

JAPS NOT SMART, SAYS HALSEY

***Jan 31--In a recent press conference, Admiral Halsey aired his views on American successes and Jap blunders in the last few months of Pacific warfare. He told reporters, "The silly fools (the Japs) spent all their effort down on Leyte and then because of the Seventh and Third Fleets and the Air Forces they have not been able to bring in reinforcements".

Halsey stated that enemy control of the South China Sea has been broken and United States forces can operate in it "any time we want to". Referring to the Jap, Halsey continued, "To put it in boxing terms, we have got him back on his heels and we are going to keep on socking him wherever we find him".

Summarizing the last five months since he took over the Third Fleet, Halsey warned that although the Jap Navy is now licking its wounds, some sort of recovery is still possible. But according to Halsey they are not the kind of wounds the Jap can heal in a day. Airmen of the Third Fleet have destroyed a total of 4370 Jap planes in the last five months. This was a greater loss to the Japs than ever inflicted by the fleet of any country on an enemy.

During the period, a total of 80 Jap warships were sunk, including one battleship, four aircraft carriers, four heavy cruisers, three light cruisers, 21 destroyers, 18 destroyer escorts, four subs and 35 small combat ships. The Third Fleet also damaged 152 other warships, including eight battleships, eight heavy cruisers,

ARMY PRODUCES SUPER-TRANSPORT PLANE

(ANS)--The Army's giant new C-97 Strato-cruiser -- the cargo-transport counterpart of the B-29 Superfortress -- has just flashed across the country to set a new transcontinental speed record.

Recognized as an official record by the War Department, the giant Boeing transport rocketed 2,323 miles from Seattle to Washington, D. C., non-stop in six hours, three minutes, 50 seconds, the War Department reveals, for an average speed of 383 miles an hour.

Described as "something like the Empire State Building with wings," the mammoth new airliner is the first big bomber converted to transport use which fits into postwar plans and at the same time meets all the military needs for actual war use.

Exceeding all present-day transport planes in size, the C-97 is 12-feet longer than the B-29's 110-foot overall length. It has a B-29 fuselage without the armor, armament, bomb bays, and other military equipment, and with a second fuselage superimposed upon the first.

As a cargo carrier it can handle a payload of 25,000 pounds and has 10,000 feet of useable cargo space -- nearly as much as two railroad boxcars. As a troop transport it can carry more than 100 fully-equipped infantrymen or two light tanks, along with passengers and other cargo. Its five-man crew includes a pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer, radio operator, and navigator.

MALE CALL

by Milton Caniff

KIPLING DIDN'T KNOW AMERICAN SOLDIERS



Thurs. 1 February 1945 Published by 96th Div I&D - Tel Ext-75. Vol. 2 No. 30

YANKS LAND NEAR BATAAN!

RED ARMIES 90 MILES FROM BERLIN

***Jan 31--Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's powerful First White Russian Army slashed 13 miles inside Germany northwest of tottering Poznanan to capture Driesen, 90 miles northeast of Berlin. German troops are falling back all along the vast German plain before the onrushing tide of the Red Army tanks and motorized infantry. The direct rail and highway communication between Berlin and Danzig has been cut, which threatens to cut Germany from her province of Pomerania. The province of East Prussia had already been cut off from Germany by the Red Armies several days ago. At Driesen, the Russians were 24 miles from Lansberg, and 62 miles from Frankfort. Frankfort is the last big Nazi stronghold between the Soviets and the capital of Germany.

Latest Soviet announcements said that the Russians were 109 miles from Berlin, but the Nazis broadcasts places the Reds only 90 miles from Berlin. Swedish reporters said that flashes from Soviet guns could be seen from Berlin in the night skies.

Moscow reports that the Red Armies are now two miles from Konigsberg, capital of East Prussia. Northeast of Allenstein, 1,300 Nazi prisoners were taken. The Vistula River stronghold of Breslau, is under siege by Red Army artillery and troops. In the Polish Corridor on the northern end of the battle line, Red Army units were pouring northward toward Danzig.

***Jan 31--A late news flash, received by the DEAD EYE listening post, revealed that American forces of the new Eighth Army have made an amphibious landing on the western coast of Luzon without the loss of a single man. The landings were made just north of the Bataan Peninsula, from where the Americans drove inland 11 miles to capture an air field and drive a twin spearhead toward Manila.

This would place the landings in the Subic Bay area and practically assure the isolation of Bataan Peninsula. Thus, the Japs fleeing the Americans in the north will not have even the temporary security of Bataan, as the Yanks did in 1941.

The new drive at Manila would now logically follow the shoreline of Manila Bay directly to the capital. General MacArthur said the landings along the five miles of the Zambales Coast had again caught the Japs off guard both strategically and tactically.

LUZON 2ND CITY LIBERATED

***Jan 31--As Yank infantrymen swept into San Fernando, Luzon's second city, the Japs went out the back door so fast they had no time to blow up bridges or damage the town. At San Fernando, only 34 miles from Manila, the Americans were welcomed by cheering Filipinos in a colorful celebration. The busy American doughfeet and tankmen had little time for celebrating (Cont'd. on Page Two)

Unit Reporters Column

NIGHT CLUB OPENS

"The Queens Palace" the 3rd Bn, 382nd Inf's new night club, had its gala opening last Saturday evening. Feature attractions were a show put on by the local Filipino talent and the arrival of 15 nurses from the 44th General Hospital. The Daragas with their Butterfly Gowns, lipstick, rouge and manicured nails, were very pleasing to the G-Eyes, and Jape Pluvius took another verbal lashing when the scheduled dance was rained out.

Included in the 12 act floor show was a rendition of "Don't Get Around Much Anymore" by Miss Henesia Espina, "The Chicken Love Song", by Pedro Espina and His Gang, and a Boogie-Woogie Dance" by Miss Mathilde Pesado and Pvt Garald Temperley of Assumption, Illinois.

Among the guests were Brig. General Claudius Easley and Col. Macy Dill and his staff.

Decorations and the entertainment were under the direction of Capt. Burnett T. Davidson from Glasgow, Kentucky, S/Sgt. Floyd Terranova, New Orleans, La., and Sgt. Frank Gulli of Chicago.

-T/5 Richard S. Good
382nd Inf

MERGER

Your eyes and my eyes
Meeting by chance;
Your way is my way--
Sweet circumstance.

Your arm in my arm
Life is complete;
Your world and my world
Here at our feet.

Your heart and my heart
Burning with bliss;
Your love and my love
Sealed with a kiss.

Your dreams and my dreams
All else forsake;
Your points and my points--
Let's have a steak.

THE FLYING MAIL ORDERLIES

It's an ordinary occurrence for mail to be flown to the post office, but when the postman flies to the mail, then that is news. The mail orderlies of Headquarters Company, 2nd Battalion, 382nd Infantry have been doing just that for the last several weeks. Each morning the mail clerk T/5 Stanley Klimek of Chicago, Illinois, or his assistant PFC Robert Fitzpatrick of Pontiac, Illinois, fly between Samar and Leyte to give the company's letters air mail service all the way.

We almost take the innovation of flying mail clerks for granted now. The customary, "Has the jeep come in with the mail yet?" has been replaced by "Hope Stanley could get a transport tonight." We have stopped asking whether the mail has come to regiment and wonder about flying conditions instead. As is the case with all mail orderlies, T/5 Klimek and Pfc Fitzpatrick know what it is to be the most popular or the most unpopular man in the company. A matter of a few letters can change the comment "Stanley is a swell fellow" to "What's the matter with the mail now?" and finally plain old-fashioned griping about the service.

As yet our mail orderlies have received no priorities on the planes, but if popular opinion could secure one, certainly theirs would be "A-1". Each morning when one of them leaves, the company's best wishes are with them for smooth flying and ceiling (and letters) unlimited.

--Pfc Chester Konzett
Hq Co, 2nd Bn, 382nd

Efficiency Plus:

Our airplane plants are turning out new bombers and fighter planes with dizzy speed. Last week at Lockheed it was reported that they built a plane in 8 hours flat. 5 minutes later a pilot took off. 6 hours later the plant received a cable from him. It read-"I am in Australia. Please send motor".

U. S. THIRD LEADS ON WESTERN FRONT

***Jan 31--General Patton's tough Third Army pushed ahead in its private invasion of the Reich along the Moselle River Valley to make its deepest penetration to date. Third Army doughfeet were five and one half miles northeast of the Luxembourg-Germany-France border, and twenty miles southwest of the Siegfried fortress of Trier. They had waded through icy water four feet deep and climbed river banks to enter Germany at two points, Petersbirche and Oberhausen, seven and ten miles south of St. Vith.

Despite deep snow, General Courtney Hodges' First Army to the north liquidated the last of the Belgian bulge and started a bulge of its own within two miles of the Reich. The First Army made an advance of three and one half miles, which placed them on or beyond the German jumpoff place of the Ardennes offensive.

With the exception of enemy shelling in the Saverne Gap on the Seventh Army's sector, the remainder of the snowbound front was surprisingly silent. General Eisenhower is reported to be massing supplies and equipment for another major offensive. Lack of enemy resistance on the western front was attributed to the withdrawal of at least a fourth of the German division to meet the Soviet threat on the eastern front.

NAZIS FEAR FOR BERLIN

***Jan 31--Swedish reports say that Nazi government officials are leaving Berlin in anticipation of Russian seige of the city. The German radio is preparing the German people for possible fall of their capital, declaring "We will fight before Berlin, in Berlin, around Berlin, and behind Berlin." According to one Nazi broadcast, they stated that the next eight days may decide the war. Nazi Labor Leader Dr. Robert Ley told the German public that Berlin may have to be yielded to the Red armies.

Paris Radio said that all Nazi officials had left Berlin bound for Munich, where the Germans foretold that the city

(Cont'd. on Page Three)

IUZON: (Cont'd from Page One)

however, as they pushed beyond the liberated city toward Calumpit, which is within 25 miles of Manila.

On the east flank, where the fighting has been most severe, the Americans seized more high ground in the Rosario area. They are now 14 miles from Baguio, summer capital of Luzon. An American division commander has just revealed that the fighting in the Rosario-San Manuel zone has been the bloodiest of the Luzon campaign and was on a World War I scale. San Manuel was only captured by our forces after the last Jap had been killed.

Despite the severe fighting, the Japs have already lost six men to every one of ours in the whirlwind campaign. Large numbers of enemy troops have still eluded our advancing forces and are now fleeing southward toward Bataan.

MORE "ROCK" BLASTING

***Jan 31--Iwo Jima received another visit, this time from B-29's. They flew from Saipan and gave the "Rock" a good working over. The boys in the superfortresses themselves admitted results of the raid were good and that fighter opposition and ack ack were both meager.

Supplementing the fliers' statements on the last Iwo raid, the War Department announced that in Sunday's big raid on Iwo our planes had bagged 119 Jap fighters.

TURKISH JAPS INTERNED

***Jan 31--Because of failure to depart from Turkey by last Saturday, the Turkish Government has interned Japanese Ambassador Kurisara and his staff. In retaliation, the Japanese government, announced that it would intern the Turkish Ambassador and his staff. They said, however, that the Turkish Ambassador would be free to move about, and that they were negotiating through the Soviet Union for exchange of Ambassadors.