

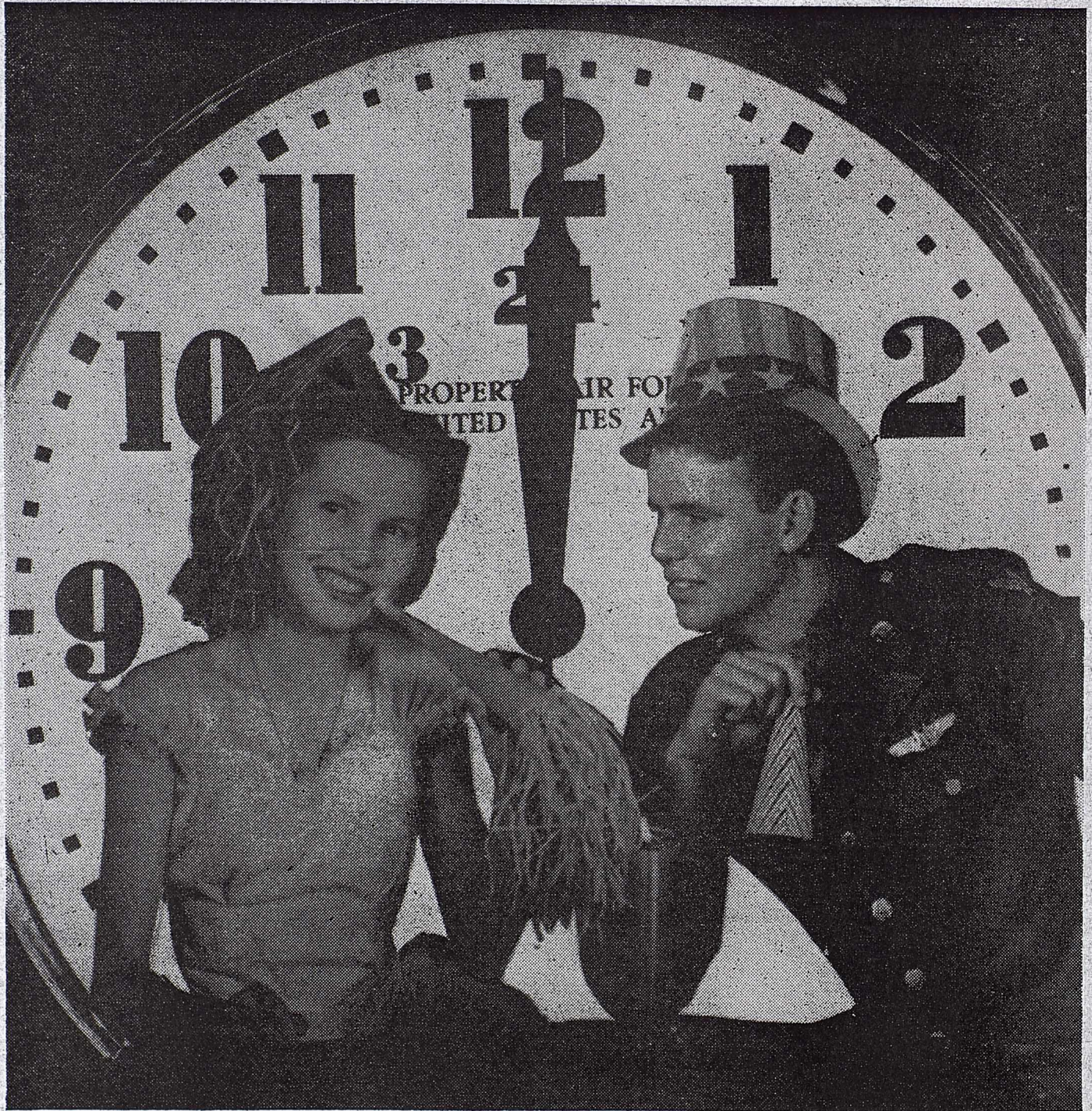
# THE RATTLER

Rattlesnake Army Air Field

VOLUME NUMBER 39 PYOTE, TEXAS DEC. 28, 1944

## EM CLUB PLANS NEW YEAR HOP

Page 3



1944 - HAPPY NEW YEAR - 1945

B-29s ... FROM PYOTE TO TOKYO

# FIRST ARMY HALTS NAZIS COUNTER-THRUST

## THE RATTLER PYOTE, TEXAS

Published each Thursday at the Rattlesnake Army Air Field by the Special Service Office in cooperation with Public Relations. The RATTLER receives Camp Newspaper Service; republication is forbidden without permission of CNS, 205 E. 42 St. NYC 17. Any other material may be republished. Opinions expressed herein are those of the writers and should not be construed as those of the AAF. Local pictures by Base Photo Lab.



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## 'More'-Keyword For 1945

The coming of 1945 finds America still engaged in a struggle for its life. It is well, at this time, to recall that this Second World War is just that—a struggle in which America is fighting for its life.

We can take solace from the fact that our role is now that of an aggressive attacker of our foes. We can feel proud of the progress our arms have made in the past year and we can congratulate ourselves that all Axis efforts to split our Allied front have ended in complete failure.

The past year has truly been one of major gains. The blows we struck were tremendous and in no point did any of our tactics fail or seriously falter.

Now comes the sobering thought, the thought that must inspire our every action and resolve in the year about to dawn.

We are faced with the stark reality that despite all our advances our foes still face us strong and stubborn, across the borders of invaded Germany and in the treacherous Nipponese Isles of the Pacific.

There can be only one conclusion. Our past efforts have not been sufficient to bring us victory, our expenditures have not yet reached the proportions needed to bring us the victory and peace for which we have so valiantly fought.

We must gird for the struggle ahead realizing that in each and every respect we must definitely top our performances of the past year. The soldiers of our nation must fight harder, the airmen must fly faster and more often, our seamen must ply the sea and ocean lanes with new and mounting vigor and on the home front the forge and the factory, the mine and the mill must work unceasingly "round the clock" to supply the sinews of war that may make 1945 the year of final victory.

Each of us should at this point take stock and examine our record of the year gone by. If there is room for praise, if you have done your particular job 100% conscientiously and efficiently, take the praise due you BUT don't slow down!

Scan and examine your record and remember you MUST find some way to do more in the year ahead.

## Cooperation Does the Job

Cooperation is the keystone to getting things done. It is cooperation alone that permits the varied departments of a widespread camp such as Pyote to function without friction and with a minimum of lost motion. There have been several striking examples of the cooperative idea that deserve mention in camp activity. The manner in which the Convalescent Training Program cooperated with Boy Scout and Red Cross organizations in Christmas projects that varied from the repair of toys to the decoration of hospital wards is indeed noteworthy.

The praise herein recorded is for a job well done!

## AIRMEN POURING BOMBS ON FOE; SUPER-FORTS, NAVY BLAST JAPAN

In the 159th week of the U. S. at War, this was the news from: THE EUROPEAN FRONT: A "sizeable" German armored force was wiped out by Americans in the Monschau sector of the U. S. First Army front in Germany, according to a frontline dispatch which also revealed that another enemy division is "surrounded" in that area.

The first phase of the German offensive has ended and the Allies have been able to control

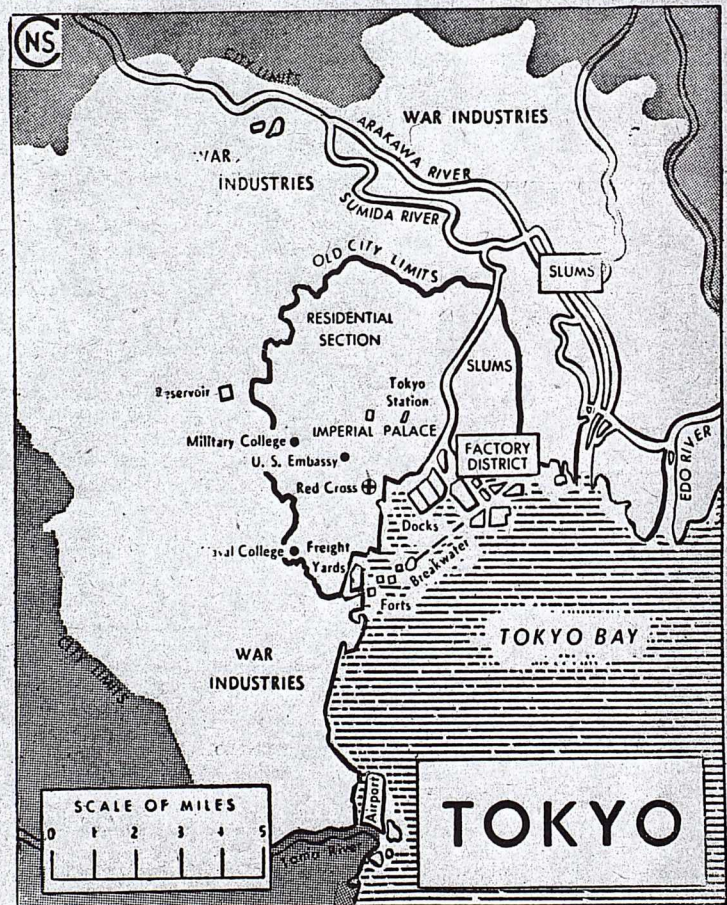
it, official quarters said, revealing that a powerful U. S. armored and infantry divisions, applying a giant nutcracker to the enemy's Belgium-Luxembourg bulge, gained up to four miles in a mighty counter-action which the Germans admitted was aimed at crushing the Nazi offensive at the roots.

Allied fliers rocked the Germans with a lightning one-two punch as Britain-based bombers and fighters lashed out at vital enemy supply lines and swarms of fighters based in France, Belgium and Holland poured bombs and rockets on Nazi troops and armored ve-

hicles in the third straight day of clear-weather attacks.

IN ITALY: A heavy Christmas snowfall carpeted the Italian front Monday, confining activity to probing stabs at enemy positions after heavy German artillery, mortar and machine gun fire throughout the night.

IN ASIA: Three penetrations of the Tokyo-Yokohama area by huge American superfortresses were reported by the Japanese radio Monday, coincident with an enemy announcement that U. S. surface units bombarded the Bonin Islands, some 500 miles from Tokyo.



Before the war, Tokyo, capital of Japan, was the 3rd largest city in the world (pop. 6,561,000), surpassed only by London and New York. Founded in 1456, it was for 4 centuries the capital of the Shoguns, Japanese ruling caste. With the overthrow of the Shoguns, Tokyo, in 1868, became the residence of the Emperor. The old city is separated from the newer areas by the Sumida River and by numerous canals. Of the total area, 25 percent is in roads, which are wide to provide fire "breaks." Tokyo suffered its greatest disaster to date in 1923, when the entire city was practically destroyed by earthquake and fire. Loss of life exceeded 150,000. The city was rebuilt largely to withstand shock and fire.

# Em's Formal Dance Welcomes New Year

"TAKE IT FROM US" MAKES HIT AT PYOTE



The Midland variety show, "Take It From Us", enjoyed a splendid reception from Pyote GIs last week. One of the best bills ever to play the Rattlesnake Field, the score included a solid show-stopper, "Milly From Philly". To Midland AAF, our thanks for a terrific show.

## Do You Own This Package That Didn't Get There?

A GI is going to have to do a lot of explaining to somebody!

The Field postoffice is in receipt of a package that was going to some girl for Christmas—but the GI who mailed it—forgot to add either the address of the person it was going to, or his own return address.

The package is now at the post-office and contains ladies apparel. The owner can get it by identifying himself and the contents of the parcel at the stamp window.

Buck-up, fella, you can always send her a New Year's present!

### THIS WEEK'S

Montage on Rattler cover is the creation of three Air Force photographers, T-Sgt. Klementi Bronsten, Pvt. Cliff Trudell and Pvt. Herman Slotkin. Pictured are Bettie Lou Neblett who is employed at Sub-Depot Supply and Pfc. Richard Gooden of Clarinda, Iowa, who is attached to the Combat Crew Detachment at Pyote.

## 6th Loan Drive \$5,000 Short, With Only 3 Days Left To Go

Careful check of those aiding the Pyote Air Base Sixth War Loan Drive disclosed that there were some 2,500 persons on the base who had done nothing to help the camp attain its goal of \$136,000 by January 1.

In reviewing these latest figures, Capt. H. D. Lucey, War Bond Officer asked: "If you were one of these persons, what do

### Four Sew On Stripes In 728th AAF Band

Four promotions have been posted in the 728th AAF Band.

Cpl. George V. Wiles was raised to the rank of buck sergeant, and the following Pfc's were promoted to corporal: LeRoy Kohlmann, Elmer Powelski and Lewis Shelton.

### GRIMES-COWELL NUPTIALS

Miss Ethel Irene Cowell, 19, of Wichita, Kansas, was wed to Pfc. Wilfred M. Grimes of Elberton, Ga., by Chaplain Robert Geiger at the Pyote Air Base Chapel. Pfc. Grimes is attached to Sec. D. Matrimonial rites took place on Christmas eve.

you think your comrades-in-arms, now throwing back the German offensive, would say, were they to meet you face to face."

\$5,250 more in bonds must be sold in these last few closing days of the drive if Pyote is to attain its quota. It's a job that will call for everyone on the base making it a personal responsibility to see that the objective is attained and if possible over-subscribed.

Figures on those participating regularly through allotment were as follows:

|         |                |
|---------|----------------|
| A 19%   | B 76%          |
| C 8     | D 30           |
| E 23    | F 46           |
| M 88    | CCD 36         |
| Band 71 | Officers 90    |
|         | Civilians 100% |

## Service Club Holds New Year's Formal Dance Friday Night

1943 will be greeted, a trifle prematurely, with a formal dance to be held at the Service Club Friday, December 29th from 9 to 12:30.

The girls will be fetchingly clad in their most dazzling evening gowns—the better to give 1944 the heave-ho and form a welcoming committee to the New Year.

Class A uniform will be the order for the well-dressed enlisted man. The Pyote band will furnish the music from 9 until 12:30 in the morning.

The New Year formal will be one of the festive, gayest occasions to be held at the Service Club; noisemakers, confetti, serpentine, and all the trimmings will allow the dancers to see the old year out and the new year in in style.

## All GI Dances Listed For Service Club

"All GI" dances have been scheduled at the Service Club for Tuesdays. These affairs will be confined to soldiers and Wacs.

This is an experimental type of entertainment being tried to see if the response will justify its continuance.

If the "All GI Dance" is well attended it will be continued as a regular weekly feature at the Base. If, however, GI Joe and GI Jill fail to respond then the feature will be dropped.

That puts it squarely up to the enlisted boys and girls.

## Pay Call Coming Sunday, Dec. 31

The happiest day in all the month—pay day—comes on a Sunday this month; next Sunday, to be exact.

Finance officials announced that pay-call would be held Sunday, December 31st. This announcement undoubtedly gives comfort to the GIs who desire to start 1945 off with a full wallet.

### NEXT WEEK'S

Rattler will announce full details concerning the election of the Rattlesnake AAF's Beauty Queen. The search for the loveliest girl of the field or of the surrounding communities is being conducted by the Monahans USO in cooperation with the field's Special Service Office. See next week's Rattler for the complete story.

# Selectees Get Tough New Basic; Combat Influences Their Training

By Camp Newspaper Service

Although the Army reached its designated strength a short time ago, men still are being inducted at the rate of about 950,000 a year, Selective Service officials estimate.

A large percentage—how large is an official secret—is going into the Army, where a training program of considerable proportions still is in effect, for training as replacements. Of those who go into the Army, a big majority wind up in Infantry Replacement Training Centers.

Military life is just beginning for these men, many of them youngsters of 18, although we've come a long way on the road to victory, both in Europe and the Pacific.

What kind of training are they getting? How does their "basic" differ from that endured by GIs now in overseas theaters back in '41, '42 and '43? And to what extent have the lessons learned in combat influenced training methods?

In an effort to obtain an authoritative answer to these questions, CNS sent a staff man to interview Lt. Col. H. W. Dammer, Assistant G-3, Army Ground Forces. Col. Dammer has some special qualifications. He served as Executive Officer with the famed Rangers in Italy and North Africa.

Viewing the subject from the vantage point of experience in both combat and training, Col. Dammer arrived at two main conclusions:

1. Basic is a lot more rugged, physically, than it was in the days before he went overseas in '42.

2. It is also more "realistic,"—better geared to the practical necessities of the job at hand.

"I get a feeling of high power from the present program that was absent in the early days," is the way Col. Dammer puts it.

Of the physical training phase, he says, "the trend over a period of time toward conditioning through use of obstacle courses continues. Such conditioning is designed to improve a man in agility and the handling of his body rather than merely his feet and legs. At the same time, marches and hikes also are stressed."

The lessons learned in combat find their way into the training program in two ways—by being incorporated into official training doctrine after evaluation by G-3 and through personal contact between new men and veterans with combat experience.

"Over a period of time," Col. Dammer says, "personnel in this headquarters, in IRTCs and even in units has gradually included people who have had overseas service."

Some of the changes incorporated into training doctrine are still not for publication but here

## Pay-Dates



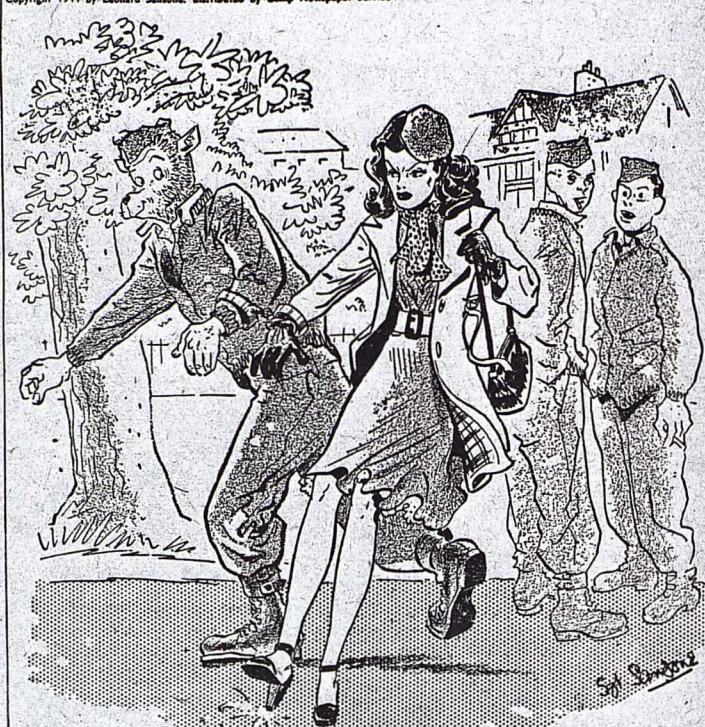
WE CAN'T tell you how to get a nice number like this "V" babe, but we're glad you asked about War Bonds. Step closer, gents. You can make a spot purchase through your Personnel Officer or at a Post Exchange; or you can get them regularly through a Class B Allotment. Smallest bond you can purchase is the \$7.50 job, worth \$10 at maturity. All War Bonds purchased overseas are issued in the U. S. and mailed to anybody you want. Delivery usually is made within 30 days of the time you order one. Special Christmas envelopes are provided for War Bonds sent as gifts.



## The Wolf

by Sansone

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"He has a peculiar hold on women!"

# Safety Lesson Of The Week: 'Never Roll Against The Grain'

Fate treated Pfc. Raymond Snyder most unkindly. Snyder works in the Bombsight Maintenance Department, and his pals call him "Snowman".

Last Friday, Snyder went on sick call with an infected finger. When the Doc asked him if it occurred in "line of duty", Snyder was momentarily non-plussed.

are a few cited by Col. Dammer:

**Use of overhead artillery in small unit problems:** Field artillery pieces operate as they would in battle in support of the units during tactical problems. All IRTCs have a battery or more of field artillery for this purpose.

**Revision of Extended Order Drill:** As revised, the squad is broken down, under the "Able-Baker-Charlie" system, into three groups. The "Able" group includes the scouts; the "Baker" group the BAR men and the "Charlie" group the riflemen. The squad or platoon leader can move the groups independently to meet specific problems.

**First Aid:** As a result of experiences in the field, instruction in First Aid, Hygiene and Sanitation is much more thorough. Malaria prevention and control is stressed and knowledge gained in Africa, Italy and the South Pacific utilized.

**Information and Education:** Greater efforts are being made to keep men informed and to give them a feeling of personal responsibility in the war.

"It was this way, Sir," Snyder finally explained. "A bunch of us was sitting in the barracks playing a small game of galloping dominoes. The idea of the little game is to throw a couple of numbered cubes so that they add to a certain digit."

The doctor admitted having heard of some such sport.

"Well," Snyder continued, obviously embarrassed, "I was trying to make a point. I took the ivory checkers in my right hand, shook 'em hard, and with a flip of the wrist rolled them out."

"And just what has this to do with your infected finger?" inquired the doctor.

"Well, Sir, I was just too excited about making my point. My finger scraped against the floor and I picked up five splinters under my fingernail."

"And the hell of it is, Sir—I rolled a seven."

**Middle Hadam, Conn. (CNS)—**Donald A. Laird, local philosopher, has a sure-fire, two-part formula for popularity. "If you want to be well-liked," he advises, "don't criticize your friends and don't borrow their garden tools."

# Calling All Pyote Talent!

## "Going My Way" Tops At Box-office In '44

Hollywood — The top film of 1944, according to box-office receipts was "Going My Way", written and produced by Leo McCarey, and starring Bing Crosby. Film fans voted this picture the best of the year by their attendance; an attendance that grossed nearly \$12,000,000 for an all time high.

Based on box-office receipts throughout the nation, the top ten films of 1944 were:

- "Going My Way".
- "A Guy Named Joe".
- "Two Girls And A Sailor".
- "Wilson".
- "Pin-Up Girl".
- "This Is The Army".
- "Since You Went Away".
- "Mr. Skeffington".
- "Destination Tokyo".
- "White Cliffs of Dover".

Among the players, Cary Grant and Bing Crosby led the male stars, both financially and with the fans. Among the sleeker sex, Greer Garson, Ingrid Bergman, Irene Dunne, Ginger Rogers, Bette Davis, Claudette Colbert, and Betty Grable shared honors as Hollywood's first lady.

In the good year 1944, moviegoers rang the Hollywood cash register for the largest returns in the 50 years of motion-picture

## At The Chapel

**CATHOLIC** — Sunday. Masses: 0800, 1615, 1830. Daily Mass, 1830, except Thursday. Mass Thursday, at 0930 in Red Cross Reading Room. Evening devotions Tuesday and Friday, 1900. Confessions Saturday, 1730 to 1830; 2000 to 2100; before all Masses on Sunday.

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE** — Thursday: 2000, regular weekly service.

**PROTESTANT**: Sunday—9:15—Hospital Service, Red Cross Auditorium; 10:00—Section C Chapel Service; 10:30—Station Chapel Service; 7:30 p.m.—Section C Vesper Service; 8:00 p.m.—Station Vesper Service. Wednesday—7:00 p.m.—Chapel Chorus Rehearsal, 8:00 p.m.—Bible Quiz.

**JEWISH**—Friday, 1930, Sabbath Evening Service.

history. Cinemaddicts gulped down 10 tons of popcorn, and 7 million candy bars while watching Sinatra's tonsils or Grable's hips.

Among the new stars the fans "went for" in the past year were newcomers Lauren Bacall, sultry siren of "To Have And To Have Not", 18-year-old Gloria DeHaven and 20-year-old June Allyson who co-starred in "Two Girls And A Sailor", Van Johnson and John Hodiak.

## Roles Are Open For Singers, Dancers, Actors

Special Services launched a camp-wide hunt for talent today. People who can do anything in the way of entertaining, writing, handling of stage props or lights, sound-men, idea men, anything in the long galaxy of jobs that go with the theater are needed.

If your experiences is limited don't let that stop you; come on down to Special Services and let's discuss whatever you have to offer. If you ever had a part in a school play or did dramatics with church or social groups, you are probably just the type of person to read radio parts or perhaps to play some role in one of the several production that Special Services is planning for the coming months.

Dancers are needed, both male and female, specialty acts are needed, crooners or any other variety of singer will be welcome and if you play an instrument recite, declaim or tell jokes you are urged to get in touch with Special Services at once. If there's any reason that you can't make a personal appearance, please fill out and send the coupon below:

### SEARCH FOR TALENT

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address or Section \_\_\_\_\_  
 Soldier \_\_\_\_\_ WAC \_\_\_\_\_ Civilian \_\_\_\_\_  
 Type of Entertainment \_\_\_\_\_

### YANK IN FIRST FIGHT GETS SLUG IN HIS HAT

**France (CNS)**—During his first day in combat, Pvt. Grover Bruce, of Columbus, Ga., crawled into his foxhole just in time for a Nazi counterattack. Eager for a crack at the enemy, he stuck his head up. A bullet entered his helmet above the right ear, zoomed around his head and dropped over his left ear. Bruce pocketed the bullet, then killed the guy who fired it.

### SIX STARS AID BAR IN DIGGING OUT JEEP

**Leyte (CNS)**—It took six stars and a bar to get a jeep out of a shell hole here. Lt. Gen. Richard K. Sutherland, chief of staff to Gen. Douglas MacArthur and Lt. Gen. George C. Kenny, Allied Far Eastern Air Forces commander, aided Lt. Daniel D. Molnar, driver of the jeep in which they were passengers, in pushing it out of the crater.

## HI, BEAUTIFUL!



Martha O'Driscoll is a well-knit sweater girl who plays the lead in "Hi Beautiful", one of the double-feature attractions at Theaters 1 and 2 next Tuesday.

## "Going My Way" Tops With Base GIs For 1944

Pyote screen audiences more or less agreed with national ratings in deciding the ten best motion pictures that played the field. Based on theater attendance records, the ten best films on the field in 1944 were:

- "Going My Way".
- "A Guy Named Joe".
- "Since You Went Away".
- "Miracle of Morgan's Creek".
- "For Whom the Bell Tolls".
- "Gaslight".
- "Song of Bernadette".
- "Arsenic And Old Lace".
- "Destination Tokyo".
- "Lost Angel".

## Calling All Poets

Rattler will feature a poetry page. Pyote GIs who desire to submit some verse should mail or bring it to the Rattler Office or Public Relations Office before 5 p.m. Saturday, December 30th.

Only rules are—not too long, and the poetry must be original. GIs may submit verses by relatives or friends.

## Theater Schedule

- Thu.—TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT with Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall. (Hemingway's novel translated to the screen with all its sexy, hardboiled flavor.) Also This Is America and Paramount News.
- Fri. and Sat.—SUNDAY DINNER FOR A SOLDIER with Anne Baxter, John Hodiak, and Charles Winninger. (Another of these homey, heart-throbbers about young love, uniforms, and marriage in wartime.) Also Community Sing, Sportreel, and Merry Melody cartoon.
- Sun. and Mon.—HOLLYWOOD CANTEEN with all-star cast. (Another of these guest artists doing minute bits for the GIs. Sort of a Stage Door Canteen on the Pacific.) Also Paramount News.
- Tue.—(Double Feature) ENTER ARSENE LUPIN with Ella Raines, Charles Korvin, and J. Carrol Naish. (A new crime series on the famed master-criminal.) HI BEAUTIFUL with Martha O'Driscoll and Noah Beery, Jr. (So O'Driscoll's shapely and that's about the size of it.)
- Wed. and Thu.—SOMETHING FOR THE BOYS with Vivian Blaine and Carmen Miranda. (Technimusical with songs for soldiers and a few laughs.) Also Army-Navy Screen Magazine and Paramount News.

## Service Club

- Thu.—Enlisted Men's Wives Luncheon, 12:00 noon to 1 p.m.
- Fri.—Formal New Year's Dance, 9 p. m. to 12:30 a.m.
- Sat.—Club facilities open for rest, recreation, letter writing.
- Sun.—Bingo, 8:30 p.m. Prizes, phone call home.
- Mon.—Quiz Program, 8 p.m.
- Tue.—All GI Dance, Wacs and soldiers only.
- Wed.—GI Movies.

# Resume Of 1944 War News Shows Progress In Past 12 Months; D-Day Invasion Named Biggest Story Of Year

These are the ten top news stories of 1944 in the judgement of a representative group of newspapermen:

1. D-day invasion of fortress Europe by the Allies.
2. The breakthrough of the Allied Armies in France.
3. The liberation of Paris.
4. Capture of Rome by Mark Clark's legions.
5. Assassination attempt on Adolph Hitler.
6. Invasion of the Philippine Islands by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.
7. B-29s enter the air war against Japan.
8. German counter-attack on General Hodges' 1st Army.
9. Robot bombs employed for first time in history.
10. Red Army clears foe out of entire Russian homeland.

The War Calendar of 1944:

## JANUARY

1944 opened with the guns of Moscow booming to acclaim new gains by the Soviet armies. Three days before the advent of the new year the Red winter offensive had been launched and before 1944 was many days old, Russians were across the old Polish border. Allied troops were reported in the final stages of invasion training and all in all 1944 dawned to find the Axis powers definitely on the run. The Chinese had reported the Japs cleared out of the "rice bowl" area and the Sixth Army had invaded New Britain and was thrusting toward Rabaul.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower forecast that Germany could be defeated this year and in this opinion Admiral Ernest J. King concurred. In Italy the Allied forces were in sight of Rome. Throughout January Allied airmen pounded Germany's production facilities.

## FEBRUARY

When February dawned the Tokyo radio screamed that the Marshall Islands had been invaded. By the 9th the Marshalls were reported conquered and American anger against the Japs rose to new heights with the official report of the Jap atrocities to American prisoners who had been taken on the Philippines. This horror was referred to as the "March of Death". The attack on Truk was launched and succeeded.

In Italy the shelling of a Benedictine Monastery being used by the Germans as an observation post was debated. Allied guns finally reduced it to rubble to save lives of soldiers at Cassino. The Anzio Beach Head became a new chapter in the history of American bravery.

## MARCH

March came in with the Nazis fortifying their Atlantic Wall and the Japs looking anxiously at the island of Paramashiru which was

being bombed. Gen. Joseph Stilwell launched a drive into Burma and trapped 2,000 Japs on Los Negros Islands in the Admiralties and General Douglas A. MacArthur personally directed cavalymen who stormed ashore. Jimmy Doolittle was elevated to the rank of Lieut. General and under his direction the air blows against Germany rose to staggering proportions. Russian armies reached the Rumanian border. Glider troops landed behind Jap lines in Burma. This action was under the direction of Lord Louis Mountbatten. The Russian armies crossed the Dniester, entered the Balkans while the Japs caused anxiety in making a sixty mile gain in a thrust at Imphal, India.

## APRIL

With the coming of April things looked grim in India. Japs announced that an Indian National Army was about to join them to oust the British from the country. Before the end of the month, the Japs were stopped dead, their vaunted India push a costly propaganda move. The vital seaport of Odessa fell to the Red Army. The Navy's carrier-based planes swooped down on Palau and the American Fleet steamed in to engage the Japs. The Japs fled, their fleet crippled. With the invasion shadow lengthening the Nazis evacuated Dunkirk and Calais. The Russian and the American airforces cooperated in a joint assault on the crumbling Axis line in the Balkans. Britain imposed a censorship so strict that it even affected diplomatic pouches. Gen. Charles De Gaulle was picked as French leader and Gen. Henri Honre Giraud shelved by the French Committee of Liberation.

## MAY

As the month of May rolled in Cassino fell and the Allied armies broke the Italian stalemate and moved forward. Air armadas continued to pound the channel coast areas of France in round-the-clock assaults. Hollandia was taken by the Marines turned over to Gen. MacArthur.

## JUNE

June came along and American and British troops, battering their way ahead with hard-hitting tanks and men stood before the final fortress wall guarding Rome. Suddenly, on June 6th, the invasion came. An air umbrella covered the D-day advance and nothing the enemy could do could stop the tidal wave that poured ashore at the Cherbourg Peninsula.

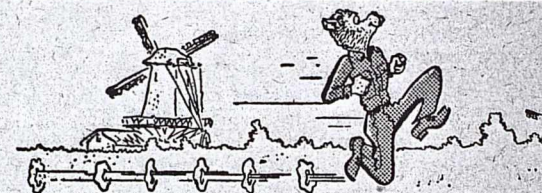
Hitler called on his two crack generals Von Runstedt and Rommel to hurl the invaders back into the sea. The Invasion buried the news that Gen. Mark Clark's Army entered Rome and pursued the Germans to a point 80 miles north of the city. In one of the greatest battles of the Pacific war, American fliers shot down 300 Jap planes as the invasion of Saipan was launched. The Nazis talked ominously of a new secret weapon. The reaction of Allied sources was that the new

(Continued on Page 8)

# New Year's Gre 1945 RAT



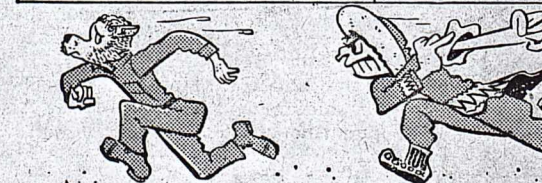
| JANUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    | FEBRUARY |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|
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| 14      | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 11       | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 21      | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 18       | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 28      | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    | 25       | 26 | 27 | 28 |



| APRIL |    |    |    |    |    |    | MAY |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|-----|----|----|----|
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| 15    | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 13  | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 22    | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 20  | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 29    | 30 |    |    |    |    |    | 27  | 28 | 29 | 30 |



| JULY |    |    |    |    |    |    | AUGUST |    |    |    |
|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--------|----|----|----|
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|      | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |        |    |    | 1  |
| 8    | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 5      | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 15   | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 12     | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 22   | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 19     | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 29   | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    | 26     | 27 | 28 | 29 |



| OCTOBER |    |    |    |    |    |    | NOVEMBER |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------|----|----|----|
| S       | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  | S        | M  | T  | W  |
|         | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |          |    |    |    |
| 7       | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 4        | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 14      | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 11       | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 21      | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 18       | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 28      | 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    | 25       | 26 | 27 | 28 |

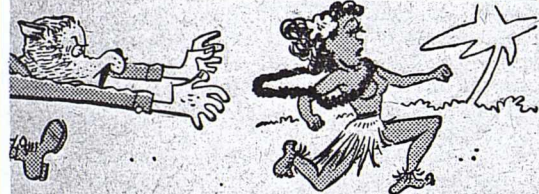
# etings From The TLER 1945



| JANUARY |    |    | MARCH |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| TH      | F  | S  | S     | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
| 1       | 2  | 3  |       |    |    |    | 1  | 2  | 3  |
| 7       | 8  | 9  | 10    | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  |
| 14      | 15 | 16 | 17    | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 21      | 22 | 23 | 24    | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 28      |    |    |       | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
|         |    |    |       |    |    |    |    |    | 31 |



| APRIL |    |    | JUNE |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| TH    | F  | S  | S    | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
| 2     | 3  | 4  | 5    |    |    |    |    | 1  | 2  |
| 9     | 10 | 11 | 12   | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 16    | 17 | 18 | 19   | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 23    | 24 | 25 | 26   | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 30    | 31 |    |      | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
|       |    |    |      |    |    |    |    |    | 30 |



| MAY |    |    | SEPTEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-----|----|----|-----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| TH  | F  | S  | S         | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
| 2   | 3  | 4  |           |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 9   | 10 | 11 | 2         | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 16  | 17 | 18 | 9         | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 23  | 24 | 25 | 16        | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 30  | 31 |    | 23        | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |



| OCTOBER |    |    | DECEMBER |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|---------|----|----|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| TH      | F  | S  | S        | M  | T  | W  | TH | F  | S  |
| 1       | 2  | 3  |          |    |    |    |    |    | 1  |
| 8       | 9  | 10 | 2        | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  |
| 15      | 16 | 17 | 9        | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 22      | 23 | 24 | 16       | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 29      | 30 |    | 23       | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |

## 'Pyote Converts To B-29 Training' Chosen As Top Local Story Of Past Year At Rattlesnake Air Field

"The moving finger" wrote early and often in the diary of the Rattlesnake Army Air Field during the past year. The ten top stories as judged by The Rattler staff, were:

1. Pyote field converts to B-29 training.
2. Personnel "Screened" for Infantry transfer.
3. GI's swimming pool built by and for the GIs.
4. CCD sets 2AF record for crew processing.
5. Rattlesnake field gets snowed in.
6. EM bowling alleys open.
7. AGP hangs up year record of perfect job.
8. Superbombers play for Pyote personnel at Odessa stadium.
9. Officers Club opens.
10. Non-Com Mess Club gets underway.

1944 was quite a year at Pyote Army Air Field. A fast ruffle through back copies of The Rattler show these headlines and side-lights:

### JANUARY

Pyote Army Air Base got its name changed to Pyote Army Air Field. Medics threw a Service Club party to end all Service Club parties. Major E. A. Swingle ripped off 96 sit-ups in a PFR. One of the heaviest snow storms in Texas history blanketed the field for a day. Col. Louie P. Turner was transferred, replaced by Col. Bernard T. Castor as Commanding Officer.

### FEBRUARY

"Shep", K-9 corps member was promoted to Corporal. 2AF announced a Falcon shoulder patch. Pyote entered S-Sgt. Luther Dodson and T-Sgt. Clifford Weis in Golden Gloves elimination. The USO threw a spaghetti feed. The Rattler opened a forum on GI voting rights. The Officers' bowling alleys opened.

### MARCH

2AF changed its furlough regulations to 15 days plus travel time. T-Sgt. Garrett C. Maney of Section C was shipped to OCS. Civilian Personnel opened a playground area for children. The sand started blowing. The Officers Club opened officially March 25. Frank Buck, 'Bring 'Em Back Alive' gent, put in an appearance here. The Crippled Commandos took the basketball championship, with a 10-0 record. The field underwent a station-wide housecleaning, with details scouring the areas.

### APRIL

The field got its name changed again—to the 236th CCTS (H)—Combat Crew Training School, Heavy. 11,547 hours in the air was the flying time record established at Pyote. The Maintenance boys tossed a beer party at Grandfalls. The softball league opened. Station Hospital became a Regional Hospital, enlarging services and personnel. The base presented a weekly radio show over KIUN, Pecos. The HBC team took the volleyball champion-

ship. Furlough rulings took another change—one furlough per fiscal year per man per TS. WACS were authorized to wear a new summer uniform. A Catholic mission was held at the Chapel. Miss Myra La Teer of Seabrook, Ill., was chosen "Queen of Pyote". Non-Coms Mess Club started plans for a building. The Station Band and The Rattler celebrated their first birthdays.

### MAY

The bank opened. The orchestra presented a Stephen Foster Festival. Air Force men were invited to volunteer for the Infantry. The EM's bowling alley opened. Babies became government issue at Pyote hospital; maternity aid became available to GI families. The Rattlers opened their home season in the 2AF league against Clovis. Civilian Personnel held a beer party. Approximately 250 kids from Pyote and the base were treated to a picnic. Col. B. T. Castor was relieved of command, replaced by Lt. Col. Stanley M. Persons.

### JUNE

56 promotions were handed out. The WACS at Pyote celebrated their first anniversary. The Rattler was accorded honorable mention in the Camp Newspaper Service contest. The Flight Control Static Chasers, the Medics, and the Officers' Canadian Clubs ended the softball season in a 3-way grudge tie. A heat wave hit Pyote, pushing the thermometer to the 98 degree mark. Col. W. W. Jones took over as Station Commandant. Section F threw a picnic at Ft. Stockton, invited everybody. 13-year-old Geraldine Draben was discharged from the Wacs, because she was under age. The Non-Com Mess opened in style. Sec. C got a Service Club. The Rattlers traveled to El Paso to partake in the Southwest Tourney. Maj. Gen. Uzal G. Ent, 2AF head, addressed Pyote personnel during a visit here.

### JULY

The PX took over the PX cafeteria. AGP set a national record when they completed a year of service with no planes grounded due to lack of parts. The Rattlers advanced to the quarter-finals in the Southwest Tourney. Sections D and E threw a picnic at Ft. Stockton. Plans were made for the biggest GI show in Pyote history to help raise funds for the EM's swimming pool. The field held open house to observe AAF's 37th birthday. The obstacle course was completed.

### AUGUST

"Off Limits", the all-GI musical, won raves as the best show to play Pyote. It raised \$2,238 for the swimming pool. Flight Control bowling team copped first place in the summer league. Section C was commended for work on the line. Medics captured the softball crown. Rain and hail "flak'd" the field in a freak storm. Pyote was awarded first place in processing in 2AF.

### SEPTEMBER

"Cactus Capers", a GI variety show, (Continued on Page 12)

## Resume of 1944 War News On World Fronts

(Continued from Page 6)

weapon was just bluff. As the month ended, Cherbuorg had fallen and Churchill had indicated that the Germans could be knocked out of the war by the end of the summer.

### JULY

In July Americans were optimistic. Our arms were achieving victory on all fronts. Only the sobering report that Saipan has cost nearly 10,000 men spread a note of gloom. The Reds took Minsk, plunged steadily toward Prussia. The "Robot Bomb" came over London. Its effectiveness was at first scoffed at but later admissions of grave damage emerged from England. Allied forces crossed the Orne River in France and St. Lo fell. In Italy our troops closed in on Livorno and news came out of Germany that an attempt had been made on the life of Adolph Hitler. Japs were driven off the Islands of Tinian and Guam.

Came August and the Allied breakthrough in Normandy began like a snowball rolling down hill. In the far East Stilwell was advanced to the rank of full General. The Maquis, French underground fighters, rose as the Americans approached Paris and recaptured the city. Maquis action so disrupted German Army activity that the American and British forces cleared nearly all of France.

### SEPTEMBER

As September rolled in the opening of the "Battle of Germany" was officially announced. The British liberated the Belgian capital of Brussels and pushed to the border of North Germany. Soviet troops advanced and took the great Ploesti oil fields that had been pounded by daring American raiders. The pounding of the Philippine Islands began. Allied airborne forces landed in Holland and were cutoff by the Nazis. Part of the unit was rescued. Gen. Eisenhower called for a revolt in Germany. Admiral William F. Halsey's Fleet moved up to the Philippines, mauled the Japanese fleet again. The Reds drove the Nazis out of Estonia.

### OCTOBER

October found the Allies poised at the Siegfried Line. Churchill and Eden hid themselves to Moscow and were royally entertained by Stalin. The Fleet blasted Luzon in the Philippines and B-29s raided the Japanese home Island of Formosa. Then—the Philippines were invaded, MacArthur was coming back.

## Ward No. 1 "Takes Cake" In Yule Test

Ward No. 1 won the great big Christmas cake in the Pyote Base Hospital Yule Decoration Contest.

The contest to decide which ward was the most ingeniously and attractively decorated was jointly sponsored by the hospital's Convalescent Training Program and by the Red Cross.

Second prize went to Ward No. 3 and third prize to Ward No. 4. A special Honorable Mention award was made to Ward No. 8. Wards 3 and 4 will receive movie tickets for their prizes.

The board of judges who made the decision in the contest consisted of Mrs. S. M. Persons, Lt. Col. William H. Cocke, Maj. Earnest A. Swinge and Captain Maude Meyer. In making the awards the judges praised all of the patients, and announced that only the narrowest margin separated the contestants.

The Decoratoin Contest was coordinated with the CTP program and Lt. Milan Stancel and T-Sgt. Lawrence H. Shipp in charge of CTP used all the expanded facilities their project in permitting convalescents to make the best use of the decorative materials supplied by the Red Cross. CTP handicrafts were much in evidence in the novel use and ingenious application of the Christmas materials that brought victory to Wards Nos. 1, 3 and 4.

**Des Moines (CNS)**—The housing shortage is so acute here that Gov.-elect Blue can't even find a house in Des Moines. Gov. Blue is living out of town.

### NOVEMBER

November started on a somber note with General Stilwell being relieved of his command. Friction with Chang Kai-shek was the reason given. The Nazis were cleared out of Antwerp and fell back toward Maas. Trouble hints came from Spain. There were calls for Francisco Franco to resign. The Reds rolled up to Budapest. B-29s bombed Sumatra and Singapore and 100 of the mammoth planes poured bombs on Tokyo. MacArthur battled the Japs on Leyte.

### DECEMBER

December and the approach of the New Year came with the war outlook still grim. The Nazis are resisting fiercely and for the first time Allied arms were turned against a people looked upon as friendly when the British used guns and planes to fight Greek elements labeled "Red". A German counterattack menaced the First Army and B-29 raids on Tokyo were becoming more and more frequent.

More War News On Page 2



## KOOPS' KORNER

### SLAP-HAPPY NEW YEAR

You've heard all this talk about the good will. That's a lotta hooley, they tell me. The good won't.

There have been so many fights at Hollywood night clubs lately that when you ask for a reservation, they don't ask you for your name, they say, "How much do you weigh?"

You've heard about the GI who thought his girl belonged to a gang of smugglers. He was at her house the other night when the phone rang and a man said, "Has that dope gone yet?"

And the one about the guy that said carrots aided eyesight. After all, he never saw a rabbit wearing glasses.

A sarong is a bright colored potato sack—for tomatoes.

Then there was the GI that came down with a bad case of poison ivory—yup, poison ivory; they caught him with loaded dice.

The modern parents get Junior to eat olives by starting him off on martinis.

Gene Lindsey of the Davis-Monahan sheet tells of the civilian who was caught impersonating a soldier—they saw him smoking a cigarette.

### PIMENTO STUFFING FROM AN OLIVE DRAB SUIT

The Midland AAF show "Take It From Us" was rated tops by every guy in the audience. The girls were attractive, the costumes bright, and the songs socko. The folks that missed "Take It From Us" missed one of the best shows to ever play Pyote, bar none.

Grapevine Intelligence from the Special Service Office says that maybe they will present "What A Life" soon. "What A Life" is the New York smash-hit about the boy named "Henry Adrich".

We're going to Miss Eleanor. Miss Eleanor Crowder, hostess at the Service Club since its opening, has resigned because of her mother's illness. We're going to miss Eleanor. She made the Service Club a bright spot at the Rattlesnake Field.

We remind you again that the Rattler office is open just about 24 hours a day, and you're welcome to pay us a visit anytime. We generally have a couple extra copies of The Rattler, in case you missed it; so we'll pass them out while they last. The Rattler office is directly in back of the library.

Next week's issue will give a salute to the poets of Pyote. If you have a verse that you wrote, or someone you know wrote; send it, bring it, or mail it to The Rattler. Deadline is Saturday pee-em.

We paid a visit to the dentist a week or so ago, and found out that GI dentists are a much-maligned group. The dentist treated us fine 'n' dandy. The only gripe we have is that they shoved so much cotton in our mouth we couldn't talk. And we just love to talk!

The AAF regional hospital reports that the first Christmas child born on the field was a 6 pound, 8-ounce baby girl born to Mrs. Clifford Burr. Hubby is a S-Sgt. in Section D. Merry Christmas, folks.

And Merry Christmas to Capt. and Mrs. Ralph Entresvoag who also got a little girl in a Yuletide bundle from heaven at the Base Hospital.

Stopped by the Bombsight Maintenance Dept. and made the acquaintance of Gyro. That's quite a pup. The boys have fixed him up with a bed—and it's strictly a GI bunk (and like a good GI, Gyro spends most of his time in the sack)—and Gyro has his own personal dog-bar, too. The lucky dog! . . . To settle a couple of arguments, the snow scene that appeared in the Christmas issue of The Rattler last week was taken in Des Moines, Iowa. Guys from every state up north claimed the picture was taken in their home town. And the nice part of the shot was that it could have been.

### SHORT SHORT STORY

A GI on the field got a very nice package from his extra-special girl. They had had a whirlwind courtship last autumn and he slipped a ring on her finger. They had planned on a spring wedding here at the field. The boy opened the package Christmas morning, eager to see what his fiance had sent him for a holiday gift. The box contained a short note and—a returned engagement ring! She had the nerve to say, on the package, "Do not open till Christmas".



## Civilian Clothes Are Tops— But So Are The Price Tags!

CHICAGO—If you got a discharge tomorrow, hopped back home and made a dash for the nearest civilian clothing store, you'd come out \$263.10 lighter by the time you had assembled a modest little wardrobe.

A shopping tour to estimate the cost of coming out of the khaki cocoon resulted in the table printed below. Prices listed are not the rock-bottom lowest but are far from getting into the expensive lines.

This is the cost of good, wearable togs for a guy who doesn't want to scatter his savings on anything fancy:

|                                 |         |
|---------------------------------|---------|
| 2 suits .....                   | \$75.00 |
| topcoat .....                   | 25.00   |
| hat .....                       | 5.00    |
| Gloves .....                    | 3.00    |
| muffler .....                   | 2.00    |
| raincoat .....                  | 12.00   |
| 6 shirts .....                  | 15.00   |
| 6 undershirts .....             | 3.00    |
| 6 pr. shorts .....              | 6.00    |
| 6 pr. socks .....               | 3.60    |
| 2 pr. shoes .....               | 15.00   |
| belt .....                      | 1.50    |
| 6 ties .....                    | 6.00    |
| 2 pr. pajamas (remember?) ..... | 6.00    |
| garters .....                   | 1.00    |

Cost so far, \$179.10, and that doesn't give you things like a bathrobe and slippers—or any extra shirts and underwear while you're waiting for the laundry. But you'll need something heavier than a topcoat this winter. Overcoat, \$45. One sport outfit will set you back \$5.00 for the shirt, \$10.00 for slacks, \$5.00 for a sweater and \$19.00 for a jacket. Total: \$263.10.

And if you want to weep about it, you'll still have to borrow a handkerchief from somebody!

### Classified Ads

**FOR SALE**—Portable electric sewing machine, including all attachments. Can be seen in Section D orderly room after 6 p.m. See Pfc. Donald Widman.

**LOST**—Man's red leather bill-fold containing identification papers, pay check and about \$61.00 cash. Lost Wednesday night, Dec. 20, in vicinity of Base Fire Station. Finder please return to W. E. Cass at Fire Station.

### KP THE HARD WAY

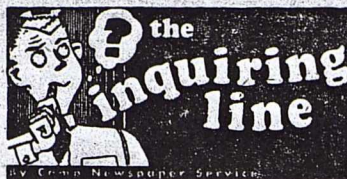
NEW YORK—Sgt. Melvin S. Biggs, mess sergeant for C. B. 81st Inf. Tr. Bn., Camp Roberts, Calif., watched a KP duck into the pantry. Later that day he caught up with him and asked him what he had been doing.

"Filling those salt shakers you gave me," was the reply.

"All day?" asked the MS.

"Listen, sergeant," said the KP, "it ain't easy pouring salt through those little holes."

The above story is from the Camp News pages of the January 5th issue of YANK, The Army Weekly, on sale at the Post Exchange tomorrow, December 29th.



Q. When I was stationed in the States, I used to go to a USO dance every Saturday night. Now I'm in Italy and I haven't seen a USO since I landed. How come?

A. The Army doesn't permit the USO to operate clubs in Britain, Africa, Italy, Australia, France or South Pacific, but it has authorized other agencies to function in these areas. The USO maintains its clubs in the U.S.A., Alaska, the Canal Zone, the Caribbean, the east coast of South America, Bermuda, Newfoundland and Hawaii.

Q. I am about to be discharged from the Army with a Blue Discharge (without honor). Am I entitled to the benefits of the GI Bill of Rights?

A. If you meet the other requirements, you are entitled to the benefits of the GI Bill of Rights. The only discharge which would disqualify you is a dishonorable discharge.

### THE CRYSTAL BALL

(Each week The RATTLER will record predictions on the duration of the war, as made by ranking men and women of our time.)

Walker Mason, regional WPB director: "It is estimated that there are 5 more years of tough fighting ahead in the Pacific!"

Q. I am a T-5. I have \$27 per month deducted from my pay for family allotments. My insurance premiums total \$7.30 per month. Recently I was sentenced by a court-martial to forfeit 2-3 of my base pay for a period of 6 months. That would leave me nothing at all. Can they do this to me? What will happen to my insurance and allotments?

A. They sure can do it to you. A court-martial can take 2-3 of your base pay. Allotments and insurance will continue, but the deductions will accumulate and will be charged against your pay after the court-martial sentence is paid up. Looks like you'll be pinched for money for a long time.

### TECHED-NITION FIFTH GRADE

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By  
Milton  
Caniff



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## Musclemen Cop Blue League Bowling Crown

The Musclemen had to come from behind, but they dood it.

Meaning they won three straight games from the Dusters to take the Blue League title, after the Dusters had gotten off to a two-game lead.

Steady bowling paid off for the Musclemen. It was Tercaro's 204 in the fourth game which gave them a 14-pin victory. In all, only 30 pins separated the two teams in all the final three matches.

The card:

### MUSCLEMEN

|             |     |     |     |     |     |
|-------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Leicht      | 181 | 176 | 174 | 181 | 147 |
| Turk        | 175 | 190 | 156 | 204 | 137 |
| White       | 129 | 149 | 151 | 112 | 137 |
| Comanitz    | 158 | 178 | 138 | 162 | 180 |
| Kuck'becker | 147 | 163 | 179 | 205 | 203 |
| Total       | 790 | 826 | 768 | 864 | 804 |

### DUSTERS

|         |     |     |     |     |     |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Dalton  | 148 | 178 | 146 | 148 | 155 |
| Scully  | 205 | 201 | 119 | 180 | 169 |
| Wharton | 146 | 164 | 159 | 156 | 161 |
| Kochan  | 194 | 167 | 182 | 187 | 144 |
| Duke    | 156 | 147 | 190 | 181 | 161 |
| Total   | 849 | 857 | 796 | 850 | 790 |

## Wac Sextet Turns Back Pecos 28-21

Pyote's Wac basketball team won its second straight game of the season Friday night at Pecos as they turned back the Pecos AAF Wacs, 28 to 21.

The verdict was hardly in doubt during the entire game as Sgt. Bobby Kentz led the Pyote team with 14 points poured through the net.

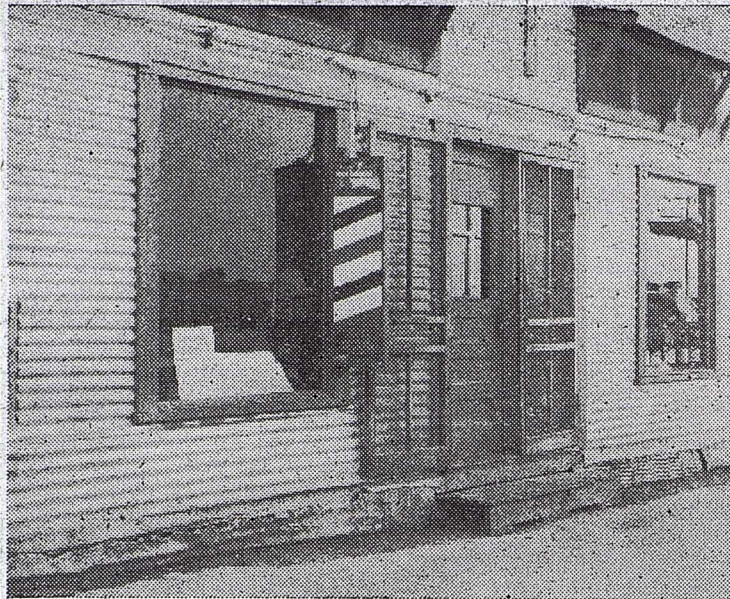
The Wacs, now under the tutelage of Pvt. Ralph Cannon, will play their next game January 7th when they face Roswell, N. M., AAF team.

The box score:

| PYOTE      |  | F | TP |
|------------|--|---|----|
| Zentz      |  | 0 | 14 |
| Tacchi     |  | 0 | 1  |
| Foley      |  | 0 | 9  |
| Brown      |  | 0 | 4  |
| La Branche |  | 0 | 0  |
| Grosbeck   |  | 0 | 0  |
| Gotch      |  | 0 | 0  |
| Burke      |  | 0 | 0  |
| Total      |  | 0 | 28 |

### PECOS

|             | F | TP |
|-------------|---|----|
| Tacho       | 0 | 3  |
| Deslauries  | 0 | 11 |
| Presnell    | 0 | 4  |
| Oberg       | 0 | 0  |
| Wise        | 0 | 0  |
| Alday       | 0 | 0  |
| Harrison    | 0 | 3  |
| Kaczanowicz | 0 | 0  |
| Total       | 0 | 21 |



This is the Pyote barber shop, moved in to the oil town when the field was first begun. Its clientele is mostly military, though a few oil-diggers stop by to get their locks trimmed. . . .

## SO THIS IS PYOTE . . .



. . . And this is the barber shop at the Post Exchange—everything from a shampoo to a massage can be had at this shop, one of the busiest places on the field.

## Rattlers Meet Hobbs In Next Cage Joust

Pyote AAF's Rattlers, who've beset by hard luck so far in their quest for cage honors in the 7th Area (2AF) chase, have their next league game at Biggs Field on Friday, January 5.

The Rattlers are going to Hobbs, N. M., on Saturday, Dec. 30, for a non-league entanglement.

### UNHAPPY FURLOUGH

Fl. Lewis, Wash. (CNS)—Here's what happened to Pfc. Sol Katz, of the Bronx, on a recent furlough home: (1) Jewelers told him a watch he had left for repairs had been lost; (2) He sent his uniforms to the tailors and the building burned down; (3) He lost one of his medals on the train back to camp and his garrison cap was stolen; (4) He arrived back in camp a day early.

## Basketball Race Station Flag In 12 Teams Seek

Two winter basketball leagues are currently running at the Recreation Hall, involving some 12 quintets who are battling it out for the station diadem.

The following teams are entered:

American League—Vincos, Secori's Aces, Celestial Navigation, Mormons, Officers and War Worries.

National League—Section C, Medics, Dusters, Pericheks, Combat Flashes and Fighting Irish.

Standings are incomplete as The Rattler goes to press. Here's a recapitulation of games which have been played up to this week:

### Vincos 29, Secori's Aces 34

Cpl. Bill Ray was high for the Vincos with 9 points while Farrell banged the basket for 18 to lead both teams.

### Celestial Navigation 27,

### Mormons 50

The scoring was close among the Utah brethren as Humphreys tabbed 17 points to beat out Taylor (who got 16) for scoring honors. Vincos 53, Celestial Navigation 29

Cpl. Ray almost equalled the Navigation total by himself as he racked up 25 points.

### Mormons 27, War Worries 44

This fellow Humphreys likes to make it close. He got 15 for the Mormons to barely edge out Bostick (with 14) for the War Worries.

### Celestial Navigation 44,

### Officers 19

Hogan and Burns tied for the scoring lead with 14 points apiece. Both are on the CNT team.

### War Worries 34, Secori's Aces 19

Bostick of the War Worries was high man with 14 points.

### Secori's Aces 24, Medics 17

Philips, the center, piled up 10 points for Section C to lead the scoring.

## National League

### Dusters 22, Pericheks 18

"Turk" got 7 points for the Dusters and Boots made 8 for the Pericheks.

### Fighting Irish 45,

### Combat Flashes 32

Dunn and Maxwell of the Irish were high men, Dunn roping in 13 tallies to beat out Maxwell's 12.

### Section C 27, Dusters 26

Kelly tabbed 12 for Section C to lead the scoring.

### Pericheks 21, Fighting Irish 19

Neil of the Irish and Boots of the Dusters tied up for scoring laurels with 8 points apiece.

### Combat Flashes 18, Dusters 28

Three men tied for the lead with 8 points each: Turk and Cannon of the Flashes and Greenstein of the Dusters.

# WARMIN' THE BENCH

By SGT. FRANK DEBLOIS

## The Duke of Tralee

The Duke is dead. Roger Bresnahan, the Duke of Tralee, who caught Matty's slants on John McGraw's team when Big 6 was the greatest pitcher in baseball and the Giants rode arrogantly at the head of the National League parade, died in a rooming house in Toledo, Ohio, just the other day.

The Duke joined the Giants in 1901 and soon became the best catcher in the league. Because of his speed and his deadly place-hitting, he batted lead-off, an unheard-of spot for a catcher. One of his favorite tricks was to rush up on the pitcher to get at the ball before it broke. Once he ran head-on into a fast ball thrown by Mordecai Brown and on his way to the hospital received the last rites of the church. But he was back behind the bat for Matty the next afternoon.

After leaving the Giants, the Duke managed the Cardinals and the Cubs for awhile. Then he bought the Toledo Mud Hens where bad luck began to hit him. He lost his money with the Hens, served for a while as a cop, a semi-pro manager, returned to the Giants for a brief spell as a coach, and wound up as a turnkey at the Toledo State prison.

The Duke was a broken, shambling figure at a big War Bond game in the Polo Grounds last summer. With some other old timers, he had been brought back to the scene of his glory to catch Walter Johnson when the Big Train faced Babe Ruth. But misfortune and illness had taken its toll of his once great physique and he could barely hobble to the plate. And after the game he sat alone in the shade of the dugout until some relatives came and took him away.

Few baseball fans of this generation recall the name of Bresnahan. But the thinning old guard remembers him well. For his name belonged to baseball when baseball belonged to the Irish—to McGraw and Arthur Devlin and Turkey Mike Donlan, to Big Ed Walsh and Silk O'Laughlin—to the Duke of Tralee and the Giants.

## Blue Plate Special

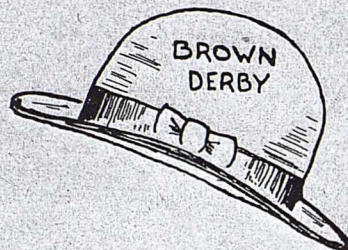
Jack Doyle, the horizontal Irish killer of a few seasons back, has threatened to return to the prize ring, a threat that turned Tom McGovern's complexion from white to apoplectic red. McGovern, who managed Doyle's ill-starred ring exploits in the U. S. A., has threat-

## MISS MARY HALL LEAVES PYOTE FOR OVERSEAS POST

Miss Mary Hall, Senior Red Cross Recreational Worker at the Pyote Base Hospital has left her position here and will report to Washington, D. C., for an immediate overseas assignment it was announced by Red Cross Field Director Clifford Gibbs.

Mr. Gibbs also announced that Miss Nell Woods had taken up duties at Pyote as assistant to the Field Director.

## P. T. Award



This time it's Section M which gets the Brown Derby for having lowest participation mark in Physical Training. It's also the second week in a row that the Medics have garnered the distinctive trophy. Last week The Rattler mistakenly accused Section C of getting the hat but it was Section M all the time. Their mark for the week ending Dec. 16 was 91.74.

ened to crown canvas loving Jack with some Irish confetti should he return to the States. "Faith," says Tom, "he owes me \$30,000—the spalpeen!" . . . The sporting world just learned how Lt. Col. Tommy Hitchcock was killed. He was experimenting with blind dive-bombing above low clouds. Finally he went into a cloud that was lower than he expected and then couldn't come out of his dive. . . . Addition of Judge Landis' name to the scroll of honor at baseball's Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N. Y., came a week after his death. Landis had balked at the honor during his lifetime. . . . St. Thomas, heavyweight fighter and follower of Father Divine, walked up to a cop in New York the other day and gave himself up. "I robbed a man in 1941," he said. "And I'm repenting." Police shipped him to Philadelphia, scene of his "crime" but the Quaker City cops couldn't locate the crime he claimed he committed. "The Lord be praised," said the Saint. . . . Only unanimous choice for the Pro Grid League's All-American team was 33-year-old Don Hutson, Green Bay Packers' pass-catching wizard, who made the team for the 7th time.

## 'Ghost B-29' Brought Back From The Dead By Repair Crewmen

A "ghost B-29" may soon be roaring down the airways. A B-29 brought back from the "great beyond" by the skill of hand and brain of a khaki-clad repair crew.

It's another chapter in the exciting life of the first B-29 that was ever born, the three million dollar Boeing baby that fathered all the rest of the giant super bombers.

Being an experimental ship, that first of the B-29s was condemned to death even before it was born. Its wings were twisted under five thousand pounds of pressure, vital parts of the fuselage were riddled with 20mm cannon shells, the plane was put into the "rack" and a tremendous pull exerted on both ends of the body. The body tore in two, a rough jagged tear, back of the rear turret.

Satisfied with the tests and the knowledge gained the Army left the twisted, torn blasted carcass and labeled it "junk".

Then came the khaki clad boys and their white garbed instructors. They begged, borrowed, and made parts for the ship. Giant presses and mammoth hammers straightened out bent and twisted sections. The boys built a new rear turret section. Every repair job was made on the basis of absolute skyworthiness.

Today you could see the round aluminum patches in the skin, about the size of 20mm cannon shells, but there is nothing else to indicate that the ship is not brand new, just like any of its sisters. The experts claim she could sweep over Yawata or Anshan or Tokyo with the best of them.

Probably a million dollars worth

of information was gained in destroying this Goliath of the air. Surely the soldier boys who put the tortured wreck back together got another million dollars worth of knowledge to be applied in making repairs under combat conditions.

Their pride is in knowing that they've resurrected a real giant, that had been tortured, twisted and beaten to death but who lives today because the "crew" just wouldn't say "die".

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## Resume of 1944 At Pyote Field

(Continued from Page 7)

played the field. Colonel Jones was relieved of command, replaced by Col. C. E. Duncan as Station Commandant. The Flight Line office opened a pool for the entrant who guesses the day Germany folds. Mrs. Cornell Ridley was selected by Section C as its ideal "Chin-Up Girl". Touch football league opened. Officers Club held a shipwreck party.

### OCTOBER

Larry Crosby brought a Hollywood troupe to the field for a mammoth outdoor show. The Service Club celebrated its first birthday with a super dance. The World Series was aired over loudspeakers on the base. With the October 12th issue, The Rattler paid homage to the field's second birthday. Maj. Gen. Uzal G. Ent was critically hurt in a Ft. Worth plane crash. The EM's swimming pool was formally dedicated. A Halloween costume dance was held at the Service Club. The first B-29 crew back from action came to Pyote. The 2AF Superbombers played the NTAC Aggies at Odessa, for the benefit of Pyote GIs. Dobbs' boys won 68-0.

### NOVEMBER

Lt. Col. William G. Hines, Inspector General, rated the field "excellent". Second Air Force put ceiling on ratings. The Service Club held a Sadie Hawkins' dance. "Easy Does It", local farce, played to two packed houses at Theater No. 1. Frank Benkovic, one of the country's outstanding bowlers, put on an exhibition at the EM and Officer alleys. Maj. Gen. R. B. Williams replaced Maj. Gen. Ent as CG of the 2AF. The field heard election results over loudspeakers on the base. 3600 lbs. of turkey made Thanksgiving a GI success. Non-Coms volunteered to do KP for the day. Many Pyote GIs were screened for transfer to the Infantry. The Gents beat the Dusters to win the T-football championship. The Civilian Personnel Cafeteria re-opened. CTP started plans to repair old toys for distribution to needy youngsters. Lt. Col. R. C. Sexton was announced as assistant Station Commandant.

### DECEMBER

Jan Garber's orchestra played two dances at the field. A GI boxing card was presented in Monahans. Miss Bobby Tubbs was selected as Pyote AAF's representative Sun Princess at the Sun Bowl game for New Years. Special Services opened off-duty classes in subjects of popular interest. The WACS inaugurated a basketball team, whipped Midland WACS. M-Sgt. George Villa was recom-

mended for the Hero Medal. Fourteen babies were born within 40 hours at the field hospital. A special Christmas eve broadcast was aired over NBC from the Pyote Service Center. Two Hollywood troupes, featuring Maxie Rosenbloom, presented a 2½ hour show at the Sub-Depot. Numerous holiday parties climaxed an eventful year.

## Rattle Snake Charmer



The honey-haired honey that poses for our Pyote Pin-Up is Cindy Garner, a Selznick starlet. Cindy is just the gal for the New Year edition, because big things are predicted for her come 1945. Don't let her last-name confuse you. It wasn't Cindy, but John Nance Garner that was vice-president . . . doggone it!

### LIST TOP TEN DOMESTIC NEWS STORIES OF YEAR

The top ten news stories of 1944 on the "home front" were selected by newspaper editors. Domestic news dispatches were rated as follows:

1. President Roosevelt re-elected to 4th term.
2. Secretary of State Hull resigns.
3. Montgomery-Ward seizure.
4. Cigarette shortage sweeps na-

tion.

5. Willkie, Landis, and Smith die.
6. Roosevelt, Dewey nominated by Parties.
7. Ringling Circus fire causes over 300 deaths.
8. Cleveland ravaged by worse fire in history.
9. Ammunition ship blast in Port Chicago rocks West Coast.
10. Government takes over railroads as strike threatens.