

RUSSIANS SEIZE VIENNA-BUDAPEST RAILROAD.

\*\*\*Dec 27--A ten mile strip of land, which the Nazis still hold, is all that now prevents the complete encirclement of Budapest. The Red Army has advanced 25 miles in three days and has cut the railroad leading from Budapest to Vienna. But as far as the Nazis are concerned, the storm troopers that still remain in the city's garrison are only giving them time to organize new defenses against other Russian forces advancing toward Austria and into Czechoslovakia. The puppet Hungarian government had long left Budapest and set up Headquarters in Austria.

Units of the Third Ukrainian Army now control a large strip of the railway on the main line to Vienna. Other Soviet columns surged westward through southeastern Czechoslovakia toward the Hron River and drove to within 65 miles of Bratislava, capital of Slovakia. These troops were also 98 miles from Vienna. Germany would soon find her back door open to the Russian juggernaut.

CHINA-BURMA.

\*\*\*Dec 27--Yesterday the Chinese High Command announced a series of counterattacks on Japanese supply lines northeast and northwest of Kweilin. There was no change in the heavy fighting around the rail town of Hochih in Kwangsi Province. Just south of the Burma-China border the Chinese took two villages.

In Burma, British troops advanced ten miles toward Ye-U, a town in the line of their eastward sweep from the Chindwin Valley. Other Allied forces advanced south along the Irrawaddy River. The British forces in central Burma are now only seventy miles from Mandalay, a rail and highway center.

BARBER: Was your tie red when you came in?

Soldier: Certainly not!

Barber: Gosh!!!

CHURCHILL: (Cont'd from page two.)

conference Tuesday to which high Elás representatives have been invited. The left wing elements are insisting that they be allowed to retain their arms until all political groups are disarmed simultaneously.

While plans were being made for the momentous meeting, Elás troops continued furious fighting against British occupation and Greek government forces in the Athens area.

THERE WAS LITTLE TIME FOR CHRISTMAS

\*\*\*Dec 27--For the Americans it was the fourth war Christmas. Troops, where they could, paused briefly for prayer and what traditional Christmas observances they could devise. General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, delivered a Christmas message to his troops which must have inspired many of those who now face their most trying hour. General Marshall's message is quoted here in part:

"This Christmas message goes to every man and woman in the service with my personal thanks for what each of you is doing for the honor and security of America and the liberation of the oppressed people throughout the world. I am aware of the hardships and hazards that are your daily portion and I am conscious of the price you are paying for victory.

May the Lord watch over you and may you find, wherever you are, some cheer in this Christmas season."

OKLAHOMA AIR-MINDED.

(ANS)--The Civil Aeronautics Administration has proposed to Congress the building of hundreds of airports, including 89 in Oklahoma. This is an average of more than one per county. Two dozen or so splendid airports have been built during the war in Oklahoma, at Army and training stations.



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NAZIS DRIVE TOWARD SEDAN

LEYTE CAMPAIGN  
OFFICIALLY CLOSED.

\*\*\*Dec 27--The Leyte campaign as far as the people at home know is now closed. General MacArthur announced that only mopping up operations continue. The enemy was bearded in his last den, the port of Palompon, when the 77th made another amphibious landing and took that town. In the vicinity of San Esidro, on the west coast of Leyte, the American 24th Division is cleaning up remnants of resistance. The American Seventh Division landed at Puerto Bello on the west shore of Ormoc Bay, while the First Cavalry and 32nd Divisions moved rapidly toward the west coast.

Looking back over the Leyte campaign we find it was not a difficult one as campaigns go. It covered a period of 66 days. During this time, the enemy suffered an estimated 113,000 casualties; American casualties were only ten percent of this number, 11,217 to be exact. It can be safely stated that on Leyte each doughboy was worth ten Japs. For a breakdown of the Japanese casualties, we find that 54,339 were abandoned dead; 18,000 were estimated to have gone down in convoys; 9,890 were estimated to be naval personnel lost; and of prisoners there were 293.

The Japanese can't say that the Americans took Leyte by the mere weight of the men and planes. During the first (Cont'd on page two.)

\*\*\*Dec 27--Christmas Day was another day of bitter fighting for American troops on Europe's western front. The German Armies on the Ruhr Front had broken the 48 hour stalemate and were pointing the spearhead of their entire offensive toward the French gateway city of Sedan. One Nazi force captured Libramont, 23 miles northwest of Sedan and drove the Yanks from Rosieres, eight miles to the east. Another Nazi column was aiming west of La-Roche in an effort to outflank the Allied wedge which has split the German Belgium push in two.

The Nazis threw the entire weight of their new push into the center of their recently won salient and even there, where they are reaching desperately for Sedan, their progress was sluggish. On the flanks, the Americans were holding firm, and near Bastogne in the last few days has been fought what promises to be one of the most heroic actions of the European war. Bastogne, a vital Belgian road center, was attacked by all the force the Germans could hurl against it, but American doughfeet refused to leave their foxholes even in the face of enemy tanks. The Americans who refused to retreat in the Bastogne sector were naturally cut off (Cont'd on page two.)

96th Box Score of Good Japs.	
Previous total.....	7293
December 26.....	17
GRAND TOTAL.....	7310

## DEADEYE DISPATCH

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PROHIBITION REPEALED

The "beer days" for units in the Division CP area will be every third day until the present supply is exhausted. The next day on which three cans may be purchased will be Thursday, 28 December.

Should any men be absent from the area on the scheduled day, they may have one of their buddies present their tickets at the "bar" and purchase their beer for them.

Little information has as yet been received regarding the other PX supplies but according to present plans the retail store will open on or about 4th January 1945.

NEWS SHORTS FROM HOME

(ANS)--Santa Monica--The rear end of a truck came open and the load slithered out into the street. Part of the helpers picked up the produce while the others had their hands full scattering off the cats. The lost load---mackerel.

Birmingham, Ala.--A fortune teller who called at her house, told Willie Mae Hannah that she would soon have "financial reverses." She was right, after she left, Willie Mae discovered that her purse containing \$90 was gone.

THEY TALK LIKE A MAN WITH A PAPER HAT--

1. The optimist who is already worrying about the crowded conditions of the troopship on the way home.
2. The fellow who is always lamenting, "Gee, I wish I had some ice-cream".
3. People who wonder when we're going to get bedsheets.
4. The fellow who says, "where can I buy a fountain pen?"
5. The dreamer who says, "Why don't they invent a pair of field glasses so you can see in the dark?"
6. The furniture manufacturer who recently predicted that GI's after the war, accustomed as they are to sleeping alone, will prefer single beds. (Oh yeh!)

(By-Sgt Dan Meyers.)

Chicago--A new twist in marital cruelty popped up in Superior Court when Mrs. Dorothy Burow, 19, won a divorce from her husband, Clarence, now in the Army in France. Mrs. Burow said that her husband tied her hand and foot with neckties while he went out to see a movie. He tied her so securely that she couldn't free herself, learning as a Boy Scout.

NAZI DRIVE: (Cont'd from page one.)

from the main forces and for the last week have been supplied only from the air. They are still fighting there and have held up the claw of the German pinners. Now an American relief force is fighting northward in an attempt to relieve them and latest reports indicate that one of our tank columns is seven miles from Bastogne.

Reasons given for the ability of the Allies to slow the Nazi offensive to its present pace were the rapid reorganization of the American forces and their ensuing counter-attacks, the impressive air offensive, and the last ditch stand of American troops in cut-off salients.

Results of the 13,000 air sorties flown against German communications and supply centers yesterday were still to be determined. But as the reports dribbled in, heavy damage to enemy equipment and supplies was becoming apparent. Allied war planes wrecked at least 56 German tanks and destroyed or damaged 790 other armored vehicles and motor transports. 375 German planes were destroyed in the last three days for which the Allies lost 55 bombers and 19 fighters. The counter-blow by air harked back to the days of Salerno when the flying fortresses were sent at low level against German positions which threatened to push our beachhead into the sea. It now became the test of all time to determine the tactical value of air power.

LEYTE CAMPAIGN: (Cont'd from page one.)

six weeks of the operation the Americans had only several local airfields augmented by carrier-based planes; in contrast, the Japanese had hundreds of airfields on nearby islands from which even fighter planes could harass us. Of our few airfields, there was only one that could be used in rainy weather. Thus, at the beginning, our air superiority was only local. But even with our few fields

American fliers daily challenged the enemy and ran him from the sky.

Today our airpower in the Philippines is growing rapidly. It is believed that it now outnumbers that of the Japanese. Allied fields, which were built at such a rapid pace on Mindoro, are now close enough so that fighters can attack the city of Manila. Since October 20th, 2,748 enemy planes have been destroyed. Said General MacArthur, "General Yamashita has suffered one of the greatest defeats in the history of the Japanese Army."

IWO JIMA GETS THE WORKS

\*\*\*Dec 27--American Superfortresses, Liberators, and naval warships joined forces Sunday to give Iwo Jima in the Kazans its worst pasting yet. The United States Navy warships bombarded enemy shore installations with their big guns, receiving some return fire, from shore batteries. A Japanese destroyer was sunk by American Naval shellfire as well as a patrol craft and a landing ship. During the same operation Allied bombers also attacked Chi Chi Jima in the Bonins.

Off Luzon, American patrol planes destroyed three enemy aircraft. Heavy bombers dropped 132 tons of bombs on six Japanese airdromes on Negros. Medium bombers struck at Zamboanga as well as at water front targets at Davao. 18 Jap planes were shot down when American flier raided Clark Field at Manila. With the new Allied airfields on Mindoro, we can look for many more such Manila raids in the near future.

CHURCHILL AND EDEN IN GREECE

\*\*\*Dec 27--Prime Minister Churchill and Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden have arrived in Athens, where they hope to settle the destructive civil conflict that has been raging in Greece for many weeks. Archbishop Bamaskinos will preside at the (Cont'd on page three.)

## SPORTS CHATTER

(ANS)--Lt Bill Cartmill who will coach the Camp Kearns, Utah, basketabll team this year, is a former Tommy Harmon team-mate at Michigan and like Harmon was shot down in action and had to walk home. Cartmill put in his combat missions over Europe and Africa.-----If Springfield, Missouri, of the Western Association baseball loop is going to get back in the league after the war, they'll have to build a new ball park. The St Louis Cardinals recently sold the stadium to the Gospel Publishing Company for \$35,000. Springfield was one of the better Card minor league farms, giving the Birds Stan Musial as the last great star to stem from the Western Association club.-----A compilation of baseball figures for the Southern Association for the past 30 years shows that Atlanta is the best baseball town in the South, leading New Orleans as the best attendance team by quite a margin. Memphis is only a very little behind the Louisiana metropolis.-----Jack Suytar and Gene Handley, first and second basemen of the Sacramento Coast League club the past season, teamed up to tag out a bandit on a post-season play not long ago. The two teammates were sitting in a Sacramento bar when a stick-up man walked in and heisted the joint. He tapped the bar till, then started relieving the customers of their valuables as he came down the bar. When he got to Suytar, the first baseman clipped him with a shot to the jaw and as he staggered back, Handley put him to sleep with another belt on the whiskers. They sat with their feet on him and finished their drinks till the cops arrived to take over.-----The Atlanta Crackers of the Southern Association have about decided that you can develop too good a minor league team. The Crackers are faced with the necessity of starting next season with only two regulars from last year's second place squad -- first baseman

Bob Reid and catcher Mel Ivy. The draft both governmental and baseball, got what Atlanta didn't sell.-----Lt Joe Hunt, national singles tennis champ in 1943, has been signed to flying duty at Daytona Beach, Florida, after his recent graduation from Pensacola.-----Buck Fausett, who came to the Hollywood Stars last season from the Cincinnati Reds, was signed to take over as manager when the club handed Charley Root his release. Fausett played for Galveston, Indianapolis, Minneapolis and managed Little Rock in 1943. He hit .315 for the Stars last season.--- Col Bob Neyland, formerly on duty in China has been transferred to Calcutta, India, and the move may call a halt to plans for a Chungking Rice Bowl Game. Neyland was to have headed one team and Lt Col Fred Thompson of Arkansas, the other squad.



THEY TOLD ME IT WAS A GREASE GUN.

## Unit Reporters Column

### SHORTS FROM 362nd FA Bn.

Pvt Hertzberg has been placed in line for a D.D.C. (Distinguished Digging Cross) for his excellent engineering of sanitary facilities.

Pvt Joe Lupton, since hearing he is soon to become a one stripe general (PFC) is attempting to fall the Survey Section out for caliloopies.

Sgt Martin and Mert McCall have been seen dribbling coconuts. Can it be they are reminiscing of championship basketball at Camp White?

The cuisine in Hq Btry has undergone a favorable change, thanks to personal attention by our B.C.

Since hearing that his father has disposed of their Meat Market, Cpl Love has been in a state of absolute melancholy. This means no more salami.

"Battling" Erwin Ruesch and "Red" Truas in a three round headliner fought to a well deserved draw. Ruesch has since announced his retirement.

### 381st INFANTRY REGIMENT

So you don't think that Japs smell! --The men in one of the machine gun sections of Company "M" were gathered around their gasoline stove heating their "C" rations. Cpl Jim Hendricks, Bluffs, Illinois, who had been silent for awhile said quietly, "I could swear I smell a Jap."--the men in the section got a laugh out of that. "Hendricks, you'd better wash your clothes tomorrow", said Pfc Ted Speidel, Gackle, North Dakota. After all, they were about fifteen yards from the outer perimeter, and there wasn't much chance of there being a Jap that close.

It seemed that Speidal was to eat those words later that night. He was sitting up in his slit trench, on guard about 2100, when he saw a figure briskly walking past his hole.--"Must be one of the men", thought Ted. However, the man

walked straight toward the rations and stopped there. Speidel thought it was a hell of a time for chow, so he called out, "Whoe's there?"---The man crouched down and started running toward the edge of the perimeter ducking behind a tree stump.---Sorry to say, the Jap got away. I can just imagine how Tokyo Rose will acclaim this great victory\* for the Japanese Imperial Army. After all, the Jap did get away with three cans of rations, (breath easy soldier, no "meat and beans") two being hash, the other stew; and a gas stove. We expect the Jap back soon for a key to the ration can, and some gasoline for the stove. We'll arrange a better reception for them this time.

EDITORS NOTE: \*More likely Tokyo Rose will call this a new torture devised by the 96th Division Murderers. That is as soon as the Jap gets the cans of hash opened.

Pfc Joe Johnson returned to his company a few days ago, with distinguished memories.

A few weeks ago, Joe's grandfather sent him a letter of introduction to President Osmena of the Philippines, and all that was needed was General Bradley's OK. Finally Joe was given the "GO" sign and soon was on the road to Tacloban. The President's secretary received Joe, and before he could realize it he was ushered into the Chief's office. This meeting brought forth quite a pleasant and lengthy chat. Before he left, President Osmena presented Joe with an autographed crisp one Peso bill, 1918 issue, which was designed by Joe's grandfather, Dr. A.P. Fitzsimmons, who was at that time Treasurer of the Philippines. Dr. Fitzsimmons is now practicing medicine in the States.

If Hitler's disposition is bad, it may be because he gets up on the wrong side of the Channel every morning.