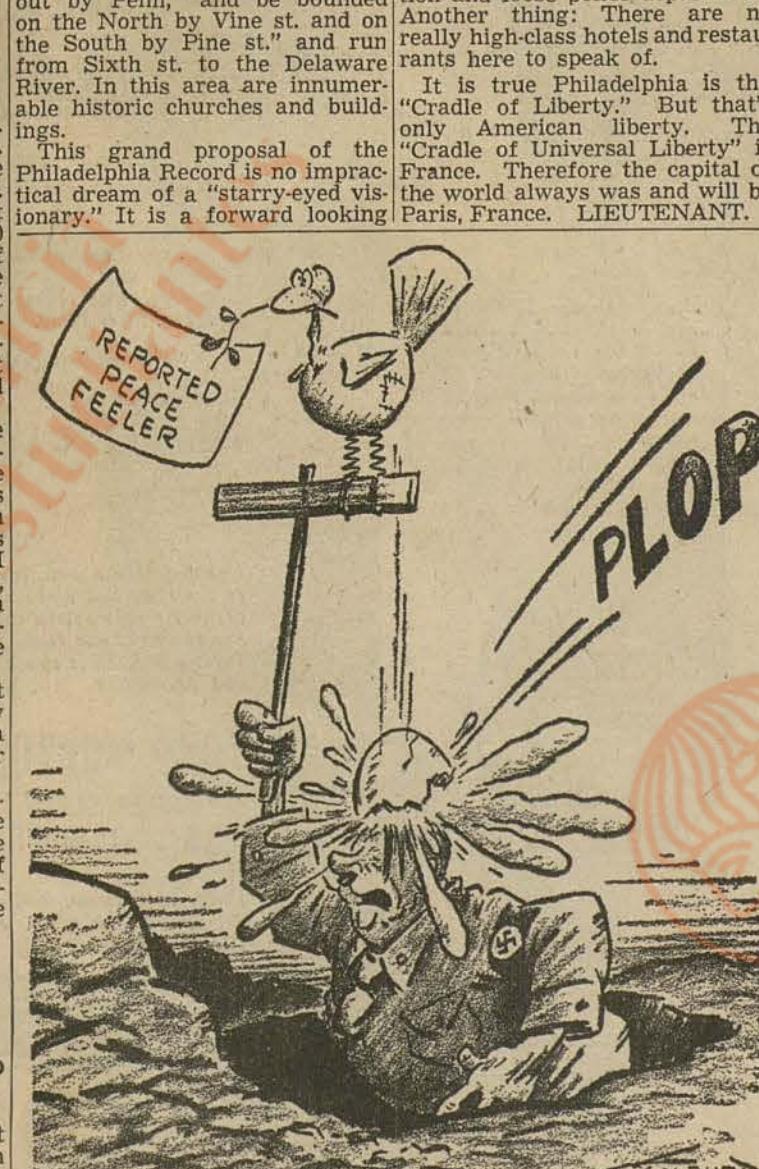
To the Editor:

I notice that the Polish exile government in London is still bellyaching.

The Yalta conference brought forth a compromise. At the same time they declared they would not disband, even if they did not have a country to rule over.

Just in case they do not get a country soon, I suggest that they settle for a room and bath.

BUILT MILT.



Seems to Have Laid an Egg!

The Burglar

By A PHILADELPHIA LAWYER

Many times I have been asked how I came to leave New York and become a Philadelphia Lawyer. It all began with a burglar.

At the time I was a clerk in a New York law office and lived in Stamford, Conn. Every evening when I got home after a day of crime and tort and contract, I would take a long walk in the surrounding country for my health. One night I was held up on a dark road by some tramps.

They didn't hold me long, and I must have come close to the record for the 440. However

Washington Merry-Go-Round

The Inside Story of How Japs Nearly Took Chungking

WASHINGTON, March 24. It is now possible to reveal just how close the Japanese came to capturing the Chinese capital of Chungking last November. While Lt. Gen. Alvin Wedemeyer was en route to Chungking to replace Gen. Stilwell, the Japanese were driving on Kunming, gateway to Chungking. It looked very much as if they would capture it. By December 22 the Japanese radio was boasting that Wedemeyer would



eat his Christmas dinner in New Delhi if he left it at all. Wedemeyer knew the situation was grave, arranged a conference with Chiang Kai-shek soon after he arrived.

"I need 90,000 men in a hurry," Wedemeyer told Chiang. "And they have got to be good men. Can you give them to me?"

Chiang wanted to know how Wedemeyer would get the men to the front if he could find them.

"I've got 87 big Army transports lying around here, and I can move 100,000 men in a few days."

Chiang asked what men Wedemeyer wanted. The American general told him he wanted 50,000 crack Chinese troops which had been trained and equipped by his predecessor, Gen. Stilwell, and were fighting in Burma. Chiang agreed. Then Wedemeyer asked the \$64 question.

"I also want about 60,000 of your best men who have been fighting the Chinese Communists in the North. Your Excellency," said Wedemeyer nervously. "I think it is more important that these Chinese troops fight the Japanese than that they oppose each other."

Chiang never batted an eye, swiftly gave his approval, and Wedemeyer ordered his air transports into action. In four days he had enough men at the Kunming fighting line to slow up the Japs. In four weeks he had the Nipponese drive stopped cold south of Kunming.

Note—Wedemeyer is doing as complete a re-organization job on the Chinese Army as he can, seems to be getting results.

Meanest Man in Washington

Newly-appointed Federal Loan Administrator Judge Fred Vinson was a bit surprised during a Cabinet meeting last week when his colleague, Attorney General Francis Biddle, hurried a sudden charge at him.

"I understand you are the meanest man in Washington," Biddle told Judge Vinson.

"Why so?" asked the startled Vinson.

"I understand, that you caused Ed Prichard to lose 90 pounds. You are the only man in Washington who could make him do that. When he worked for me, he gained 50 pounds."

The Attorney General was referring to 300-pound Edward F. Prichard, Vinson's brilliant counsel and right-hand man, who has now shifted from the Office of Economic Stabilization to the Federal Loan Administration. Replacing him as counsel of the Economic Stabilizer's Office is efficient Tom Emerson, formerly of OPA.

Washington Gestapo

Despite the shortage of manpower, the military Gestapo still seems to have plenty of personnel to spy on newspapermen.

The other day Constantine Brown, crack foreign editor of the Washington Star, telephoned the State Department regarding certain news from Romania. Forty-eight hours later, two men from Military Intelligence were at his apartment house checking up with elevator girls and the servants as to whom he saw, who called on him, where he dined.

Brown immediately questioned Gen. Clayton Bissell, chief of Military Intelligence, and Bissell admitted the investigation had taken place.

Note—All reports from Europe continue to bear out the fact that U. S. Military Intelligence was woefully lacking regarding the concentration of German troops for the Belgian bulge breakthrough. Perhaps if G-2 spent as much time checking on the enemy as checking on newsmen, we could have prevented some losses.

Priorities to Veterans

A new racket has developed as a result of the WFB ruling whereby discharged war veterans can get certain priorities on strategic materials in order to get back into private business.

Some unscrupulous business (also some unscrupulous veterans) are arranging deals whereby the veterans become minor partners in their firms, then go to the WFB and secure priorities for raw materials.

Some veterans don't even sign papers giving them legal partnerships in the firm, and as a re-

sult find themselves used as mere priority bait, to be fired shortly thereafter.

In one case, however, when a veteran secured leather for a firm, WFB forced that firm to give the veteran a life contract. He cannot be fired in the future, come what may.

The WFB was preparing to go even further and give much broader priorities to the veterans to establish themselves in small business. However, this plan has been altered, partly because of abuses of the present concessions to veterans; also because of fear that further concessions would seriously threaten production of war and civilian goods already scheduled.

FBI Probe

Last summer this column told how certain big business interests in the north were financing the anti-Roosevelt campaign in the South, and particularly called attention to Vance Muse, of Houston, who was active last summer in pledging Texas electors to vote against Roosevelt despite the wishes of their State.

Among other things, it was recalled that in 1936 Vance Muse had sparked-plugged the famous Macon, Ga., grass-roots convention to "uphold the Constitution," supposedly inspired by Southerners, but actually financed by du Pont and General Motors money. Muse collected \$10,000 from Pierre du Pont and John Raskob of General Motors before the Macon convention, plus \$500 from Henry du Pont and \$1000 from Alfred P. Sloan of General Motors afterwards.

More recently, Vance Muse has been active in the South, promoting State referendums to ban closed shops.

Now, Muse is being investigated by the FBI for possible violation of the Corrupt Practices Act. The investigation has been in progress for about a month.

Phil Murray on Prices

It didn't get into the papers, but Justice Jimmie Byrnes' War Mobilization Advisory Committee had another red-hot meeting the other day, during which CIO President Phil Murray tried to take the Administration's wage policy over the coals, but found himself completely stymied by the AFL's frustrating Bill Green.

Ex-Governor O. Max Gardner, of North Carolina, chairman of the Advisory Board, was in the chair when Murray started discussing wages with OPA Director Chester Bowles, Economic Stabilizer Bill Davis, and Chairman George Taylor of the War Labor Board. It was the first time Murray had had Bowles, Davis and Taylor together in one room, and he charged at them like a roaring lion.

First, Murray turned to Bowles and accused him of ladling out price increases with a 10-gallon can. Then he turned to Davis and Taylor and charged that they ladled out wage increases with an eye-dropper.

"Let's see what you are doing on the price level," said Murray. "The steel industry is making 3 1/2 times its pre-war earnings. Yet you have found a method of giving them price relief in excess of \$100,000,000. The President's Executive Order No. 9250 specifically says it is designed to 'stop profiteering,' and yet, whereas the pre-war net profit before taxes of the steel industry was 3 1/2 billion dollars, it has now reached about 24 billion. What have you got to say about that?"

Bill Green Barges In

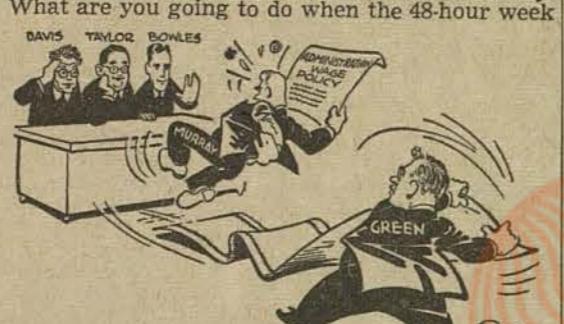
Bowles said nothing.

"You recently told Congress," Murray continued, "that you didn't consider it your function to control profits, but only to 'keep a floor under profits.'"

Bowles admitted that was true, pointed out that he had a difficult job on his hands, but that he wasn't concerned so much with wages.

Murray then turned to Davis and Taylor, as Gardner tried to keep the meeting in check.

"As against that picture, what have you folks done but simply freeze wage rates?" he said to Davis and Taylor. "You two are running away from your responsibility. You are supposed to be preparing to meet the terrific curtailment of weekly take-home pay after we lick Germany. What are you going to do when the 48-hour week



is dropped and the labor market loosens up?"

Davis and Taylor fumbled for an answer, but, out of a blue sky, Bill Green got to his feet, swiftly lifted not only Davis and Taylor, but Bowles as well, off the spot by offering a motion expressing confidence in the fine way in which the OPA and the WLB had been functioning.

Murray was flabbergasted at Green's action. He was speechless. Chairman Gardner banged his gavel. The resolution passed unanimously.

Thomas L. Stokes

Supply Trains From Cherbourg

Special Service Carries Material to Front

DEAUVILLE, France, March 24—A special train service for high priority supplies for the armies at the front operates now from Cherbourg, with a 36-hour schedule from shipside to front-line depots.

It is a through train for the front in France and Belgium via Paris. It hauls freight cars, each carrying up to 20 tons of vital items. It must be unloaded within 12 hours. At Cherbourg it is loaded directly from Liberty and Victory ships, without the intermediate steps of unloading of the docks and then reloading on the train, as formerly.

This train is operated by the 728th Railway Battalion, commanded by an experienced railroad man, Col. Carl D. Love, of Louisville, Ky.

This is what might be called a de luxe train of its kind. But railroading in the Normandy area was not always de luxe, far from it. In the battle for this area the railroads were bombed, tangled, twisted. Rolling stock was destroyed.

The military railway service, commanded by Brig. Gen. Clarence L. Burpee, of Jacksonville, Fla., plunged headlong into the job. It meant not only repairing tracks, yards and telephone lines, but rebuilding bridges, signal houses, railway stations, and the like.

But while all this was going on, the trains had to move. They did move—but how. Perhaps every American boy is born with the ambition to be a railroad engineer—at least those of my generation were. Some of them had a chance over here in those early days for the invasion. Some day someone may write a companion piece to "Casey Jones" about the GI at the throttle, the GI who may have been a curtain salesmen, as one of them had been, or a soda jerker, or an amusement park ticket-taker. The five-man crew got a handful of K rations, jumped on the train, and away they went, knowing vaguely which way they were headed, but not knowing exactly how to stop. It was sort of a case of: "Coming—ready or not."

Landed Elsewhere

There was one crew which started for one place and landed somewhere else, quite an adventure. The amateur engineers drove ahead through blackouts, into midnight blackness, with no organized signal system. They plunged headlong into tunnels, not knowing whether they had been mined. They drove with head stuck out of the cab, with a prayer. A sharp lookout was

necessary, for sometimes the track ended suddenly, and sometimes the bridge that was supposed to be there was not. Cigarettes, burning pieces of newspaper were makeshift signals.

Occasionally they were bombed. Their orders were to get through and they got through, somehow. They chopped up broken cross-ties for fuel, or they stopped and scoured the country-side for wood, or hauled furniture from bombed-out houses along the way. For water, they worked many angles, getting it sometimes from local fire departments, sometimes from creeks, sometimes from shell craters, sometimes by organizing bucket brigades among French farmers to bring it from lake or stream.

Some lives were lost in collisions, and there were some bad ones. Once a train carrying high octane gas bumped headlong into another, with an earth-shattering explosion that rocked the rural countryside, in a jam that developed Rambouillet and Maintenon. It was hit-and-miss railroading. A respectable engineer would never have permitted it.

Truck Drivers' Epic

There's another epic of the boys at the wheel—the truck drivers. Trucks are not used out of the ports any more or anywhere near the scale of those early days, now that the railroads are in order and pipelines are available for carrying gasoline. But they were the sole reliance for a time.

To follow the armies, they improvised the famous red ball highway out of Normandy. Eventually it stretched 500 miles, going and coming, with one-way traffic each way, carrying at its peak nearly 8000 tons of supplies, mostly food and gasoline, from Normandy alone. It was dangerous work with the gasoline, as at Coutances, for instance, where a convoy of 12,000-gallon trucks had to go through a flaming town to get gas to Gen. Patton.

They made that flaming highway without a miss, a miracle.

Their schedule called for 22 out of 24 hours operation, with only two hours for maintenance. One driver would sleep while the other was at the wheel, though often one driver would carry the cargo through.

The red ball highway ended its glorious career in mid-November last year. It is littered with the legend of unsung heroes, more than half of them Negroes.

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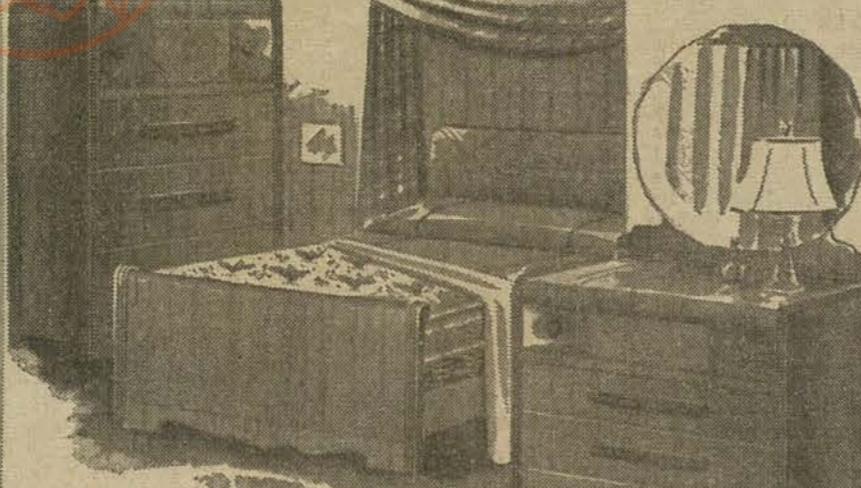
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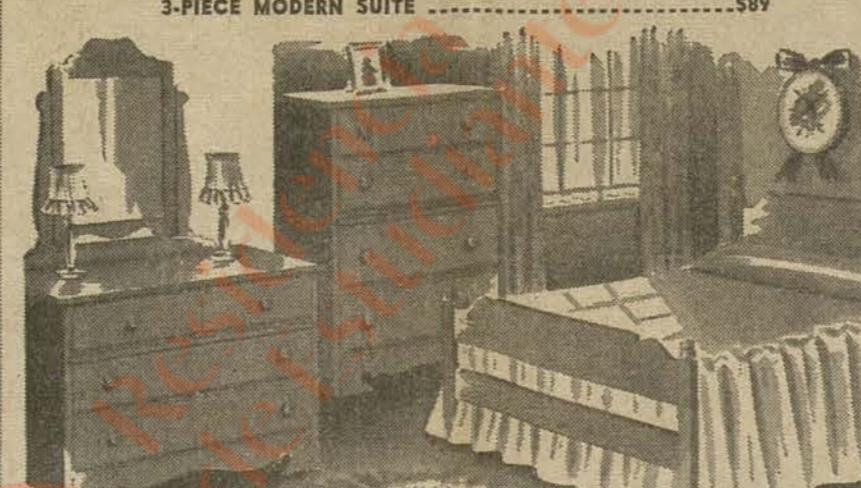
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Graceful "Hepplewhite" . . . slender and well-proportioned, 3-pc. suite that lends delicacy and beauty to your room. 4-drawer Chest, Dresser with separate hanging mirror and sleigh-type Bed executed in richly grained Mahogany veneers and selected cabinetwoods.

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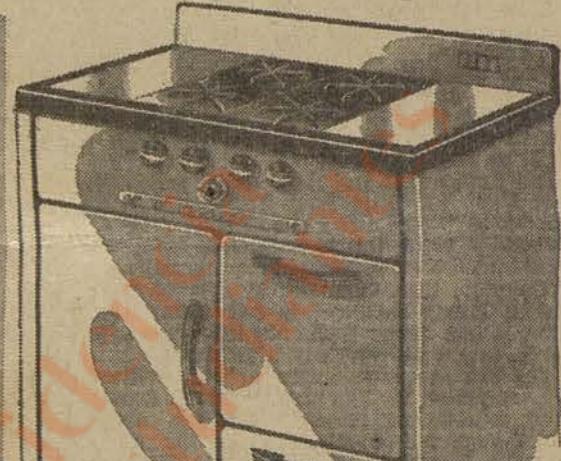
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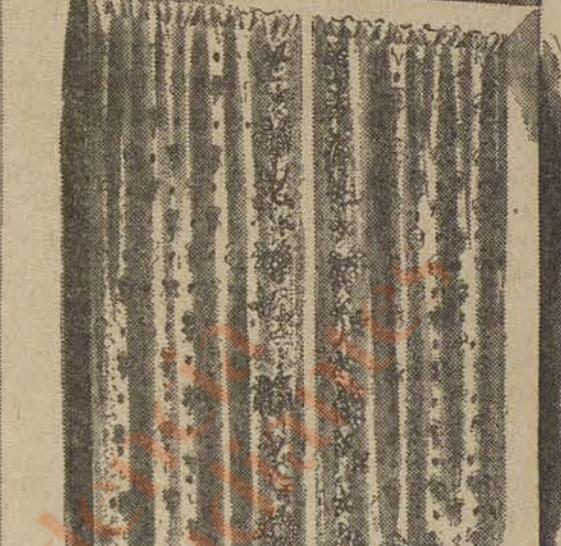


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Comedy Is the Main Prop on the Stage Sets This Week

FOOTLIGHTS

'Chicken' and 'Dinner for 3'
Obviously Packaged for Gourmands

By Edwin H. Schles

It's going to be a little difficult to view current theatrical menu with much gusto this morning.

In spite of their gastronomic titles, "Chicken Every Sunday" and "Dinner for 3" are not the sort of theatrical tidbits to perk up a languid appetite. In fact, both are pretty synthetic products, put out hastily for the trade and obviously packaged for the gourmand rather than the gourmet.

"Dinner for 3," written, directed and produced by Tim Whelan, is indeed a pretty desperate catchall, a frantically concocted who-dunit that runs the gamut of murder-mystery-farce from A to B, as the saying goes.

Mr. Whelan has to be credited with having made a hectic effort to provide the customers with a comprehensive laugh trap, but the bait will attract, we should think, only the hungriest.

His new play obviously belongs to the lower levels of Hollywood entertainment, and for all its screamingly funny intentions is not at home in the adult theater. And this comment is offered with no intention of sneering at the movies, but merely to suggest that there is a place for everything and that in a well-ordered entertainment world everything should be in its place under appropriate circumstances and at appropriate prices.



For the sake of the record—"Dinner for 3" is the story of a gay and eligible bachelor, a physician, who finds himself unable to choose between three ladies, all of whom aspire quite actively to share his bed and board with benefit of clergy.

To arrive at the proper diagnosis of each applicant, the doctor undertakes a little experiment.

He invites the three yearning candidates to dinner and with the help of two colleagues (who on the Locust st. stage engage in some highly unprofessional antics) stages a fake murder with himself cast in the role of the fake corpse. The idea being to find out what the gals really think of him when he is supposed to be ready for the mortician's table rather than the altar. This merry conceit (as old as the middle ages) is developed at mad farce tempo with the usual business of running up and down stairs (our comedic playwrights seem obsessed with the humor of stairs running these days), the usual shots in the dark, feminine screams and interchange of "corpses," in about as adolescent a charade as this reporter has witnessed in many a season. These goings on are not helped either by a profusion of routine and phonily sophisticated dialogue.

Harry Ellerbe, Miriam Seeger, Stanley Logan and a large supporting cast, all likable and able players, strive mightily in this witless oolapodrida without gaining much but sympathy.



"Chicken Every Sunday" arrived at the Shubert last Monday trailing an impressive record of almost a year on Broadway and a short but rather triumphant tour of the Midwest—an achievement in the box office hard to dismiss even if you should be so inclined. As you probably know by this time it's a dramatization of Rosemary Taylor's book of the same name which had some currency in the better-seller lists a season or so ago. And its headway on the stage since the Broadway opening of last April recalls that well-known aphorism of Oscar Wilde—"Nothing succeeds like excess." For the Brothers Epstein have certainly gone to excessive limits in their attempt to amuse you with the characters drawn from Miss Taylor's story.

The pedigree of the show might read—"Out of Miss Taylor by Father Day" (of "Life With Father"). And some of the assorted eccentricities of "You Can't Take It With You" are not above suspicion of paternity since the resemblance is such that you can hardly go to the Shubert this week without recalling the two older comedies.

However, those are not models to be sneezed at and while "Chicken Every Sunday" is not always an irresistible laughing matter, it has funny moments that, if you're not in too much of a hurry, might be worth waiting for.

The plot is a slender one and the authors have not placed too much weight on it. It's about a set of comic strip caricatures who inhabit a boarding house in Tucson, Arizona, circa 1916. This establishment where chicken is on the menu every Sunday is run by Emily Blachman, a shopworn Virginia gentlewoman whose career as a harried landlady is not made any easier by her husband, Jim Blachman, a smalltown tycoon of dubious solvency who runs a bank, a laundry, a gold mine and a horse-car line on a whole bundle of shoestrings. The boarders, given to excessive running up and down stairs and in and out of doors, include Uncle Jake, a likable unregenerate and salty old lecher who likes to talk about the fancy ladies of his youth; a bleating young poet with a dominating mama; a school teacher who has mysterious midnight assignations with a star boarder who spoils all the scandal by turning out to be her husband; a wandering nymphomaniac who, fallen on lean times, takes to pursuing Indians, and a faded belle who claims perpetual squatter's rights on the bathroom.



The Epsteins, you see, have overlooked nothing in marshaling a comic menagerie for your laughter. That the creatures of their (and Miss Taylor's) imagination do little but run around in circles and figuratively speaking, jump out at one another crying "Boo!" is perhaps beside the point, especially since there is no point anywhere visible to the naked eye for most of the evening.

But at least last Monday's audience, and we understand, later patrons, too, seemed vastly amused, and nothing is so right at a comedy as a laughing audience. "Chicken" is reasonably well served by a lively and competent cast headed by Viola Frayne as the worried but sentimental landlady who keeps the human zoo, and Sidney Blackmer as her loud-talking and large-dreaming spouse.

And probably the show rates a passing-plus mark as entertainment. "Entertainment," of course, covers a multitude of sins in any show. And although to a certain viewpoint what entertains you is an important element in the equation, too, what with the early spring and the thermometer in the 80s, it's too warm to go into that now in the case of "Chicken Every Sunday."

The Stamp Corner

By EDWARD B. MAGUIRE

The latest U. S. philatelic "find" is the 1944 three-cent railroad commemorative printed on both sides.

Harold B. Newcomb, Jr., of Webster Groves, Mo., who first reported the error, has donated one of the 13 copies he has seen to the Red Cross 1945 War Fund stamp auction, to be held Thursday in Astor Galleries of the Waldorf-Astoria.

The value of such a stamp de-



ONE of nine new stamps from Greenland, the first since 1935.

pends, of course, on the number in existence. At least 150, or a full sheet, evidently have been sold across the Missouri post-

STAMPS & COINS

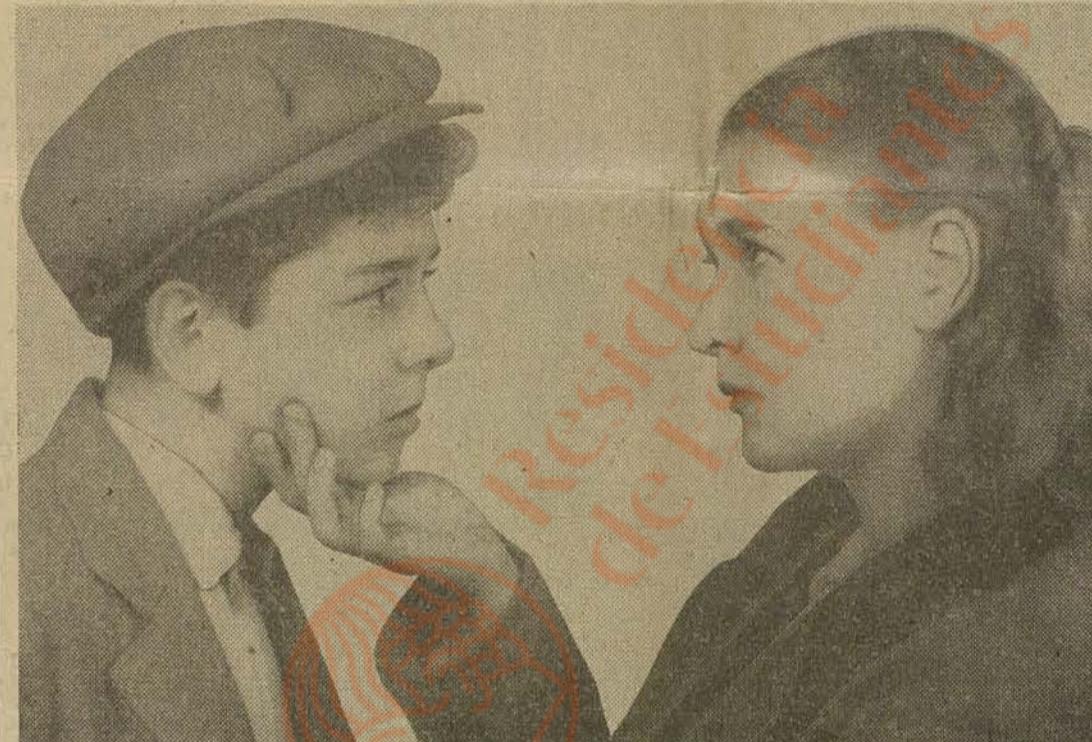
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HOW TO TORTURE YOUR WIFE . . . as exemplified in a scene from "Chicken Every Sunday," in which Sidney Blackmer as the husband enjoys a one-sided matrimonial joke at the expense of his wife (Viola Frayne). The comedy, new to Philadelphia and based on Rosemary Taylor's book of the same name, is the tenant at the Shubert.



MURIEL GRUBER AND JULIA LAURENCE . . . in a scene from "The Miracle of the Warsaw Ghetto," Yiddish drama starring Jacob Ben-Ami, due Thursday at the Forrest.



THE DOCTOR'S DILEMMA . . . and not such a bad one to be in. It's Harry Ellerbe as the lady-killing medico in "Dinner for 3." Marjorie Lord (right) and Miriam Seeger are the rivals for the doc's affections. Tim Whelan (right) is directing this rehearsal shot . . . a bit enviously, perhaps. The comedy enters its final week at the Locust tomorrow.

BILLBOARD

Opening Thursday Afternoon

The Miracle of the Warsaw Ghetto Forrest
Yiddish drama by H. Levick, here for a brief engagement after 24 weeks in New York. Jacob Ben-Ami is starred in the play, which depicts the Warsaw Ghetto in April, 1943, when 40,000 Jews made their last-ditch stand against the tyranny of the Nazis. Incidental music for the production was written by Sholem Secunda. Three days.

Continuing

Chicken Every Sunday Shubert
A boarding house in Tucson, Arizona (circa 1916), is the scene of this comedy, which Julius J. and Philip G. Epstein adapted for the stage from Rosemary Taylor's original biographical story of her own family. Sidney Blackmer and Viola Frayne share the leading roles and other players include Suzanne Kaaren, Hugh Thomas, Jan Sherwood, Austin Coghlan, Adrienne Bayan, Mona Bruns, and Frank M. Thomas. Final week.

Dinner for 3 Locust
New comedy written, directed and produced by Tim Whelan, well-known Hollywood director. A farce with elements of romance and mystery, it concerns a doctor who is pursued by three lovely ladies, and finds it difficult to make a choice. A large cast is headed by Harry Ellerbe, Miriam Seeger, Stanley Logan, Marjorie Lord and Les Tremayne. Final week.

Coming

A Doll's House—James B. Cassidy's revival of the famous Ibsen play with a line-up that includes Frederic Tozer, Dale Melbourne, H. B. Warner, Lyle Talbot and Jane Darwell. Locust, April 2.

I'll Be Waiting—New comedy-drama by Rita Lambert with an all-feminine cast starring Virginia Field and featuring Katherine Alexander, Barbara Robbins and Katherine Emmet. Walnut, April 2.

The Student Prince. Return engagement of Sigmund Romberg's 21-year-old romantic operetta about the love of a Prince for a little waitress. Alexander Gray, Laurel Hurley and Detmar Poppen have featured billing. Forrest, April 2.

He Gave Sinatraddicts Plenty to Yell About

By JUNE HERDER

What James Boswell did for Samuel Johnson on paper, Tim Whelan has done for Frank Sinatra on the screen. For it was at Whelan's insistence that the bobby-sock phenomenon took time out from his crooning here and there throughout the land and departed for Hollywood. There Frankie implanted his impression on celluloid so swooners all over the country could go into action en masse and faint in rows from Maine to California.

A Chef Whalen Special

If Whelan's part in persuading Sinatra to yodel in pictures were generally known, probably the short-stocking damsels would be pulling buttons off Tim's vest, too, and saluting him with a little appropriate screeching.

But up to this moment, Whelan has all his buttons and may be found this week at the Locust in a different role, pacing backstage or peering from the front of theater, where his new comedy "Dinner for 3" is now being served in the dining car.

"Dinner" is definitely a Chef Whelan special. He is its author, director and producer. And if a member of the cast couldn't make it some evening, Whelan undoubtedly could fill in as understudy.

Such triple responsibility is nothing new for this Hollywoodian now on lend-lease to the East. On the West Coast, Whelan has shouldered at least two out of the three jobs in 20 of his most recent pictures. He was producer and director of "Higher and Higher," the Sinatra special; he was director and author of "Swing Fever," starring Kay Kyser. Whelan also wrote and directed the English-made picture "Sidewalks of London," with Charles Laughton and Vivian Leigh.

In fact it was Whelan whose efforts on behalf of London picture studios helped to popularize English cinema in this country. He wrote and directed many English pictures which introduced such players as Vivian Leigh, Lawrence Olivier and Flora Robinson to American audiences.

Whelan's British associations probably account for his un-Hollywoodian appearance. He is a conservative dresser whose ties are as quiet as his softly enunciated speech.

Although Whelan has long been known in Hollywood for his happy faculty of attracting new personalities to the films, he confesses that he was more than a little nervous when he came East to persuade Sinatra to make a picture.

A Natural Actor, Too

"But after I met Frank," he says, "I knew there were no difficulties that couldn't be surmounted. He was such a good sport."

"Frank is a natural actor, too," said Whelan. "He learns fast and, unlike most people, his inexperience has a charm of its own. His naturalness is an asset and the simplicity with which he cameras catches comes through as a quality that is genuinely appealing.

Frank will go far on the screen."

Whelan and Sinatra sit it off well from their very first meeting. However, the singer complained because the director continued to refer to him as "The Voice." Frank had his revenge when he arrived at the studio one day with a brown leather script binder for Whelan on which was engraved "The Brain."

While "The Brain" is here with "Dinner for 3," he hopes to find a new talent. "I discovered a few youngsters on all my other trips East," he said, "and there's no reason why I shouldn't take several potential stars back with me this time."

However, Whelan will have to work fast. His studio insists that it's producer-author-director return to Hollywood just as soon as "Dinner for 3" opens on Broadway.

Makeup Box

According to Dorothy Kilgallen, Dennis King, Jr., and Jayne Cotter, of "Kiss Them for Me," which made its pre-Broadway bow here a fortnight ago, have the usual spring symptoms . . .

Katharine Alexander, who has a featured part in "I'll Be Waiting," due here next week, returned from Hollywood last week after completing the mother role in the picture carbon copy of "Kiss and Tell."

Walter Winchell's daughter Walda, who had a small part in "Up in Central Park" under the stage name Tony Eden, now is making her real Broadway debut in the new Tallulah Bankhead show, "Foolish Nation." Motion picture outfits have been bidding for the film rights to "Anna Lucasta," Negro drama now packing them in in New York, and it is rumored that Greta Garbo is interested in heading the white film cast.

Billy Redfield, who played the lead in the recently closed "Snafu," has been signed for the movie version with a contract said to run to four figures. . . . And Richard Hart, who plays the witch boy in "Dark of the Moon," has a Metro lease waiting for him within 30 days after that show closes on Broadway. . . . Reginald Denham and Mary Orr, authors of "Wallflower" (the Meyer Davis show), waived \$1628 in royalties in St. Louis last fall to make up for operation losses and the Dramatists' Guild has ruled that Producer Davis must pay them. Incidentally, Variety says that show lost over 50 percent for its angels despite a \$75,000 film sale.

—S. R. O.

Alfred Drake Reprises An 'Oklahoma' Favorite

Alfred Drake made his last appearance on Wednesday night as Barnaby Goodchild in "Sing Out, Sweet Land." Drake left for Hollywood on Thursday and the "Sing Out" show closed its New York engagement last night. It will go on tour with a new lead.

Wednesday night's performance of the show turned out to be a special occasion with added hokum supplied by the various members of the cast. The climax came in the speak-easy scene in the second act, when Drake sang "My Blue Heaven" to the gangster's girl. He was ready to go into his number when the orchestra, to his complete surprise, started to play "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning," which had been his opening number in "Oklahoma!" To the audience's delight, Drake sang it all the way through before asking the musicians if they would play "My Blue Heaven" for him.



FROM JANE DARWELL, who arrives at the Locust on Easter Monday, April 2, as one of the featured players in the revival of Ibsen's "A Doll's House."



FROM VIRGINIA FIELD, who heads the all-feminine cast of "I'll Be Waiting" new comedy opening at the Walnut April 2.



FROM FRANK FARRELL in the title role of "The Student Prince," Sigmund Romberg's tuneful holiday offering returning to the Forrest on April 2.