

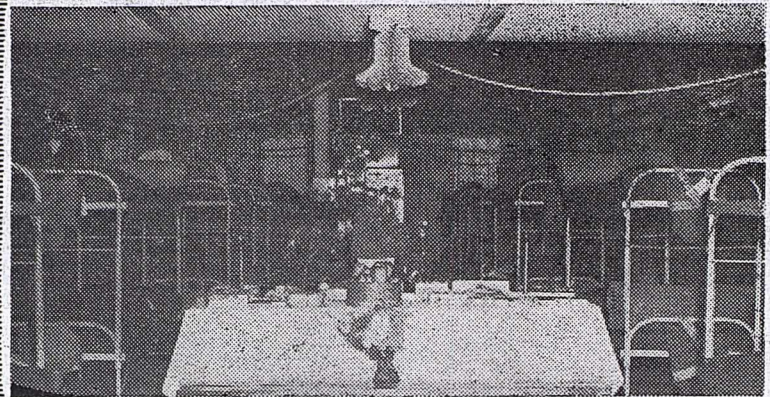
BATTLE

Rattlesnake Bomber Base

NUMBER 38 PYOTE, TEXAS DEC. 29, 1943

❖ 1944 ❖

United Nations Enter Decisive Year On March



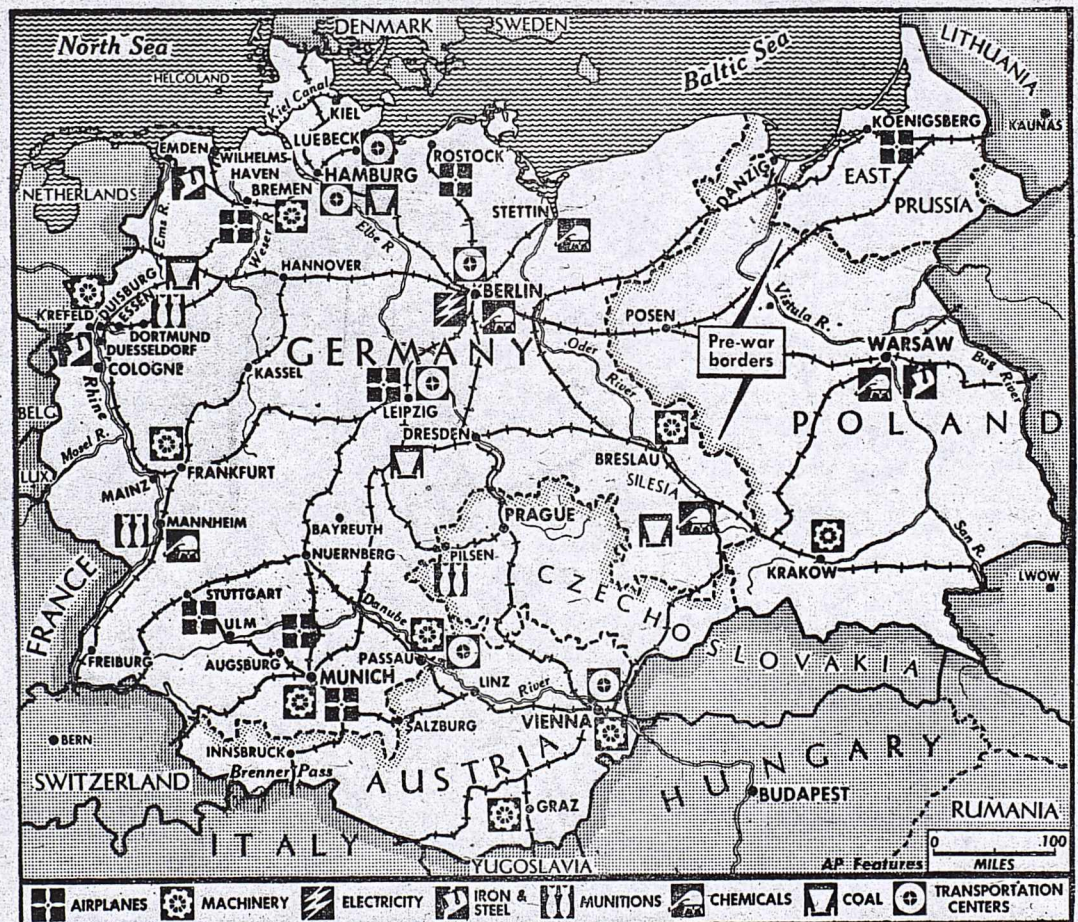
Christmas found emphasis through most buildings on the Base, but here are two of the most unique: Upper, Santa and reindeer atop Sub-Depot Supply; Lower, Medics' Barracks 5.

Target For 1944: Germany's Vast Industrial Life

Map to the right shows Hitler's "Greater Germany" and its concentrated wealth. Despite terrific, months-long Allied air bombardment, quantity production still comes from the vast continental industrial empire.

Served by Nazi and slave labor, the Third Reich's factories are primary targets for the RAF and USAAF. The Allied air forces will continue to lower enemy war production by bombardment of plants in 1944, while blasting open invasion spearheads.

General opinion on current events is that the tide turned in 1943, that the year of decision in Europe is at hand. That is the prayer for 1944, and the New Year's resolution of the more than 10 million men and women in this Nation's armed forces. For war analysis and maps, turn to pages 2, 3, 4 and 16.



Tide Has Turned During Past Year In Both Theaters

PACIFIC THEATER

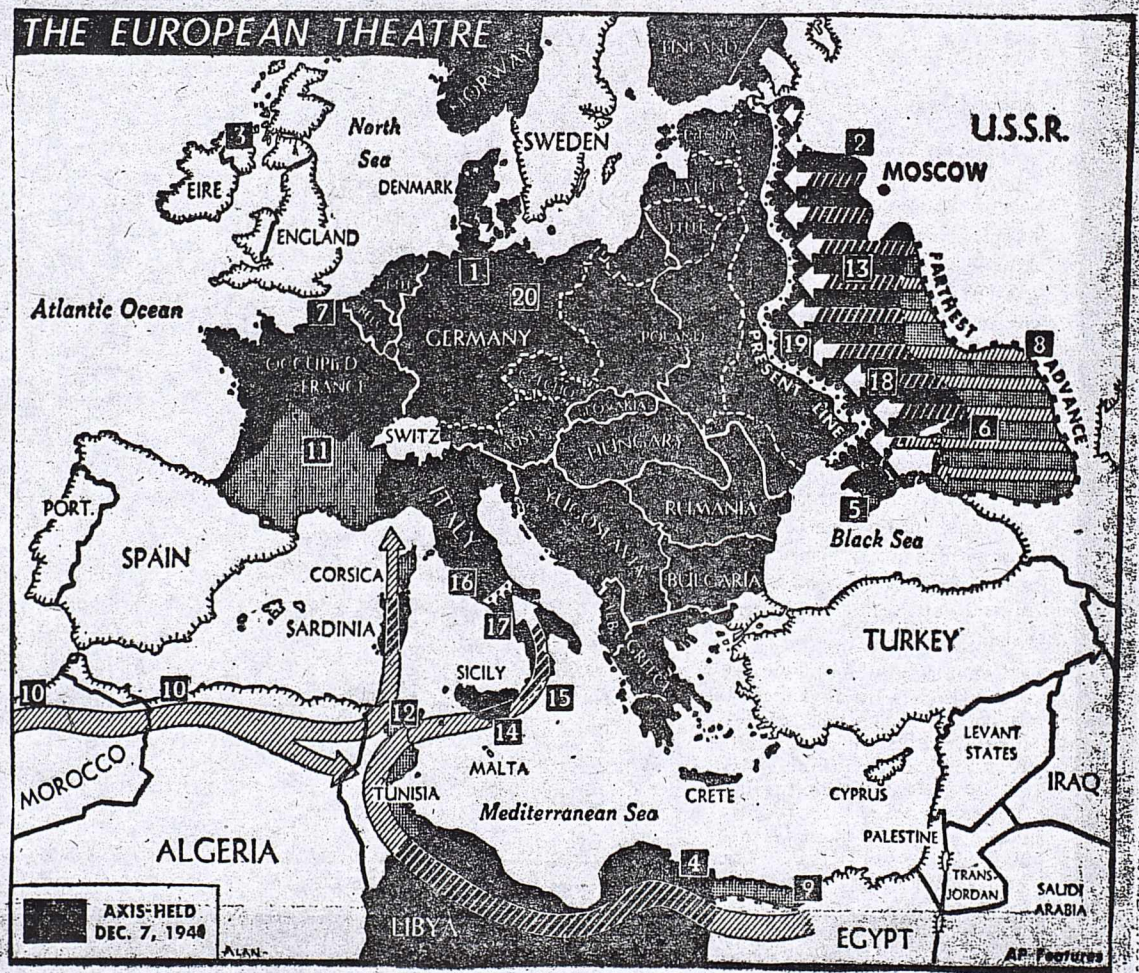
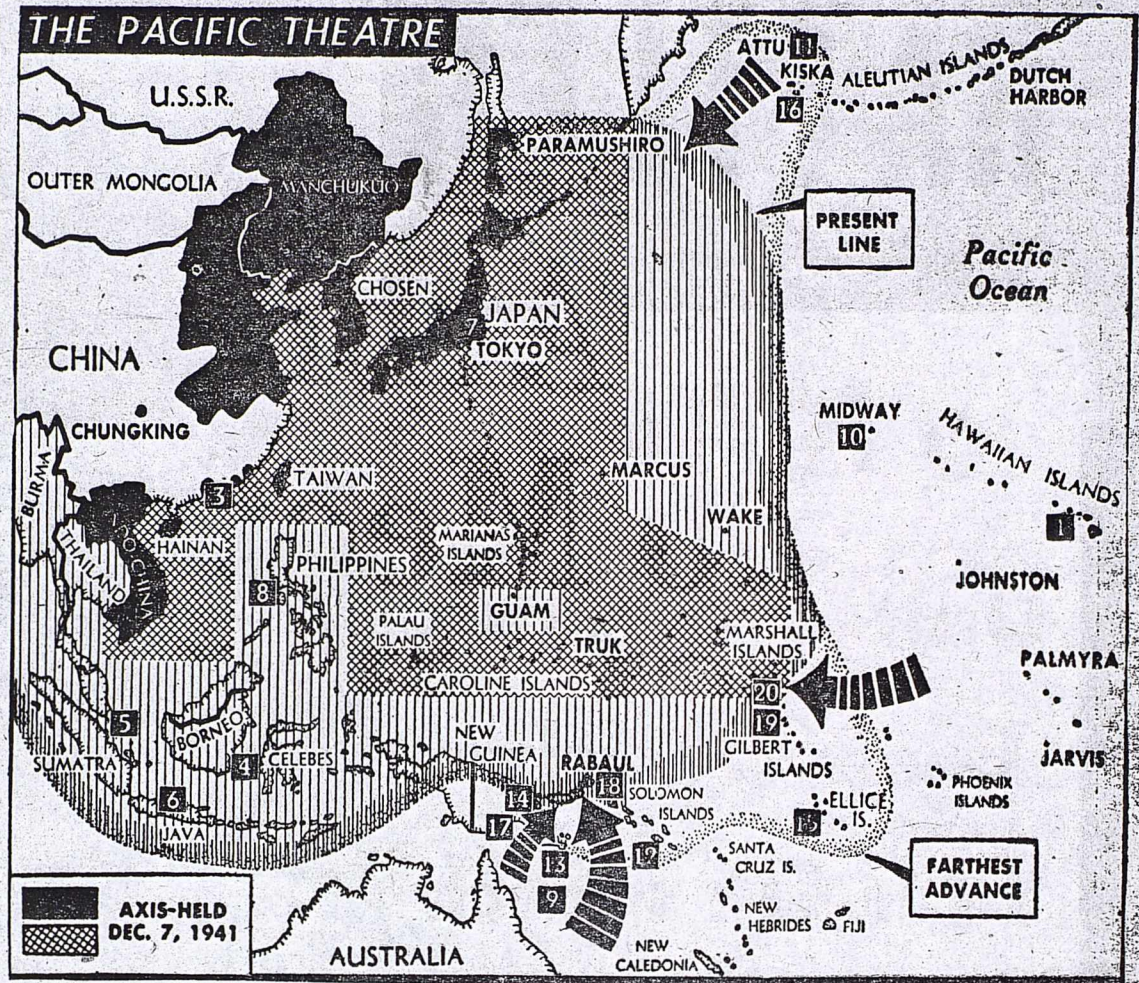
1. Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941.
2. Guam occupied, Dec. 12, 1941.
3. Fortress of Hong Kong falls, Dec. 25, 1941.
4. U. S. wins Macassar Sea Battle, Jan. 26, 1942.
5. Singapore surrenders, Feb. 15, 1942.
6. Java conquered, March 9, 1942.
7. U. S. bombers raid Tokyo, April 18, 1942.
8. Corregidor falls, May 6, 1942.
9. U. S. rips Japs in Coral Sea, May 8, 1942.
10. Sea fight off Midway, June 4, 1942.
11. Japanese invade Aleutians, June 12, 1942.
12. Marines fight in Guadalcanal, Aug. 7, 1942.
13. Allies hit Japs at Milne Bay, Sept. 9, 1942.
14. Buna falls to Allies, Dec. 15, 1942.
15. U. S. announces new base, April 23, 1943.
16. Americans take Kiska, Aug. 15, 1943.
17. MacArthur captures Lae, Sept. 16, 1943.
18. U. S. invades Bougainville, Nov. 1, 1943.
19. U.S. invades Gilberts, Nov. 20, 1943.
20. Makin captured, Nov. 23, 1943.

At year's end, the American Sixth Army had invaded New Britain, aiming at strategic Rabaul, part of the pincers movement (other prong in Gilberts) aimed at Truk, on road to Philippines. Mountbatten's forces were preparing for a Burma invasion, while the Chinese cleared their "Rice Bowl" of the enemy. The Aleutians are clear, and the Japs' seapower hard hit.

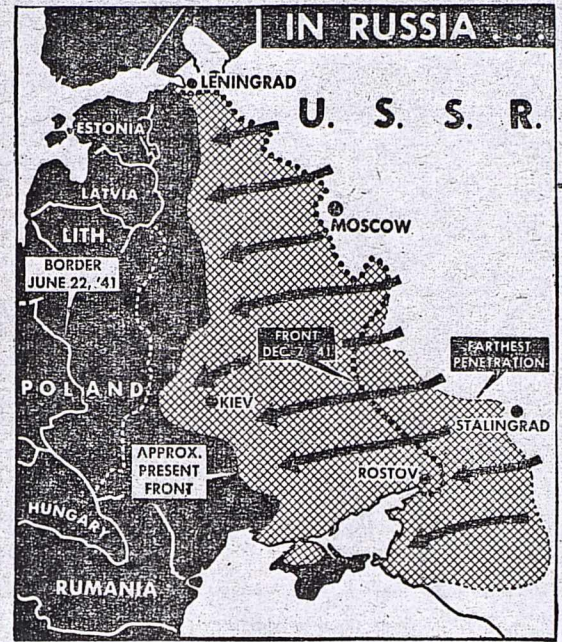
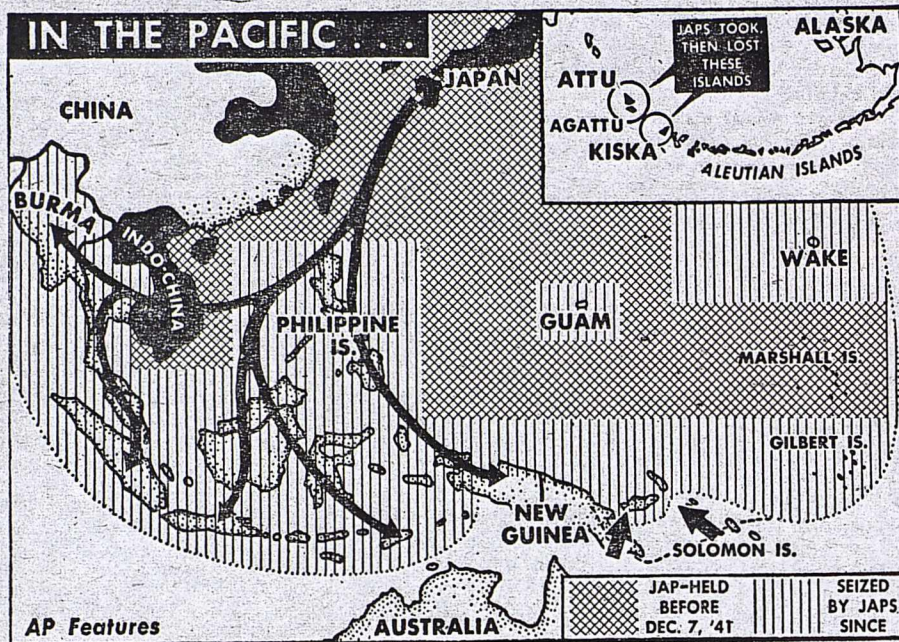
EUROPEAN THEATER

1. Germany, Italy declare war on United States, Dec. 11, 1941.
2. Nazis stand after offensive, Dec. 11, 1941.
3. First AEF lands in Europe, Jan. 26, 1942.
4. Tobruk falls; Nazis enter Egypt, June 21, 1942.
5. Sevastopol falls, July 3, 1942.
6. Germans push into Caucasus, Aug. 9, 1942.
7. Commandos raid Dieppe, Aug. 19, 1942.
8. Nazis penetrate Stalingrad, Sept. 17, 1942.
9. British attack at El Alamein, Oct. 25, 1942.
10. AEF invades North Africa, Nov. 8, 1942.
11. Nazis take Vichy France, Nov. 11, 1942.
12. Tunis and Bizerte fall, May 7, 1943.
13. Orel falls in Reds' drive, Aug. 5, 1943.
14. Allies occupy all of Sicily, Aug. 17, 1943.
15. British invade Italy, Sept. 3, 1943.
16. Italy surrenders, Sept. 8, 1943.
17. Americans land near Salerno, Sept. 9, 1943.
18. Russian army pierces Dnieper, Oct. 7, 1943.
19. Reds take Kiev, Nov. 6, 1943.
20. RAF opens Berlin blitz, Nov. 22, 1943.

At year's end the Russians had begun their great winter offensive; the Allies in Italy were taking the final hills before Rome and getting set for invading from the British Isles. The U-boat menace had been whipped, and the Balkans were beginning revolt.



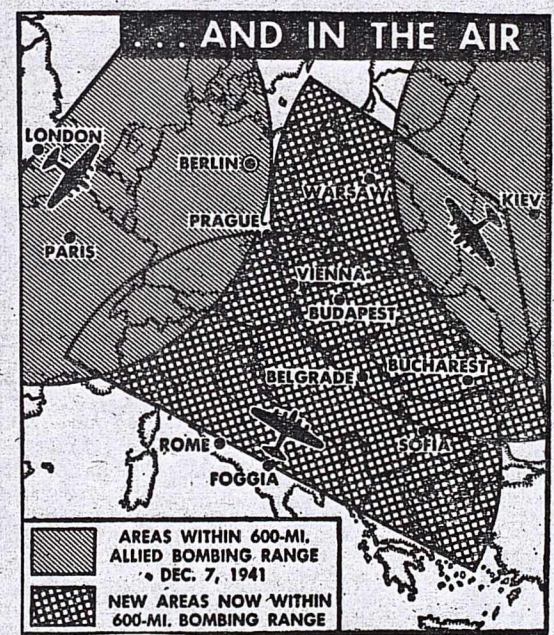
1944 FINDS AXIS POWERS ON RUN



ON THE SEA

	SHIPPING LOSSES*	
	JAPANESE	U. S.
BATTLESHIPS	3	1
AIRCRAFT CARRIERS	6	4
CRUISERS	50	9
DESTROYERS	112	38
SUBMARINES	33	14
MISC. COMBATANT	48	40
AUXILIARIES	57	16
NON-COMBAT SHIPS	664	35
TOTAL, ALL TYPES	973	157

*As of November 15, 1943.
**U. S. figures for all types, with exception of non-combat ships, cover both Atlantic and Pacific.



(Editor's Note: The Rattler is deeply indebted to Associated Press for maps and much of the editorial material appearing in this New Year's issue, designed to give Rattlesnake Bomber Base soldiers a glance at the global war score as 1943 explodes into 1944.)

Hit from behind and badly off balance from unpreparedness, United States' forces took a beating through 1942, as had their Allies in each's first year of war. Rapidly converting the Nation's industries to mass materiel production and mobilizing military manpower by the millions, America recovered during 1943 and began landing well-aimed blows at the enemy—in the Southwest Pacific, Mediterranean, and Atlantic theaters and over Europe. Lend-lease already was helping its Allies get offensive operations underway in the earth-circling free-for-all.

Uncle Sam's Sunday punches are on their way—1944 is expected to put Nazidom down for the full count, and find Japan reeling back toward its doomed home islands. Briefly, freemen on New Year's Day could look back on these major accomplishments:

From Australia, where he retreated from besieged Bataan, Gen. Douglas MacArthur mounted his offensive to return to the Philippines. The enemy has been driven from much of New Guinea and

the Solomons. Fighting on Bougainville and New Britain should end in capture of Rabaul. Invasion of the Gilberts and bombardment of the Marshalls points the other prong of the pincers against Truk, great enemy base in the path to Manila.

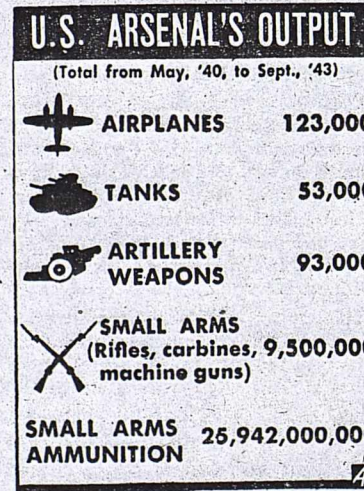
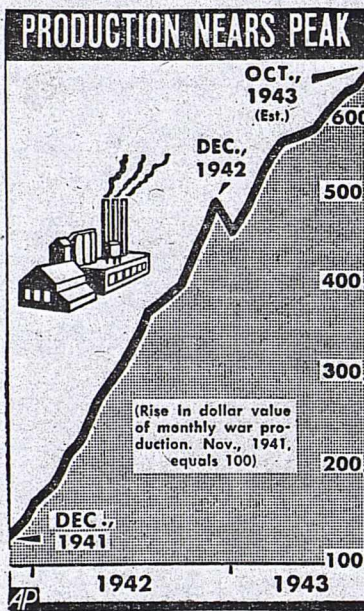
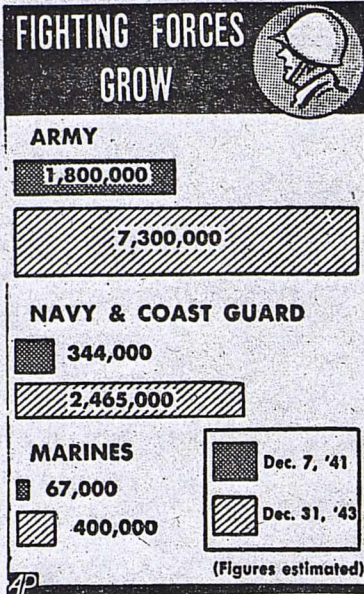
The enemy's air and sea power—naval and merchant—has been sharply weakened by 1943 American operations in the Pacific. The Jap navy fears and avoids a show-down battle. The Aleutians have been cleared, and U. S. forces have struck hard blows at Wake, Marcus, and other key island points. The Allied offensive from India into Burma is preparing, and the weary but determined Chinese lately have driven the Japs off territory gained in fall advances. Gen. Chenault's famed 14th AF in China is pioneering an air blitz on Tokyo.

British and American forces—with some aid from the French and smaller Allies—drove the enemy from all Africa, regained control of the important Mediterranean supply-line to the East, took Sicily, knocked Italy out of the war, and now struggle to overcome German defenses before Rome.

But the invasion of the continent through Italy probably will be overshadowed soon by the planned major invasion of Europe from

(Continued On Next Page)

Home Front



At Year's End, Axis On Run . . .

(Continued From Previous Page)

the west, to be headed by Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who successfully lead the southern penetration of Hitler's fortress. Aerial bombardment that has weakened Germany's vast industrial structure soon may be turned in full fury on chosen invasion points. Gen. George C. Marshall appears likely to remain as the U. S. Army Chief of Staff, directing the American effort on all fronts.

Russia, demonstrating enormous reserve power, carried its offensive all through the summer to the Dnieper Bend, merging those advances with slight respite into a great new winter offensive. Nearly half million square miles of the Soviet Union's overrun territory has been regained, and the Red Army has driven at a number of points to within less than 100 miles of the pre-war border. This winter should crack the Eastern Front wide open.

With the U-boat menace overcome, American supply-lines for the European offensive are clear. Advances on land in Europe have opened new target areas over the continent, and all Hitler's territory is now within a 600-mile flying range. Superior in number and performance, Allied warplanes and airmen have crippled the Luftwaffe fatally, are set to share in the kill during the coming year. And Gen. Arnold's boys will be on the beam.

With the Yugoslav guerrilla warfare building up to a major front, more may be expected of underground movements and revolt in Europe this coming year, in proportion to Germany's signs of weakening.

Predictions then add up to prob-

able defeat of Germany in 1944, with simultaneous launching of great offensive operations against Japan; mopping up and policing of Europe in 1945, with defeat of Japan that year.

However optimistic that schedule may appear, the price of victory will be higher at each advance during the coming year. One estimate: three times the casualties during the next 90 days among U. S. fighting men than the total for the past two years. The end is in sight, but we must fight terribly through blood, mud and steel to reach it.

Perhaps the most heartening events of 1943 came at year's end, the conferences of China's Chiang, Russia's Stalin, Britain's Churchill, and the United States' Roosevelt. There, global strategy—dwarfing plans drawn at the Casablanca and Quebec Anglo-American conferences earlier—was mapped to victory, with unity demonstrated by the United Nations' leaders.

But those leaders' plans cannot be carried out unless similar unity prevails at home. The Armed Forces' morale was never higher, but at year's end threatened strikes, politics, inflation moves and similar evidence of overconfident civilian relaxation were disheartening. However, war events in coming months should convince all that the greatest struggle is yet ahead.

'Rocket Coast'



Bombers and commandos lately have raided marked area, reputedly containing German high-powered, long-range rocket guns aimed at England. Rumor has it that these are Hitler's much talked about "secret weapons". If so, they should be vulnerable to bombers based in Britain.

LETTERS UNITE SOLDIER; WIFE 300 YARDS APART

CAMP RUCKER, ALA. (CNS)—Although Sgt. Russell E. Harris and his WAC corporal wife are quartered only 300 yards apart, they write letters to each other three times a week. "We have very little time together," explains the Sergeant.

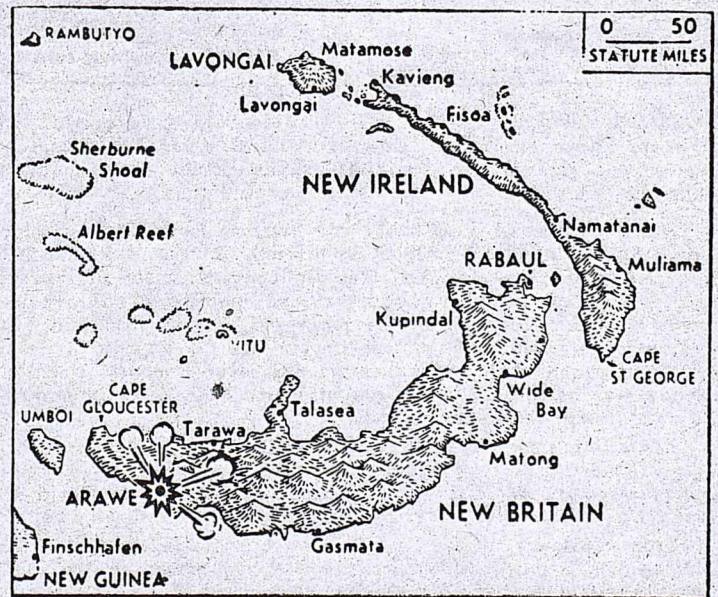
Bulletins

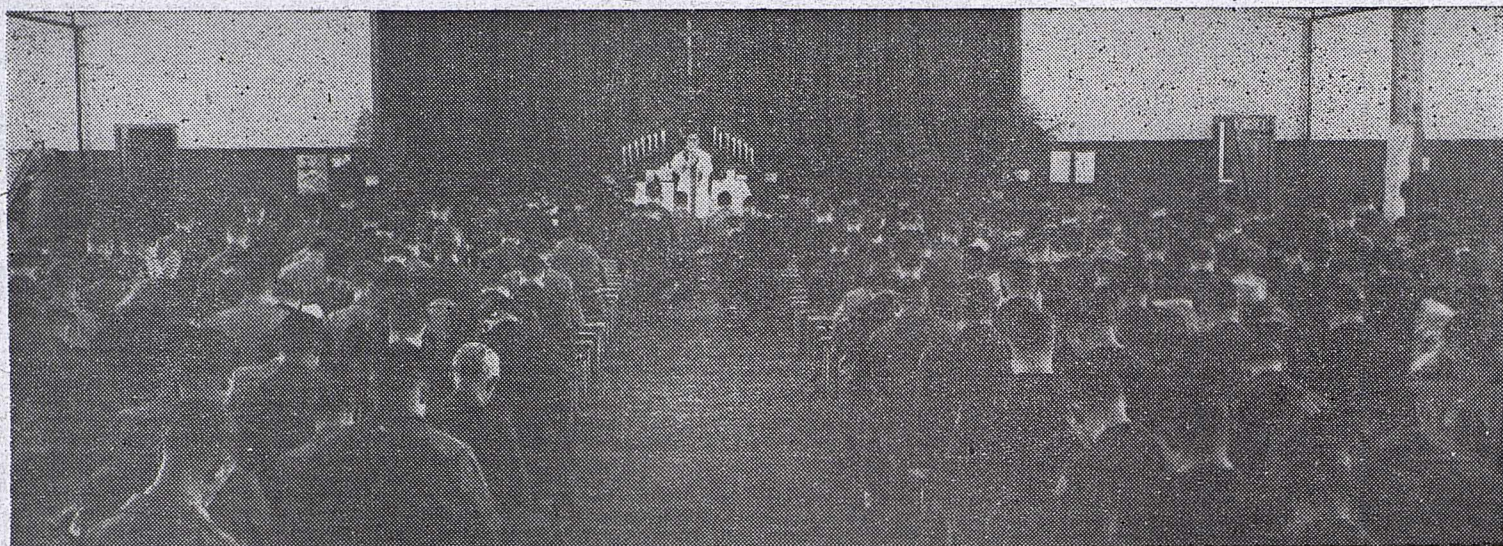
Hollywood Stars Franchot Tone and Jean Wallace arrived at the Base as our presses were rolling last night. They were to visit the Hospital messes, and make a formal appearance at the EM Service Club. Sorry time did not permit The Rattler to give these welcome entertainers the deserved fanfare.

Beginning Monday, a daily broadcast (except Sunday) of world and important local base news will be made at 12:30 p.m. over the public address system, with outlets at Sub-Depot, Rec. Hall and the Chapel.

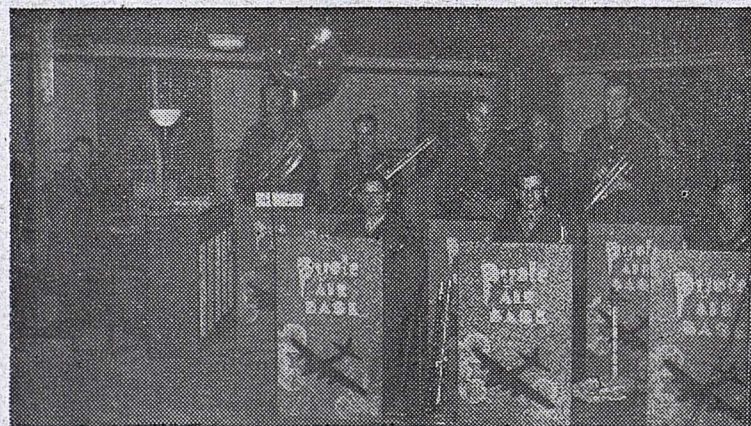
Please forgive The Rattler's lag-gard arrival and any gremlin tricks you might note. 'Flu got our top-kick printer, the shop caught on fire, and the holidays slowed our copy. Remember the AF slogan? Well, the impossible took us a little longer.

Matter of fact we were looking for the nearest hill to go over when to the rescue came PFC John R. Scofield, a peacetime Seattle Post-Intelligencer linotype operator, familiar with Army sheet emergency from work on the Kodiak Bear while on service in Alaska.





Christmas Roundup



Christmas is over but the memories linger on, and a few of them are preserved in the pictures above. Top photo, Father Bernard J. Gannon at High Mass in the Rec. Hall, reverently attended. Centered photo, the Nurses and their guests make merry, while picture to left shows couples dancing by the huge Christmas tree in the EM Service Club. Lower photo, the Band's dance units worked hard all through the holidays to give others a musical Christmas; this setup was at the Service Club.



EDITORIAL:

Year Of Decision

Gen. H. H. Arnold, Commanding General of United States Army Air Forces, recently paid the highest compliments to the officers and men of his great fighting team:

"As you know, the coming year will bring the most decisive days of our time, the most decisive of centuries to come perhaps. I am fully confident that you are equal to the challenge."

A hint of what meeting that challenge successfully must mean in terms of personal sacrifice came recently from a high government official in Washington. Warned he: American battle casualties in the next 90 days probably will more than triple the total for the past two years of war. Associated Press added: That would push the total of dead, wounded, missing and prisoners, now at around 132,000, well past the half-million mark.

The Army Air Forces doubtless will spearhead the planned offensives—softening up the invasion objectives—and coordinate with the ground forces and navy in the follow through. Despite the great quantity and high quality of aerial equipment, trained air and ground crews, wise strategy and proved tactics, losses in such large-scale operations are certain to be heavy.

Whatever the cost, our combat forces will not falter. Crews now in training here at Rattlesnake Bomber Base will carry to all theaters the fighting tradition set by the courageous 19th Bombardment Group in the early months of the war in the Pacific. They will participate in the greatest combined offensive in the history of world warfare. With America's hardest hitting air weapon, their fire and bomb power will weigh heavily to make 1943 the year of decision.

No less difficult in many respects will be the tasks faced by static personnel at such air bases as this during the coming year. The challenge which the year of decision will carry to them will not be easy to overcome.

Without the stimulation of combat, these men and women at Air Force installations must maintain maximum efficiency in their duties. Their work, often tedious routine, determines directly how strong and well-aimed will be the striking power of the aerial forces sent overseas. With no prospect of popular, personal glory, they must serve with selfless determination for the earliest possible complete victory.

No, their jobs are not easy, these who work on while friends move out toward the battlefronts, who remain behind to keep the vast continental machinery of the Air Forces working smoothly. But they, too, will meet the challenge of the year of decision, 1944.

THE RATTLER

Published Each Wednesday at the Rattlesnake Bomber Base
NINETENTH COMBAT CREW TRAINING SCHOOL
Pyote, Texas

COLONEL LOUIE P. TURNER
Station Commandant

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The Rattler receives Camp Newspaper Service material.

The Wolf

by Sansone

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"What are you staring at, soldier! Haven't you ever seen 'Mae Wests' before?"

THOUGHTS OF OTHERS

Begged, Borrowed Or Stolen

All students of history know that every war has three periods the "onset" . . . the "drag" (when the war begins to weigh on the nations involved), and the "finish" . . .

During our first year of war, we were largely occupied with defensive operations and with trying to halt the successful advance of the enemy. This we ultimately succeeded in doing, largely thanks to the gallant defense of the Philippines and to our naval and air successes in the battles of the Coral Sea and Midway.

At the opening of the second year, by a daring and very lucky attack and landing upon the coasts of North Africa, the American and British forces succeeded in wresting the power of initiative away from the Axis powers of Europe. During the following months of that year there has been an almost unbroken series of successful encounters of the Anglo-American forces against their Axis opponents in northern Africa, in Sicily and in Italy, as well as in the islands of the South and Southwestern Pacific and the Aleutians. But all of this fighting, successful and encouraging as it has been, has been of what we may call a perimeter nature. We have been trimming off the outer defenses of our enemies . . .

—Similarly, our naval forces, although they have won brilliant victories over minor squadrons of

the Japanese Navy and although they have sunk an extremely large number of Japanese auxiliary vessels, have not yet come to grips with the main Japanese fleet.

It is only in the air over the continent of Europe that we can say that our forces have met the main forces of the enemy and bested them. And even there the immense industrial power of Germany and her recuperative strength make it impossible to say that she may not again face us with very powerful air forces.

In the light of this brief summary, I do not think that we Americans can say that our military forces have more than entered upon the second period of the war—the period of "drag"—when the weight of combat and of losses bears heavily upon the troops engaged. Not until the continent of Europe is invaded and we have met face to face the remaining masses of the German troops; not until our Navy has grappled with the powerful home fleet of Japan can we say that we are passing through the period of the "drag" of this war and approaching the finish.

—Secretary of War Stimson

This is a funny world.
It's wonders never cease;
All "civilized" people are at war,
All savages at peace.

THE CHAPLAIN SAYS -



As we come to the close of another year, there comes the realization that it is impossible for us to retrace any of our steps. The past is lived and we can't go back over it because the wheels of Time's chariot move only forward. As the past year is reviewed, we have the feeling that there are many things which we wish had been done in a different manner. We can see where we failed in many undertakings. Opportunities have come our way and we have missed them. Resolutions which were made in good faith have been broken. The regrets we have of the past need not in any way retard us. We should gain wisdom from all we have experienced and use it for the making of a better future.

With the nearness of the New Year let us concern ourselves no more with the past, but go forward attending to the opportunities and responsibilities which will come in 1944. In the first days of a new year we should have a feeling of exhilaration, a fresh sense of liberty. The old may have made a slave of us but now the fetters have fallen away and we have a new chance.

We can make the New Year different from the last one. It is possible to rise to higher levels of thought. "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he." One may rise to new levels of conduct and character. New heights of living are always beckoning to those who would make the quest. The way of upward living is always open. It is to your advantage to make the New Year one of high experiences.

As we enter upon a path which we can never retrace let us be careful how we travel it. With only once to live this New Year, live it with a purpose.

"O Lord, I pray thou wilt be near,
To consecrate this newly opening year;
O may thy love, omnipotent and free,
Bind every fibre of my heart to thee,
And every power and every wish complete
Be laid in full surrender at thy feet."

—Chaplain James T. Duvall

ANKARA, TURKEY—An Istanbul newspaper reported a rumor that the Axis secret weapon is a tunnel under the English Channel into Britain.

PROTESTANT SERVICES

Sunday—0900, Aviation Unit Service; 0900, Chapel Service; 1030, Chapel Service; 1930, Chapel Service.
Wednesday—1930, Service Men's Christian League.
Thursday—1900, Chapel Chorus Rehearsal.

CATHOLIC SERVICES

Sunday Masses—0600; 0800; and 1615.
Confessions—Saturday, 1500 to 1730; 1900 to 2100; Sunday, before the Masses.
Weekday Masses—1830, daily except Thursday.
Communion—1700 daily.
Hospital Mass—Thursday at 1430, in Red Cross auditorium.
Evening Devotions — Tuesday, 1930, Novena to Our Mother of Perpetual Help; Friday, 2100, Novena to the Sacred Heart.
Study Club—Monday, 1930.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

Thursday—2000, Base Chapel Services, Mrs. Mabel New Homes.

JEWISH SERVICES

Friday—1900, Base Chapel.

Monahans USO

EDWARD A. PALANGE Director

Wed.—Servicemen's Wives Club Luncheon, 12:30 p.m. Discussion group in Quiet Room, 8 p.m. Movie in Rec. Room, "When Daltons Rode", 8:45 p.m.

Thurs.—Game night in Rec. Room. Buttons and stripes sewed on in Quiet Room. Classical program, 8 p.m.

Fri.—Watch party. Sing the old year out and the new year in.

Sat.—Coffee and donuts, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Classical program in Quiet Room, 3 to 4 p.m. Formal dance, Pyote AB orchestra, 8:30 p.m.

Sun.—Coffee and donuts, 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Open house for servicemen from Georgia. Georgia admitted to Union in 1788.

Mon.—Bingo in Rec. Room, 8:30 p.m.

Tues.—Dancing to juke box and recorded bands, 8:30 p.m.

Classes in ballroom dancing to enable soldiers to catch up on the latest steps will be held each Monday at 5 p.m. For men on the night shifts, other classes will be given from 2 to 4 p.m. Thursdays.

He had sworn to be a bachelor. She had sworn to be a bride. Well, I guess you know the answer—she had nature on her side.

G. I. Q.

By Camp Newspaper Service

1. The conference at which President Franklin D. Roosevelt, Premier Josef Stalin and Prime Minister Winston Churchill met was held in—

A—Teheran B—Cairo

2. A recent Congressional report disclosed that wartime purchases of land have given the Government control of a portion of the country roughly equal to—

A—12% B—20%

3. Maj. Ruth Cheney Streeter, Director of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve and the mother of four children, has been promoted to a new rank which is—

A—Colonel B—Lt. Colonel

Answers: 1-A; 2-B; 3-B. (CNS)

UNINJURED FLIER IS REPORTED DEAD THRICE

ENGLAND (CNS)—Because Capt. Herbert M. Light has been reported dead three times, he is having a hard time trying to convince his parents in Long Beach, Cal. that he's still alive. Light, who holds the Distinguished Flying Cross, was first reported killed in action in the Army Air Forces raids on Ploesti, Rumania. He wrote home, saying he was uninjured, but the Government telegraphed again, reporting him officially dead. Light wrote a second time, reassuring his parents, and the the government came through again—with a telegram informing his folks that Light's body would be shipped home after the war.



Q. Let's have it again. On which side of the decorations is the Good Conduct Medal worn?

A. The Good Conduct Medal is worn to the LEFT of all decorations and to the RIGHT of all service medals. This information is provided in change No. 24, 5 July 1943, AR 600-40, 28 August 1943.

Q. What are the age requirements for enlisted women in U. S. armed forces?

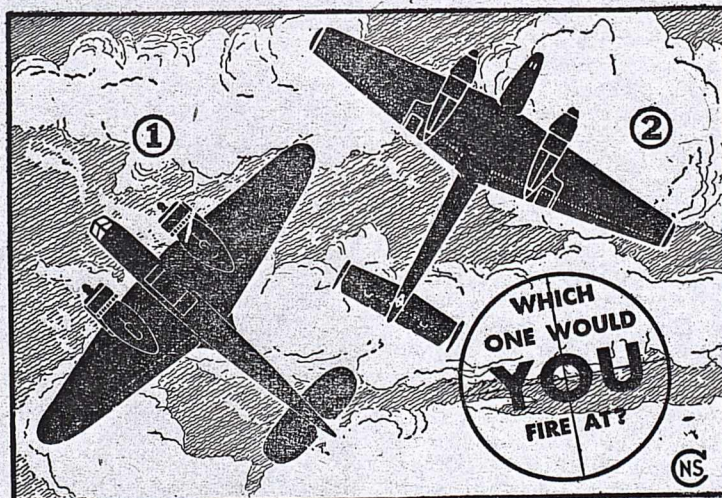
A. The minimum age for women in all services is 20. The WAC accepts women through 49. The SPARS, WAVES and Women Marines accept women through 35.

EXPECTANT FATHER ACTS PART

ST. LOUIS (CNS)—Cpl. Phil Pine, who plays an expectant father in the show "The Army Play By Play", acted with unaccustomed realism the other night. Between the acts he was informed that he had just become a real life father.

35-YEAR OLD COLONEL NAMED BRIGADIER GENERAL

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC (CNS)—Col. Frederick H. Smith Jr., who directed the building of advanced air bases in New Guinea, has been promoted to Brigadier General at the age of 35. He is the son-in-law of Adm. Ernest J. King, commander in chief of the U. S. Fleet.



NOT AT NO. 1! It's the British Blenheim, a mid-wing medium bomber, powered by twin radial engines. The nose of the fuselage extends forward of the engine nacelles. The wings taper almost equally to rounded tips. The tips of the tailplane are also rounded and it has a single fin and rudder.

FIRE AT NO. 2! It's the German Messerschmitt Me. 110, a long-range, twin-engine escort fighter. Its fuselage is long and thin. Both edges of the wings taper equally to square tips. The leading edge of the tailplane tapers slightly to square tips; the trailing edge is straight. It has twin fins and rudders.

Courtesy Dodd, Mead & Co., Aircraft Spotter by Lester Ott.

CLASSIFICATION: ARMY MART

Even The Chaplain Goes To This Office With Troubles To Dump

Just What Lt. Bogart's Gang Does Is Object of Rattler Investigation

"And where does the Chaplain go when he has troubles?"

Did you, breathless readers of this historic opus, ever figure that one out?

Well, that's the sort of thing which brings a gleam to "The Rattler's" one good eye, so we investigated.

A quick bit of snooping and trailing brought us the answer. Wailing wall for all troubled GIs, the Chaplain, when he is beset with woe and worry, takes himself and package of grief to the Classification Officer. What the latter does with the package is still under investigation.

Just what is this Classification Officer should be the next question. At least it was in our mind, so we asked one what was what.

However, before wandering on (you see this thing is like Dick Tracy, it goes on and on) perhaps a little background would be in order.

Back in those pre-war days of blue suits and nickel beers, we had occasion to bend a few well-oiled elbows with a mean looking gent who went around calling himself a personnel consultant. Frankly we never could figure out what he did for a living but then that was beside the point since he kept setting up the beers. We did pump him one or two occasions but he would stare blankly into space and just order another beer without the head. That was enough of a cue for us. We duplicated his order, and he paid all the bills.

However, personnel consultants always puzzled us. Who knows, that might have been another way for a spy to identify himself to his ally. We were always reading those dime thrillers and every hairy-faced gent we passed on the street was the father of a budding Mati Hari.

Well, the other day when we finally wormed our way into the little nook in Base Headquarters where the Classification Officer hangs his hat and coat, we asked him—was he ever a personnel consultant?

"That, my friend," he gurgled, "is a very appropriate question".

"And why, pray tell?" said us, as we swiped another piece of Christmas candy.

"Because all of us who were personnel consultants before being greeted by Uncle Sam are now working in Classification offices in this modern Army of ours."

concise words just what a Classification Officer did. Lt. Leon G. Bogart, Classification Officer, picked up something resembling the New York telephone directory and cooed: "read".

A quick glance at the volume caused us to repeat our request.

Frowning like an embryonic Herbert Marshall, Lt. Bogart thumped his desk and said: "Our job is to put the right man in the right job at the right time."

And no matter how you look at it there's an awful lot of "rights" in that statement.

All of which brought to mind stories of the last war our dear pater used to tell in his few sober moments.

"If you were a rag picker in civilian life, you joined the Quartermaster," he use to say, "and

if you were a subway guard, you belonged in the Military Police."

However, according to wheat-topped Lt. Bogart, that's all over. Today's Army is one made up of specialists and the Army wants a man put where he can do his best work. Naturally his best work, and the one which will do most for the war effort, is the work most familiar to the new soldier.

A classification card which records everything from the date of your birth to your second favorite hobby is the bible of the Classification section. A few holes punched around the rim of this card, known to the trade as Form Twenty, can tell you more about yourself than even your mother knows.

Putting the right man in the

"Eureka," we shrieked much after the manner in which a frail young dame might call attention to the presence of a mouse.

Asked to tell in a few brief



Right-hand man to the Classification Officer is S-Sgt. Gilbert Cohen. Here he checks up on a customer's Form Twenty, one sheet bible of the section. Pyote and the Army relieved him of one worry anyway; now he doesn't have to worry about his income tax.

Those two rosy smiles belong to Lt. Leon G. Bogart, Classification Officer, and his secretary, Mrs. Sewell D. Kidder. All those papers straightened up especially for this picture hold the fate of many hundreds of soldiers, whose talents will determine their jobs.



FOR SOLDIER 'JOB-HUNTERS'

right job at the right time calls for plenty of work and interviewing and take it from this department, more interviews are held in the classification office than any editor could ever dream up.

If you want to attend some Technical Training School, it calls for an interview. If you want to go to Officer Candidate School or apply for Aviation Cadet training, first step is an interview. If you desire a reclassification, questions must be answered.

As Lt. Bogart, who, in civilian life, labored for General Foods and not STANDARD BRANDS, said: "this might be called the

second Good Will Hour. We try to make all unhappy boys, happy. A satisfied soldier is a good one and that is what we're after."

An office is only as good as the people working in it and in this respect the Classification Office doesn't have to take a backseat to any other department.

The enlisted men are all graduates of the Adjutant General Department's Classification Specialist School and have wide experience in dealing with the public.

Top ranking member of the GI side of the ledger is Staff Sergeant Gilbert Cohen. Curly-head-

ed, broad-faced Sgt. Cohen is quite a story in himself. In civilian life, the good Sgt. was accustomed to making a salary of around five hundred dollars per week. He was the owner and manager of a shoe factory in Manchester, New Hampshire, and what he doesn't know about heels isn't to be found in Webster's best.

Ex-school teacher and excellent baritone PFC William Lewis is another member of the Classification Office who can make Form Twenties stand up and talk. A graduate of Southwestern Texas Teachers College, PFC Lewis is a handy man at interviews and can fire

more questions at the interviewee than there are coyotes in Texas.

Third male member of Classification's staff is Corporal Harold K. Moburg, a graduate of the University of Iowa, whose only sad moments come when he contemplates his rapidly falling locks. He and Lt. Bogart are engaged in a day by day count of hair. Each one swears the other is getting bald faster.

During his college days, Cpl. Moburg was a captain in the Infantry ROTC at the U. of Iowa.

On the distaff side of the ledger we have three young ladies who make GI hearts thump just a little louder.

Our supply of adjectives describing pulchritudinous women is rather limited so we'll just say look for yourself.

Secretary to Lt. Bogart is MRS. Sewell D. Kidder, who prefers to be known as Helen V. Kidder for reasons best known by herself. This little lady sits by the hour, punching typewriter keyboard and eating candy and cake, taken from one of Cpl. Moburg's many Christmas packages. She is the wife of former Tech Sergeant Kidder of the 30th Bomb Squadron who is now at Harvard University, studying to be a statistical officer and at the same time acquire the broad "A" which distinguishes Harvard from other emporia of education.

Asked by her boss to say something smart for the representative of the press, Mrs. Kidder arched her eyebrows and pouted:

"Isn't everything I say smart?"

That ended the discussion.

Rounding out the staff in the Classification section are two members of Pyote's ingenious Air Wac Unit.

Corporal Dorothy J. Orser features excellent French and a fine singing voice. A graduate of the University of Washington, '42, Cpl. Orser helps all applicants for OCS, Air Cadet and ASTP over the hurdles of application blanks and personnel interviews.

PFC Jean Y. Morrison boasts of Emlenton Pennsylvania as her home town. Previous to entrance into the Air Wacs she was a telephone operator in Butler, Pennsylvania, and she is the filing specialist in Classification. Besides tickling the ivories on a piano, she is a tennis player, a swimmer and badminton star. So she said on her own Form Twenty.

There you have them, the Classification Section here. Their jobs aren't easy. There is plenty of detail work to do and long hard nights of overtime. They have an important job and they want to give it all they have.

Interviewers and clerks are PFC William C. Lewis, left and Cpl. Harold K. Moburg, here pouring over one of the Classification Office's mysterious documents. "The right man in the right job at the right time is the idea."



Two busy workers in the Classification Office are these attractive members of the Air Wac Unit, PFC Jean Y. Morrison, left, and Cpl. Dorothy J. Orser. The latter helps hopefuls with applications for OCS, Air Cadet and ASTP.



QM Sees

By SGT. JACK CANNON

With Christmas a thing of the past we face the new year with a feeling of apprehension. We wonder just what it will bring. Questions that pop into our mind are: How long will it be before we will go back to our various walks of life? What conditions will the war bring about? How long will it be before we will again be wakened by the soft voice of our mother or wife instead of that shrill whistle that announces to us that it is once more time to hit the deck and resume our daily tasks? These are only a few of the questions to which we hope the New Year will ring the answer.

The QM has another claim to fame, the only GI in the army that likes KP. He is Phil Urish and when he is not performing his kitchen duties he is working in the Commissary. Phil offers to take KP for anyone providing they get him out of his regular duties. This offer extends only to the QM Detachment so there is no use of you other GIs mobbing our stamping grounds.

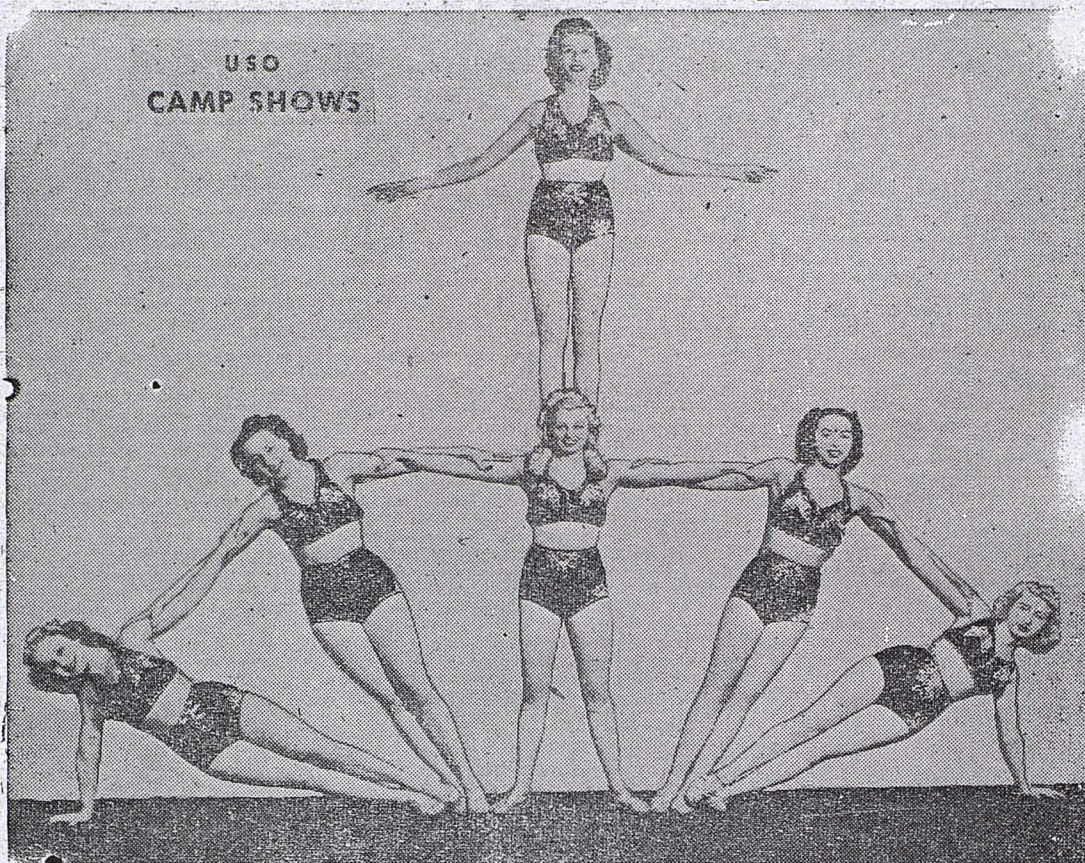
We notice that "Tex" Dailey's bed hasn't been slept in very often lately. It seems that he likes the bus station in Kermit and prefers the chairs there to his own comfortable bed, wood, double decked, each one. We also hear that he has had a couple of companions on these little jaunts to the neighboring towns. Amos and Blalock, the "noise boys", also have interests of the heart in Kermit. Watch out boys, the Texas girls will get you!

Cpl. Sam Eisinger, the "Delancy Street Moichant", is a proud father of a baby boy. We have not seen any cigars yet but we are waiting hopefully. Sam also promises a case of champagne but we think that is a case of wishful thinking.

We got a kick out of sitting in the office the other night while Sgt. Gehlhaart was on C.Q. He was waiting for a call from the O. A. O. (one and only) in Milwaukee. Each time the phone rang he would jump but each time it was only Sgt. Faulkman wanting to know if anyone was going to bring in another salvage form or could he lock up and go back and hit the sack as it was nine o'clock in the evening.

Among the New Year resolutions we hear that Pete Magdleno has made a resolution not to drink any Four Roses during the coming year. We suspect that the fact that it is impossible to secure any of that brand of beverage had a lot to do with his good intention. He didn't mention any other

Pyramid Of Pretties To Perform At Pyote



These athletic lassies are the Six Brucettes, who do their acrobatics in unison—butterflies,

nip-ups, aerial cartwheels, and the like. Also dancing a chorus line, they are one of the three

entertaining acts of "Tell Me More", USO-Show production coming to the Rattlesnake Bomber Base Thursday, January 6.

kind of liquor which further leads us to believe that the resolution does not add up to much of a sacrifice.

In a poll taken at an office of a concern in the East, where the pictures of the QM Detachment were placed on exhibition, Lt. T. P. Kravitz was voted as the favorite "pin-up boy". Congratulations, Sir!

In closing may we wish all the outfits on the Base the best of everything and we hope that next year all you GIs will be able to spend New Year's Eve in your favorite spot whether it be Times Square, The Loop, or Hollywood and Vine. The best way to accomplish that end is to resolve right now that we will do all we can to make this become a reality and do the job that is assigned to us in a manner that will hasten this conflict to the end that we all look forward to, VICTORY!

BAD BACK FAILS TO KEEP FLIER OUT OF COMBAT

LONDON (CNS)—Flight Lt. Desmond Ruchwaldy of the Royal Air Force, who broke his back in an airplane crash two years ago, shot down two Nazi fighters in a recent raid on the Belgian base of Chievres. Ruchwaldy holds the Distinguished Flying Medal.

Magician, Imitator And Chorus Line In USO-Camp Show Coming Here

A magician, a personality act with imitations, and a round half dozen gal acrobats who double for a chorus line make up the USO-Camp Show, "Tell Me More", which will play here Thursday night, January 6. The deal is free, so watch later announcements for exact time and place.

The Great Huber mixes comedy with mystery in presenting his mastery of the black art, and some of you dayroom experts may get an inspiration from his fetes of dexterity with cards. For Camp Shows, the Great Huber is featuring his "million dollar trunk illusion" and also does the clever "spirit cabinet".

Huber's equipment is reported to be some of the best in use by wizards working today, and he enjoys doing his tricks with men called to the stage or down in the audience. Encouraged to go on the stage by Thurston, the Frenchman has two young women to assist him.

Miss Viola Layne, a witty imitator who writes much of her own material, will give you impressions of your favorite singing stars and of such characters as Gracie Fields and Baby Snooks.

In the last part of her act, Miss Lyne presents her own specialty

song skit depicting the woman's angle of "This Is The Army", which should be enlightening.

The Six Brucettes complete the program with their acrobatic stunts done in unison and their dancing in chorus line.

HE HAD THEM ALL, BUT COPS SKEPTICAL

LOS ANGELES (CNS)—When police arrested Louis Botellos, 52, on a charge of illegally wearing a uniform he was sporting these insignia on his Army blouse: Purple Heart, Pacific Combat Theater, Asiatic service with three stars; defense bar with two stars, Distinguished Service Cross, Croix de Guerre with palms, Belgian, Cuban and Nicaraguan campaign ribbons, amphibious forces, Guadalcanal and Alaska action, sergeant's stripes, 20 years' service stripes and—the Good Conduct Medal.

MEDICAL DETACHMENT

By T-SGT. LAWRENCE SHIPP

"Who threw Anthony's red stocking cap in Mrs. Murphey's chowder?" "What really did happen to it?" These were questions asked, hoping to throw some light on the shrouded secret. It all happened at Ferny Mae Brewer's farewell party held at Tubbs' Hall last Thursday evening. Remember? Inclement weather did not phase the Medics and at the height of the evening a goodly crowd was there. Miss Brewer has been working at the hospital for some time and judging from the splendid send-off there is no doubt that she is leaving a great host of friends in Pyote. The dance party was a tremendous success and the long decorated table at the south end of the hall greatly added to the festive spirit. Good luck "Sister" Brewer, and may you go back to Dallas and have many fond memories of that "Hospital on the Desert".

The coveted plaque which reads: "Medical Detachment Barracks of the Week" is proudly hanging at the entrance of Barracks 5 for the third consecutive week. At the daily inspections cleanliness and uniformity are the chief basis for judging. Sgt. Kluczyki is to be especially commended for his unconquerable determination to make this barracks the most "Yule-Tide" looking barracks on the entire base. We do believe that the entire barracks fully realize that they have accomplished just that. For 23 of the barracks 25 occupants this was the first Christmas spent away from home so the holiday atmosphere produced by copious decorations will perhaps make some soldier think of that "good old farm in Idaho" or "the much longed-for apartment in Philadelphia".

A new duty has been added in Barracks 2; you could never guess—it's "Lonergan Alert". The task is simply this; boost "Brute" Lonergan in his upper bunk when he's ready to go to bed. The important thing of course, is to be there when this "Notorious Irishman" wants to go to bed or there might be repercussions! Brute's shaving problems are now over; for Christmas he received that "predicted gift". It is a white and red stool with shamrocks and his name "Brute" painted on the side. Ah! now he can see the mirror. Incidentally, if there are any of you who are wondering who this "Brute" is; go into the dental



MALE CALL

BY

MILTON CANIFF



clinic. You will find he is the busiest little man in the place and has the enviable reputation of keeping the clinic immaculately clean.

Communique No. 2 has come through from PFC Mercer in San Antonio, and he is certainly keeping us well posted as to his progress at Aviation School of Medicine. Fellows, do you really think that Bob will take his 3-day pass to Pyote? Knowing Mercer; let's be on the alert for the unusual and unexpected. Right?

It has been learned that there has been a very unusual exchange of "gifts", but not at all in the Christmas spirit. A was being bothered with hordes of mice and secretly B sent A a mouse trap in the mail. A, suspecting who sent it, immediately bought a rat trap and sent it to B; then when startled B received this "gift" he was highly insulted and a toy-monkey went to A directly. Just how far this "feud" is going to go on no one knows—only time will tell. Want in on the secret? Ok. One's a Medic and the other's a WAC.

"Dolley" Dwyer is breathing easier now. A very forgiving lov-

able wife has been tolerant and again all reigns supreme on that "Irish Front". Welcome to Pyote, Doris; soon Syracuse will be only a memory.

If you should see Capt. Gatley going around and saying "Biscuits—yes, biscuits" don't be alarmed for he really couldn't help it. It's a long story and all we know is that it started in Monahans one night last week.

And with the approaching New Year comes our new 1st. Sgt. James Schurr. This likable personality has ably proven his ability and he can rest assured he has the full backing of the entire detachment. Congratulations, Sergeant.

VANDEGRIFT SUCCEEDS HOLCOMB AS TOP MARINE

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Lt. Gen. Alexander A. Vandegrift, U. S. Marine commander at Guadalcanal and Bougainville, has been named Commandant of the U. S. Marine Corps, succeeding Lt. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, who has retired. Recently the Japanese radio reported that Gen. Vandegrift was "killed in action".

SOCIETY GIRL HAS TWO HUBBYS IN SERVICE

NEW YORK (CNS)—Ann Marie Sapotas is out in Hollywood looking for a job in the movies but when she comes home she's going to find that mamma is very, very angry. She's also going to find a cop sitting on her doorstep, all ready to arrest her for bigamy.

Ann Marie, a cafe society gal, is married to two servicemen, the coppers have learned. One of them is Marine Lt. Allan Thomas Sturges, whom Ann Marie wedded in Woodford, Ct. in July 1941 and the other is F-Sgt. Jerome Mark, whom Ann Marie married in Charleston, S. C. the following November. Ann's first husband was Pvt. Gordon W. Gillam, now stationed in North Africa, whom Ann married in 1938 when she was 18. That one was annulled by Ma Saportas.

FRANK SINATRA REJECTED

NEWARK, N. J. (CNS)—Swoon-crooner Frank Sinatra, the very young gals' delight, was rejected for service by an Army induction board here. "I have a hole in my left ear drum," the famous crooner said dejectedly.

Mail Call

With this issue of The Rattler we introduce to you a department that is better known for the service that it renders. This is the Base Post Office, and incidently it should be a part of the Chaplain's department for it hears and listens to more complaints than Mr. Anthony of radio fame.

First we have 1st Lt. Jennings B. Duff, who is the Base Postal Officer and who has been stationed here since the pioneer days of '42, having arrived here in the days of dust storms and the well known sign warnings of rattlesnakes.

Next we have T-Sgt. Ralph H. Gilbreath, who also arrived at this base during pioneer days. He arrived here only two days after the postal officer and was met at the train by Lt. Duff, who suggested that he keep going. He took one look at what is now the Rattlesnake Bomber Base and he has been going ever since. He has been chief clerk of the office since its early days.

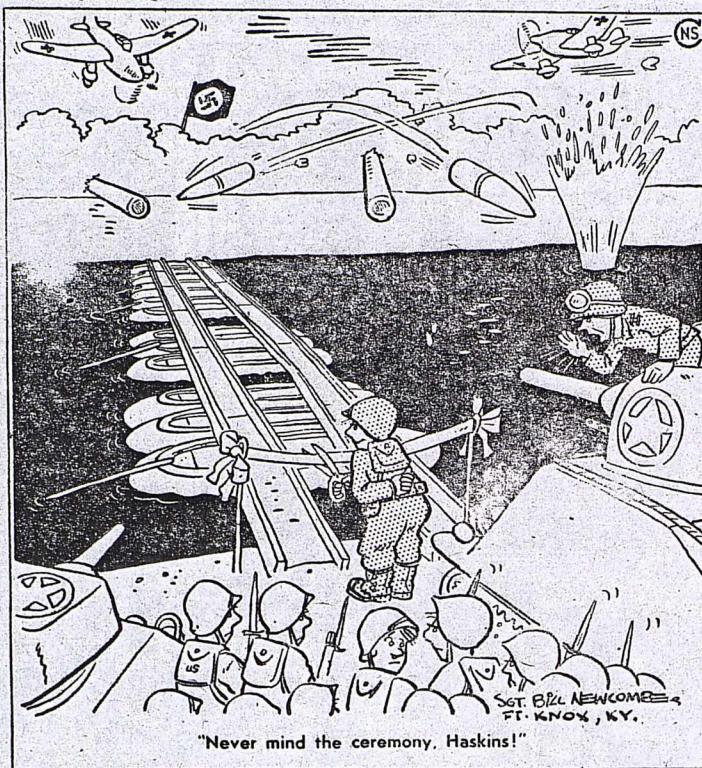
Then we have two WACs, Cpl. Lila Piercey, who can be heard any time of the day with her laugh. Chicago, her home town, was known earlier as the windy city but that was all changed when she left town. PFC Eleanor Plouffe, who has recently joined this office, hails from Rhode Island and was recently seen in headquarters.

The we have Cpl. Raymond Miles, Pvt. Victor Rossi, Sgt. Harry Becker, Pvt. Louis Slatinsky, Cpl. Howard Martin, Pvt. John Gilhooley, Pvt. Thaddeus Wasslewski, Pvt. Joseph O'Rourke, and Cpl. Hardy O'Neal.

Contrary to the general belief this is one of the most exacting jobs in the army. If Cpl. Riden doesn't get a letter from her boy friend at the time that she thinks he should have written she comes to us to see why he has not done so, or if Sgt. Mitek is looking for a letter on the promotion of one of his officers and it has not come through then he comes to us to see why Washington hasn't sent that letter. The hours are long and the dream about that day off is a myth. A day off is for those who work in the inner office, and there is no inner office here.

Then there is the phone. If the mail is late in arriving on the base we receive calls from everyone on the base "When will the mail be in?" And some musical minded are not satisfied with one call and have been known to call seven times within three hours about the mail. And so goes this life of the Army Mail Clerk.

We thought that we had heard



Gypsy 93rd

By SGT. SIG HEINITSH

One year ago the twentieth of December, the Gypsy 93rd arrived back in these good old United States and in true Gypsy fashion spent Xmas traveling (home). This year a goodly number of the old 93rd are again at the battlefronts. May we that remain in Pyote send them the heartiest and most sincere wishes that they may return safe and well in the not too far future.

This has been a beautiful and thankful Christmas season. We had a nice thick fog early Christmas morning to make the boys who recently joined us feel right at home here in Pyote. The 93rd had an abundance of parties and open houses for their members. A fine open house party was had by PFC M. D. Dalby and his lovely wife, who is a very gracious hostess. Our former top kick, T-Sgt. Morris E. Taylor, dropped in along with our former Sergeant-Major B. Potter, accompanied by T-Sgt. Jim Maron and M-Sgt. Russell Olson and many more. The biggest in attendance was the turkey with

them all until a few days ago when one man that until recently worked here came around and asked for the afternoon off to go home and put his dogs up. If there is one better we would like to hear it. He says that his dogs almost run him down. They must have started long ago to do that. What we would like to know is who run who in that game. We think he lost the race.

trimmings set for us by our fine staff at Nos. 3 and 4 Mess Halls, who gave their Christmas Day so that the majority could have a very pleasant holidays.

Former T-Sgt. E. W. Arne received his present a little early; he was sporting a nice new uniform and those two-tone bars of a flight officer; congratulations.

I think a vote of thanks is in order for Major Herlund, Major Ferguson, Capt. Barrowclough, W-O Dempsey and M-Sgt. James for making it possible for us to have ample time in which to enjoy our holiday—many thanks.

Many fine greeting cards were received from members now stationed all over the world.

May I wish for the whole organization, to T-Sgt. Robert E. Brown, congratulations upon his wedding Sunday at Grand Falls. Good luck, Bob. Also greeting and a hasty recovery to Cpl. Robertson and all the boys in the hospital over the holidays. See you around soon.

May I send to all the readers of The Rattler wherever they may be a very Happy New Year from all the members of the Gypsy 93rd, and may we hope and trust that next New Year will be a happier one for all of us. Also to Cpl. Irving J. Packer, who wrote this column up to now, the best of luck in his new assignment elsewhere. Thanks for a swell column.

DINAH SHORE WEDS CORPORAL

HOLLYWOOD (CNS)—Cpl. George Montgomery, former movie star now with the Signal Corps, and Dinah Shore, radio songstress, were married in Las Vegas, Nev. recently. They had known each other about a year.

Aviation Unit

Hi Sis,

Well, Well, Santa has been here and gone and I didn't get a d—n thing. Of course, I had a fine dinner with turkey and all the trimmings. Our First Sergeant Garrett C. Maney Jr. and Mess Sgt. Johnny D. Smith are on furlough. I know they are having a good time because I am (smile) due to their absence. We have three soldiers from our Unit going to OCS soon. They are as follows: First Sergeant Garrett C. Maney Jr., S-Sgt. Frank S. Brown, and Cpl. Theodore W. Suggs. We haven't recaptured our Badger yet; he's still around, but we can't get a hold of him.

We had a party in the Day Room, Christmas Eve, and the boys had a very nice time. Our basketball team is coming along fine. We played the Guard Squadron, which is supposed to be the best team on the base; they won 31 to 26, which isn't a bad score for the length of time that we have been playing. At that rate we'll be the champs in a couple of weeks. (I hope).

Say Sis, we are going to have a dance the 6th of January. We are going to have girls from Odessa, Midland, Wink, Kermit and Monahans. Well, Sis, that's all the news for this week so I close.

E. Z. Breeze.

SOLDIERETTES LACK SKIRTS

ALGIERS (CNS)—A lot of eyes will pop when feminine auxiliaries of the French Army go on parade dressed in their new American-made uniforms. The skirts have not arrived.

'CHUTIST FACES DEATH; THINKS OF MOTHER, GAL

ENGLAND (CNS) — William Robson, an Ontario paratrooper who plunged 700 feet to earth under a half-collapsed chute and lived to tell the tale, said that during his fall he thought of his mother and his girl.

While falling, Robson, now hospitalized here said: "I tugged and yanked but the 'chute wouldn't open all the way. I thought I was going to die and right after that I thought 'What will my mother and my girl think when I'm killed.'"



PAGING 'LT. ROGER WILCO'
RAPID CITY, S. D. (CNS)—A waitress in an officers club here paged "Lt. Roger Wilco" for nearly an hour before a kind hearted individual explained that "Lt. Wilco" was "on furlough."

MEET YOUR BUDDIES:

Many A GI Palate Is Glad The Army Decided She Would Cook, Not Nurse

T-4 Roberta M. Eiselstein wanted to be a nurse; in fact, she joined the WAC to realize that ambition. But the Army took one look at her culinary record and changed her mind.

Sgt. Eiselstein is happy in her familiar work, and certainly many a GI palate has been pleased since for the Army's decision. A fluffy smooth lemon cream pie convinced this writer that Sgt. Eiselstein was wrong when she exclaimed, "You won't find anything to write about me."

Born at Irving, Texas, a few miles outside of Dallas, Roberta early went to what the Texans call Big 'D'. There she did professional domestic cooking for 16 years. It took all the patriotism her employers could muster to be proud of her move to join the service of her country.

That was last February 4, when she was inducted at Dallas and went to Daytona Beach, Florida, for four weeks of basic and six weeks at cooks and bakers school. The Army may have appeared presumptuous in attempting to teach Roberta in six weeks anything she hadn't learned in 16 years, but she says it succeeded.

However right or wrong it may seem to the individual, there is an Army way for doing everything. Roberta is mainly proud of the new experience she is gaining in doing fancy baking in quantity, almost all by hand including the mixing for which machinery usually is used.

That experience figures in Sgt. Eiselstein's post-war plans, for she wants a bakery of her own when her military service is over. If she can turn that trick, the recruiting posters will be right in the claim that WAC training and service will prove a benefit through the peaceful years to come.

Roberta is the WAC Unit's only baker, and she fills in elsewhere when needed—even as mess sergeant when S-Sgt. Annabelle Ogden isn't around.

She needs no introduction to any of the lucky soldiers who have attended various WAC parties. For Sgt. Eiselstein works extra time to turn out the cookies, cakes and pies for refreshments at those events. Wedding cakes also are a specialty with her.

True, there is nothing sensational to write about Sgt. Eiselstein. No glaring headlines have ever proclaimed her in daring, spectacular or unique deeds. But her cheerful, useful service has in it the quality that wins wars and builds peaceful security; her story has millions of counterparts in America's democratic army.

WAC Flak

Christmas is past and weren't we fortunate to be able to celebrate it here in Pyote? Some of us may have realized that the Christmas spirit does not exist all over the world as it does here; but it is up to the Americans to keep alive the "Faith, Hope and Charity", immortalized in Charles Dickens "Christmas Carol".

We all wish to thank Mr. Zimmerman for bringing his musicians to our Mess Hall to play carols for us. Singing with them and remembering past Christmases, there were some of us a bit misty-eyed but "Jingle Bells" brought back the sparkle and we were merry again.

CHRISTMAS COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR AND WITH IT:

The Christmas formal at the Service Club and the WACs in glamour garb again. Whoops-a-daisy! We certainly had a time. Sgt. Opal Grandorff, better known as "Granny", was there in a white dress with little sprigs of holly embroidered on it and looking cute as a button. The boys from Base Flight thought she was the only one there. Do you blame them? Cpl. Dorothy Orser also wore white with red and really looked like she just stepped out of a Vogue magazine. She led the group in singing Christmas carols during intermission. The girls all looked lovely and can dance like a dream in a dainty formal.

After the dance our friends were invited to our day room to see Santa Claus but we were just a bit late as old Santy had already put in an appearance. The Bayberry candles were lit, gifts were under the tree and maybe he even left the coffee and cookies for us. After distributing the gifts and dancing just once more to the strains of "White Christmas" the guests left and the tired but happy WACs tumbled into their bunks.

WHY DON'T WE DO THIS MORE OETEN? It's so much fun to have the boys come over to eat with us in our Mess Hall. We really would like to invite you all but we know you understand why

Her Baking Is An Art



T-4 ROBERTA M. EISELSTEIN, WAC BAKER

we each may invite just one. Think of the poor little KPs. Cpl. Frank Hevilko did; but he probably often thinks of Lila Piercy even though she isn't at work in the WAC Mess Hall. Frank gave the gal a big hand Christmas Day and he surely made a hit in his big white apron as he played the role of the KP KID in the sweeping act following the dinner. Honest, he's the best KP pusher (pardon me) we mean, mop pusher. By the way, one reason Frank is getting a big "thanks" is because Bledsoe herself pulled KP on Christmas Day along with Angela Berkenbaugh.

A little incident occurred at one of the tables Christmas Day. A curly haired S-Sgt. from the S-1 Office in Base Headquarters, while making a brave attempt to smoke one of his Christmas cigars after dinner, was a bit chagrined to hear Mickey Pavel at the next table say, "Oh, look at the little boy smoking the big cigar." Better stick to your pipe, Bob.

Now we're all concentrating on our New Years Resolutions. You may be surprised at how much better we'll be in 1944 if we all stick to our guns. Happy New Year from all of us.—Bledsoe Said-so.

What's Your Gripe? Too Tight Pants Is Pet Peeve Of Many

And what is your pet gripe, soldier?

Check it against the findings of Maj. Gen. F. H. Osborn, director of morale for the Service Division, and test whether you are a more or less typical GI.

Too tight pants peeved two out of five men questioned. The War Department resolved to do something about that immediately, Army Times reports, permitting free alterations. But all the memoranda in Washington could not change the perverse humor of a supply sergeant overnight, it is feared.

The gripe-sheet return, on the other hand, showed that only one soldier in eight complains that his shoes do not fit.

A major beef of soldiers overseas was for more news from home, and many others want some means of continuing their education in their leisure time. The latter contradicts some correspondents' insistence that American soldiers have a constitutionality inability to think seriously.

All cracks aside, the report concluded that four-fifths of the men are satisfied with the chow, consider they get good food.

Pyote Coyotes Take Thrashing From Carlsbad

What happened to the Pyote Coyotes when they traveled to Carlsbad to play basketball last Wednesday should have happened to Hitler. To put it mildly, the boys were thrashed.

Final score after much work on a Burroughs adding machine saw Carlsbad with 73 points and Pyote with 47. It reads like a track meet but it was basketball as played in these wide open spaces.

Mothers have often spoken about nights like that but Lt. Glucksman's charges mustn't have paid too much heed to maternal words of advice.

The first quarter saw a fairly respectable score, 19-6 with Pyote holding the short end. The half time score wouldn't have brought blushes to the cheeks of a fair maiden. It was only 31-22 with Pyote still holding the short end.

But then came the storm as the movie script writers put it. Everything Carlsbad aimed at the general direction of the basket found its way into the hoop. They could toss them from mid-court or while standing on an ear in some lonely corner. It made no difference. The yawning mouth of the hoop was ready and waiting and the score rolled on.

Twenty points in the third quarter and twenty-three more in the final stanza was the way Carlsbad applied the crusher. "Show 'em no mercy" was the watchword and although Carlsbad poured substitutes into the game, the flow of baskets continued unabated.

Pyote also tossed reserves into the fray but to no avail. Even the coach dashed to the rescue but 'twas too late as the maiden said when she and the villain were cornered in the town's leading hotel by a distraught hero.

From a look at the score-book outstanding player of the night was a gent toting the name Welburn. He played guard and raised hob with Pyote, tossing twenty-seven points home to lead the scorers for the evening's race. Five baskets and three fouls in the first half and six baskets and two free throws in the second half accounted for his tallies.

Harcourt led the Coyotes with fourteen points followed by Kleppe and McPartland with eleven and ten respectively.

Personal fouls were sprinkled liberally throughout both line-ups with Pyote losing two men and Carlsbad one. Even Coach Glucksman went out on fouls and he only played a half. At least that's the way the score-book reads.

Rattler Salutes (With Both Arms)



MISS ALENE CASEY, Monahans
Pyote AAB Duchess At Victory Bowl Game

PYOTE				CARLSBAD			
	G	F	Pts		G	F	Pts
Boles, f	0	1	1	Mahon, f	0	1	1
Bundy, f	1	0	0	Anderson, f	2	3	7
Stage, c	1	0	2	Cotle, c	2	1	5
Harcourt, g	5	4	14	Hoffman, g	5	1	11
Kleppe, g	4	3	11	Welburn, g	11	5	27
Joyce	1	2	4	Scheetz	1	0	2
Edge	0	0	0	Simerson	2	0	4
White	0	0	0	Pollock	3	1	7
McPartland	4	2	10	Thomas	1	4	6
Glucksman	1	1	3	Horst	0	0	0
Smith	0	0	0	Le Dalley	1	0	2
Swain	0	0	0	Crawford	0	1	1
	17	13	47		28	17	73

The basketball roster at the Air Service Command Training Center in Fresno, Calif. is loaded with former college cagers. The starting quintet features Sgt. Walter Rollins of West Virginia, Sgt. Howard "Hops" Gudlin of Albright College, Pvt. Stan Herbert of NYU, Bill Carlsen of Dartmouth and Jack Belcher of Baylor.

Lost during a dive bombing attack on a Yangtse river port last October, Lt. Tommy Harmon, fighter pilot and All-American football star, has turned up safe in China, the American Air Force has announced. It was the second time that the former Michigan gridiron great had been reported missing. Last April a bomber he was piloting was disabled in a rainstorm over French Guiana and the crew bailed out. On that occasion Harmon was saved by friendly natives.

Seven Beauties Vie For Title At Odessa Tilt

ODESSA, Dec. 21.—(Special)—Seven beautiful girls will vie for the title of Victory Bowl Queen to reign over the Victory Bowl football game here New Year's Day. Chosen by service clubs and other local organizations, they are Mary Helen Key, Doris Shows, Nell Orren, Mary Margaret Grant, June Wansley, Joy Matthews and Marcella Dennison.

Together with duchesses representing El Paso, Big Springs, Midland, Pyote Army Air Base and other neighboring towns, they will ride in state at the head of a military parade of men and equipment preceding the game.

A committee of nine judges chosen from the fans will choose the winner from among these seven just before the game, and immediately preceding the kickoff the Victory Bowl Queen will be crowned on Fly Field, scene of the epic contest pitting service teams from El Paso and Abilene. The Queen and her court will witness the battle from a specially-built reviewing stand on the sidelines.

About 10,000 West Texans are expected to crowd Fly Field on New Year's Day.

First College Five Coming Here Tuesday

Marking the first appearance of a college team at the Pyote station, the New Mexico College of Mines basketball team will roll into camp next Monday, January 3, to match baskets with the Pyote Coyotes.

The College of Mines has consistently turned up with one of the stronger teams in this section of the country and features a wide-open hell bent for leather offense. "Never mind how many points they get, just get more" seems to be the theory they operate under.

Pyote has won two and lost three so far this season, but according to Lt. Glucksman, who doubles in brass as player and coach, the Coyotes will be howling next Tuesday night.

Admission is free and the game will be played at the Rec. Hall with the opening jump scheduled for 8:15 p.m.

Two-Ton Tony Galento, the cheerful little beerful from East Orange N. J., has passed his pre-induction screen test physical and now is awaiting the main event—induction into the Army.



RATTLER SPORTS



Soldier Sports

(CNS)—The Edward J. Neil Memorial Award, given each year by the New York Boxing Writers' Association to the man who has done most for boxing has been awarded to the 4,019 boxers serving the U. S. armed forces.

Previous winners of the award, which is made in the name of Eddie Neil, a war correspondent killed in the Spanish Revolution, were Jack Dempsey, Billy Conn, Henry Armstrong, Joe Louis and Barney Ross.

Among the 4,019 boxers now in the services are all the award winners save Armstrong and also such "name" fighters as Gene Tunney, Jim Braddock, Max and Buddy Baer, Lou Ambers, Freddy Aposton, Billy Soose, Benny Leonard, Midget Smith and Augie Ratner.

Eighteen boxers have been killed in action, seven are missing in action and 25 have been wounded.

One-A in the draft are the New York Football Giants' towering tackle, Al Blozis, former Georgetown University All-American and the Washington Redskins' Bob Seymour, half-back.

Lt. Fred Frankhouse, who used to throw a jug-handle curve for the Boston Braves and Brooklyn Dodgers, has been hospitalized at Ft. Hamilton, N. Y. with a broken knee cap. He was hit by a jeep.

Yankee Slugger Charlie Keller has been deferred by his Maryland draft board but his deferment isn't going to do the Yankee any good. The board classified Keller 3A and froze him to his winter war plant job.

Lt. (jg) Joe Hunt, national tennis singles champion, is ranked first in the United States Lawn Tennis Association rating of American tennis stars, released recently, succeeding Ens. Ted Schroeder, national champion last year. Runner-up to Hunt is another serviceman, Coastguardsman Jack Kramer, of East Los Angeles, Cal. while Cpl. Frank Parker of Los Angeles is ranked eighth.

A cannibal king, noticing a beautiful girl about to be put in the kettle, said: "Stop, I'll have my breakfast in bed."

Nation's Only All GI Bowl Game Set In Odessa New Year's Day

The nation's one and only G.I. Bowl Game will be played New Year's Day at Odessa when the Fort Bliss and Camp Barkley elevens tangle at Fly Field in what promises to be one of the outstanding games of the day.

All profits from this tilt will go to the Army Emergency Relief Society and tickets are now on sale at the Public Relations Office, Base Headquarters. Reserved seats ante at \$1.10 to enlisted men and women. Trucks will leave the Service Club at noon on New Year's Day.

Called the "Victory Bowl" game by the enterprising Odessa Chamber of Commerce, this game will see two fast, hard-hitting teams come together for the first time this year.

Pre-game favorite is the Camp Barkley eleven which according to Jada Davis of the Odessa-American is one of the top-flight service teams of the nation.

Key man in the Barkley Tanker backfield is swivel-hipped Leroy Fry. Little American in 1938 and an All-Southwestern Service Team selection, Fry is rated the kingpin of the Tankers attack. He will run behind the blocking given him by Gus Steiner, coach and player who fills in at any slot. Steiner, incidentally, played for New York

University in pre-war days. Ask him what Fordham did to them.

Bill Jabbre, two-year letterman at Minnesota, and Bill Rhudy, 220-pound center from Virginia, are two more power houses in the Barkley lineup.

The Fort Bliss eleven under the aegis of Dr. Nig McCarver is loaded with former college and semi-pro stars.

Alvin McClellan of Rice, Elf Pedler, former National AAU Collegiate two-mile champion and a graduate of Western Michigan State, are the main pigskin toters for the Ack-Acks.

Other standout performers on the El Paso eleven are Bill Price who played at Wisconsin and later played for pay in the National League; George Janes, 205-lb. end formerly with the East New Mexico State Teachers College; George Atrosky and Martin Moscovitz, former pro



Orange and White center is Bill Price, 185-pound top line backer in the Fort Bliss area.



Six-foot, 2-inch End Herman Phillips is considered a likely starter in the bowl classic. He lettered three years at Southwestern State Teachers College.

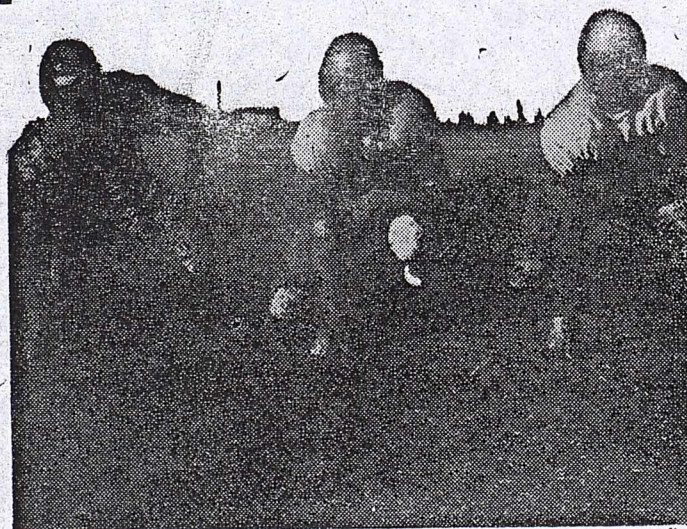
players, and R. J. Leatham, 195-pound end who did and died for Montana.

Operating with a fast-breaking offense behind a strong line the Tankers hold the nod with the betting fraternity. The Fort Bliss eleven will depend on an aerial game. The backfield is loaded with pitching talent but to date the receiving end hasn't proven any too bright. However things are expected to shape up in time for the game.

This will mark the first all G.I. Bowl Game ever attempted and will give football fans in this section of the prairie their last chance to witness a gridiron game until next fall when they'll roll the mothballs out of the uniforms.

Football won't be the entire dish on the Victory Bowl menu. A gigantic military parade featuring the Army Air Forces Bombardier School (Midland) band and equipment plus the incomparable Pyote Air Base Band will open the afternoon's program. A Victory Bowl Queen will be crowned shortly before kick-off time, and she will sit in state with duchesses from many West Texas towns including this Base's representative.

Sparks In The Oil Bowl



James Dawkins (167 pounds), Summer French (163 pounds) and Herman Ross (145 pounds), left to right, are three of the lightest men on the Fort Bliss

Ack-Ack squad. They will throw that weight around mightily, however, in the Oil Bowl Game at Odessa on New Year's Day. (Photos by U. S. Army Signal Corps).

Allies Set Offensive Fuses For 1944's Explosions

Germans Reel As Reds Fire Both Barrels

By SGT. TOMME CALL
Rattler Editor

Cairo-Teheran conference decisions began developing into actions last week.

The Red Army claimed the initiative in every sector of the Eastern Front, save southwest of Zhlobin in White Russia. The Russians' winter offensive started far to the north as Siberian veterans smashed toward Vitebsk, great German bastion in Upper White Russia guarding the menaced Baltic States.

Absorbing the shock of a six-week counter-offensive, Gen. Vatutin's First Ukrainian Army renewed its drive west of Kiev toward the Polish border, now 60 miles away.

From London came reports that Anglo-American forces in the British Isles were undergoing final invasion training, while enemy defenses across the Channel were being rapidly regrouped. Except for a Christmas lull, the Allied pre-invasion aerial offensive swept to record intensity.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was named commander of Allied invasion forces, with Lt. Gen. Carl D. Spaatz to head American strategic bombing groups. Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery will command British armies under Gen. Eisenhower. Further announcements soon should round out the top invasion command.

British Gen. Sir Henry Maitland Wilson will take over Gen. Eisenhower's Mediterranean command, with Gen. Sir Harold Alexander over Allied armies on the slow-moving Italian front. There Lt. Gen. Mark Clark's Fifth Army last week neared the 70-mile plain to Rome and the Eighth's Canadians fought to capture bloody Ortona.

From other fronts: British announced sinking of Germany's 26,000-ton battleship, Scharnhorst. Yugoslav guerrillas claimed initiative. Land fighting on Bougainville and New Britain continued successfully, with sharp air and sea clashes attending. Patrol fighting and air activity occurred in Burma. Air fighting in Central Pacific, active naval patrols hurt Japs. China won back all "Rice Bowl" territory lost last fall.

Moscow's Guns Are Saluting New Victories

THE UNSLEEPING RUSSIAN BEAR has taken his opening steps in a winter offensive which Moscow promises will be as fierce as any Germany has yet experienced. This map shows where the bear has already begun to bite the Nazis. If he is as successful this year as he was in 1941 and 1942, he will be well established within the pre-war Polish border by spring, ready to drive into Hitler's home territory from the east as the Americans and British move from the west in their expected second front invasion.

