

Table with bond sales figures: Overall quota \$1,420,000, E bond quota 365,000, Bond Sales \$293,698, Overall Sales \$1,057,805

Join in the world wide Bible reading move. Today, Psalm 121; Tuesday, Philippians 4.

Tokyo Announces Nagumo's Death

By The Associated Press. Tokyo belatedly announced today the death of Vice-Admiral Chihachi Nagumo, "supreme commander of Japanese naval forces," in action on Saipan Island, raising to 74 the number of Japanese admirals listed as lost since May 7.

Ormoc Falls To American Forces

By ELDON OTTENHEIMER. Shell-riddled, bomb-shattered Ormoc on western Leyte in the Philippines is in American hands today with thousands of enemy troops facing annihilation in a powerful American squeeze play, while in China resurgent Chinese pound on the heels of Japanese retreating from strategic Kweichow province.

Counterattacks Beaten In Italy

ROME, Dec. 11 (AP) — Large-scale German counterattacks against the Allied bridgehead west of the Lamone river on the approaches to Faenza have been defeated decisively, Allied headquarters announced today.

Hurt Outlines Seven Things He Covets For Youth

Dr. Huber Hurt gave the seven things he covets for American youth when he spoke to approximately 75 Boy Scout and Cub Scout leaders Sunday. These seven things include a chance to do something on their own, to bear responsibility, to be dealt with as an individual, to have adult friends, to have appreciations, hobbies and skills, to learn to love democracy and to have a touch of the religious in their lives.

Sforza Declares Britain Brought 'Strong Pressure'

ROME, Dec. 11 (AP) — Count Carlo Sforza declared today that Prime Minister Churchill of Britain had brought "strong pressure" on him to accept King Vittorio Emanuele as the reigning sovereign of Italy.

Earthquake Recorded

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (AP) — A "fairly severe" earthquake, in the Solomon Islands, was recorded yesterday on the Fordham University seismograph, the Rev. Joseph J. Lynch, seismologist, announced.

France Cements Relations With Soviet Russia Through De Gaulle

MOSCOW, Dec. 11 (AP) — France's relations with Soviet Russia were cemented today with a new treaty of alliance and mutual assistance negotiated by Gen. De Gaulle as the crowning achievement of his 18-day visit to Moscow.

Jap Capital In Blackout; More Raids Reported

By Associated Press. A series of Superfortress raids on Tokyo over the weekend were reported by the Japanese radio, which said that fires started by incendiary bombs "were immediately put out."

Officials Ponder Russia's Stand On Polish Heads

By FLORA LEWIS. WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (AP) — Diplomats here are wondering if Russia plans to recognize the Soviet-backed Polish committee as a government within a few days.

Bonomi Forms New Italian Government

ROME, Dec. 11 (AP) — Premier Bonomi has formed a new Italian government in which the Communist Palmiro Togliatti and the Christian Democrat Giulio D'Adda will serve as vice-premiers.

Police Investigate Wreck

CITY POLICEMEN answered a wreck call Monday morning at 9:10 a. m. at the intersection of 5th and Scurry streets, when an automobile belonging to E. W. Burleson and one driven by Frank Darby of Dallas collided.

First Army Drives Toward Duren; Russians Strike For Budapest

Second Ukraine Army Is Poised East Of Capital

LONDON, Dec. 11 (AP) — Russian troops drove on Budapest from positions seven miles south of the city today as Moscow advices said great panic swept the Nazis inside the beleaguered Hungarian capital.



OFFENSIVES ON TWO FRONTS IN EUROPE—Arrows indicate major action on the western and eastern fronts (heavy lines) in Europe during the week just ended.

the latter holding the spotlight as the U. S. Third army pushed into German border defenses. On the eastern front the Russians were advancing around Lake Balaton, in Hungary, toward Austria.

Japs Out Of Kweichow

Sixteen Hundred Chinese Advance Toward Antan In New Offensive

LONDON, Dec. 11 (AP) — Sixteen hundred American heavy bombers and 800 fighters—the greatest fleet of four-engine craft ever mounted in aerial warfare—raided western Germany's rail centers today with 6,000 tons of explosives.

CHUNGKING, Dec. 11 (AP) — Japanese forces have been expelled completely from Kweichow province and driven back over the Kwangsi border, the Chinese high command announced tonight.

Howard County Lags In Sixth War Loan Drive

As Howard county lagged along on its Sixth War Loan drive, state headquarters in Dallas notified that Howard county men in the service are doing their part to back the attack with war bonds.

Britain Creates New Fleet For Pacific Warfare

LONDON, Dec. 11 (AP) — A great new British Pacific naval command in addition to the present Far Eastern fleet has been created to join United States sea power in the all-out offensive to bring Japan to its knees, the admiralty disclosed last night.

Corporation Applies For Buying Permit

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 11 (AP) — The securities and exchange commission today set Dec. 19 for a hearing on the Chicago corporation's application for an exemption from provisions of the industries companies act enabling it to purchase from affiliated voting trust certificates for common stock in Gulf Plains Corp., Dallas, Tex.

Acute Food Shortage And Epidemics Threaten Strife-Torn Greek Capital

ATHENS, Dec. 11 (AP) — Acute food shortages and the imminent danger of epidemics threatened this strife-torn capital today as British heavy bombers for the first time in the week-long civil struggle attacked ELAS concentrations around the city.

Yank Veterans Move On Merken In Tough Battle

By EDWARD KENNEDY. PARIS, Dec. 11 (AP) — First army veterans drove within two and a half miles of the Roer river citadel of Duren today and advanced 1 1/2 miles along the Aachen-Cologne superhighway to Merken, 17 miles inside Germany and the deepest point of conquest.

Housing Problems Attract Attention

Housing problems monopolized attention of chamber of commerce directors Monday as they pondered means of relieving an acute shortage of living quarters.

SPAAF Commandant Delivers Gifts

LUBBOCK, Dec. 11 (AP) — Santa Claus in the person of Col. James A. De Marco, South Plains Army Air Field commanding officer, arrived at Temple today with gifts for every man confined to the big army hospital.

STAPLE COTTON AVAILABLE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11 (AP) — The War Production board today made available 10,000,000 yards of staple cotton fabrics for distribution in areas which experienced extreme shortages in the first quarter of 1944.

11 SHOPPING DAYS LEFT. LET'S KEEP AHEAD ON OUR GIFTS. BUY CHRISTMAS STALS.

At the end of 1939 the financial state of Europe in the United States amounted to approximately \$6,698,000,000.

H. P. Wooten & Company

Complete Line of **RED CHAIN** Poultry and Dairy FEEDS

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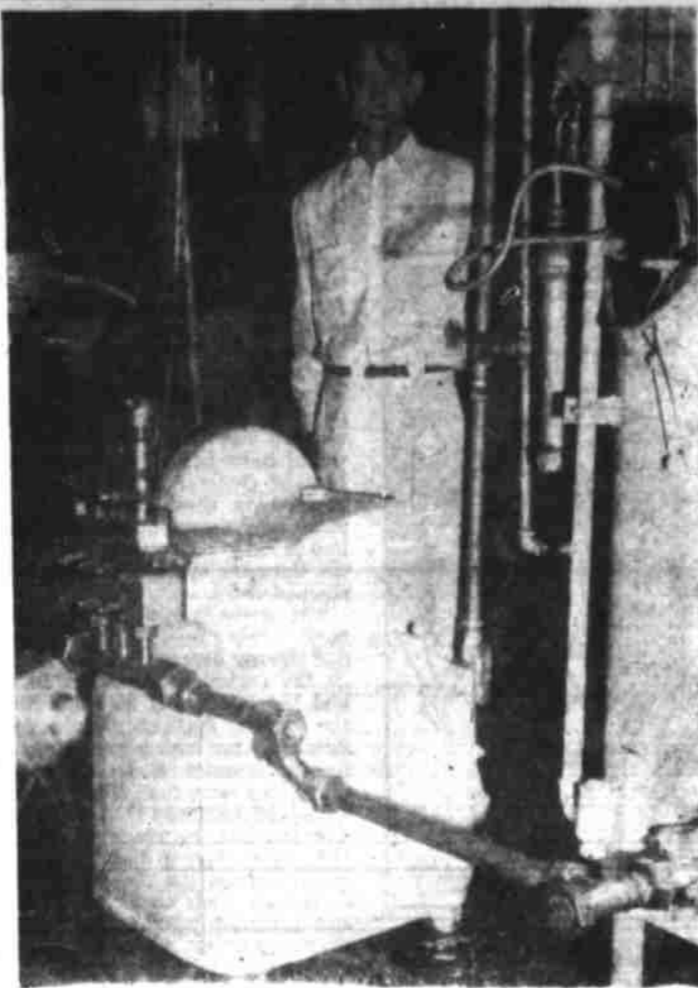
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Homogenizing Machine Used By Snowwhite

To the average person a homogenizing machine could mean anything from an outboard motor to a washing machine. To the person that is familiar with milk processing, a homogenizing machine means a machine that breaks down the fat globules in cream. This makes it possible for the cream to be distributed throughout the milk and therefore not only make milk more healthful, but easier to digest.

The Snowwhite Creamery, located at 404 E. 3rd has such a homogenizing machine built for the purpose of processing milk. At present only coffee cream is run through the homogenizer, but in the future, whole milk will be run through.

Also, milk coming from Snowwhite Creamery is guaranteed to be in its purest form since all machinery used is cleaned several times daily, and no human hand touches it during the bottling and capping routine.



HOMOGENIZING UNIT—F. A. McKaskill, manager of Snowwhite Creamery, watches the company's homogenizing unit in operation. By processing cream in the unit, fat cells are broken down, making the processed cream more digestible. (Kelsey Photo).

Peaceful Paradise

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla., Dec. 11 (AP)—W. B. Hutchinson of Terre Haute, Ind., was in a train wreck last September, but escaped unhurt.

Upset, he came here for a rest, arriving just in time for the October hurricane. Last week two automobiles collided in front of his house and one of them rolled against his bedroom window and caught fire.

Thursday while he was fishing a bomb accidentally dropped from a plane overhead, plunging into the water about 50 feet from him.

The planet Venus is completely enveloped in a layer of clouds.

Ring Supply Is More Plentiful

As time goes by, America's cars are getting older and that is why car owners should insist more than ever to replace a worn out part with a standard brand of parts to insure longer service.

The Harry Lester Auto Supply store at 404 Johnson still maintains a good stock of replacement parts and have been promised better delivery on replacement parts soon after the first of the year.

Harry Lester's now has the best stock of Perfect Circle piston rings that it has had since the beginning of the war. They advise that car owners tell their repairman to install a set of Perfect Circle rings in their cars the next time piston rings are needed.

All types of greasing equipment and air compressors are being received at the present time at Harry Lester's.

The shop is equipped to do any type of machine work for any type of motor. Lester's is the distributor for Thompson Products, Perfect Circle piston rings, Auto-Lite and Delco-Remy ignition, Auto-Lite and A.C. spark plugs, Carter Carburetors, A.C. fuel pumps, Dupont paints and polishes, New Departure and Hyatt ball bearings, and Timken roller bearings.

Harry Lester's can make an old car both look and run like a new one.

The year's longest day lasts about 15 hours; the shortest, nine and a half.



Have Your Eyes Checked Regularly

DR. GEORGE L. WILKE
 —OPTOMETRIST—
 106 W. 3rd Phone 1405

Perfect Vision Is Rare, Simple Tests Reveal

Few persons have perfect vision. The eye is so delicate an instrument that the slightest irregularity in its structure produces serious defects of vision. Many of these errors may be corrected by wearing glasses.

To find out just what lenses your eyes require, visit Dr. George L. Wilke, optometrist, and let him test your eyes. He asks you to read lines of letters of various sizes from a chart and to describe various pictures and combinations of lines that he shows you; he examines the retina itself by the aid of a strong light and a magnifying glass. Thus he finds out not only how far your vision differs from the normal but also the cause of the trouble. In some cases the muscles which converge the eyes are weak; the eyes themselves may be nearsighted; they may be farsighted; they may be so shaped as to give distorted images; very frequently the two eyes differ. It is comparatively easy to find out how far the vision is from "20-20" or normal, but much skill and experience are required to determine the exact nature of the defect. That is why it is well worth the fee to have the eyes properly tested by a specialist like Dr. Wilke.

Glasses bought of an itinerant peddler or made after inadequate examination may ruin the sight.

Dr. Wilke writes a prescription for a lens for each eye, then grinds, from plain lenses of specially prepared optical glass, lenses with the prescribed curves. Concave lenses are used to correct short sight, convex lenses for far sight; prisms, where the eyes turn in or out too much; and endless combinations and modifications of these forms for complicated conditions.

He then fits the ground and polished lenses into frames, adjusting each lens so that its center point in front of the pupil, and tilting it to give just the right angle for reading or distant vision.

Your eyesight is precious and should be taken care of by visiting Dr. Wilke at 106 W. 3rd street for an eye examination, glass fitting or to have your lenses duplicated.

Albama has a population of slightly more than a million.

Recent rains have stimulated the market strongly, bringing better prices in all types and classes. Feeder prices have also been strengthened and during the last week has shown up much better. Feeder calves and yearlings now run 8.00 to 11.50.

The hog and pig market is running strong also. A better supply is running through the ring this year with form 30 to 50 head going on the auctioneer's block each week. Top Ft. Worth prices of 14.55 are being paid for hogs. The pig market here is hampered by the shortage, but a fair volume of hogs has been seen.

Buyers come from a wide area, ranging from as far east as Ft. Worth, Lamesa, Midland and

other cities in this vicinity, in all directions, depend upon the local market for their source. The demand is far greater than the supply.

Sellers also have a wide starting place with cattle being brought from as far away as Alpine and Marfa in the Big Ben country.

Livestock Sale Is Making Record

Attracting buyers and sellers from a wide area, as well as furnishing most of the Big Spring section of Texas with meat, the Big Spring Livestock Commission on Northeast Second street is doing a record run of business this year.

Established here some seven years ago the auction ring of the commission company has been running through the best grades of cattle for local buyers ever since. A. L. Cooper is owner and manager, and is a native West Texan who has been a cattleman all his life.

Cooper was born in Tulsa, Texas and was raised there. He moved from there to Dalhart where he resided until coming to Big Spring in the spring of 1938. His entire life has been spent on the range and from his work Cooper has garnered a thorough knowledge of cows. As Cooper said, "I have been in the cow business all my life, and that is all I know."

E. A. Tennis is serving in his capacity as auctioneer for the seventh year also, being a charter member of the staff there. Tennis is well known in this area as an expert member of his "fast-tongued" profession.

The company has been in business through these years with an auction every Wednesday. The only regular session missed under the rhythmic sing-song of the auctioneer was when Christmas fell on Wednesday a few years back, and the auction was canceled. With this exception there has been no other gap in regular weekly work.

Other cities in this vicinity, in all directions, depend upon the local market for their source. The demand is far greater than the supply.

Sellers also have a wide starting place with cattle being brought from as far away as Alpine and Marfa in the Big Ben country.

Officer Promotions Named At AAF Here

Promotions of the following officers at the Big Spring Bombardier School have been announced by Col. Ralph C. Rockwood:

1st Lt. to Capt., Donald J. Juster, St. Albans, N. Y., bombardier instructor; Edmund G. Parker, New Orleans, La., pilot; Billie H. Petree, Jacksonville, Fla., pilot.

Second Lieutenant to first lieutenant: Anthony R. Benedetto, Wakefield, Mass., aircraft engineering officer; Lawrence Brody, Springfield Gardens, N. Y., ground school instructor; Donald L. McAdams, Dows, Iowa, George A. Patterson, Jr., So. Boston, Mass., Alwood H. Steinmetz, Watertown, S. D., Robert J. Fairchild, Denver, Colo., Joun C. Hensley, Rock Island, Ill., Jesse M. Peck, Baltimore, Md., bombardier instructors.

In a single prewar year, the United States imported more than three million pounds of paprika from Hungary.

Odds He Will Show

DENVER, Dec. 11 (AP)—Corr. Richard H. Jacobs couldn't remember his fiancée's street address in requesting a Christmas furlough to marry her.

He found the address—and then neglected to name the city.

His buddies at Buckley Field are getting up a book on him. Present odds are 10 to 1 that he'll forget the ring.

H. M. Rowe Garage

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 BIG SPRING, TEXAS

WAR TIME CARE OF YOUR CAR

The thoughtful car owner realizes that EVERYTHING he uses in his car—gasoline, oil, grease, etc.—must be carefully selected with one thought uppermost — to get the BEST and the BEST only because the car he now owns will have to last for quite some time.

Our COSDEN PRODUCTS are refined according to the highest American standards . . . we are NOT sacrificing quality during the present emergency . . . we want your business now, after the war . . . in fact ALL the time.

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Harper's Bazaar & Vogue say:

"Light up your fingertips and lips with Revlon"

Mrs. Ina McGowan has a complete selection of Revlon polish and lipsticks including the "Four Roses" shades: Hot-house Rose, Mrs. Miniver's Rose, Rosy Future & Bright Forecast. Also, the newest: Pink Lightening. For your facial care try Contour cosmetics.

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Tractor mounted, hydraulic control, easily detached and embody all the Ferguson System operational features.

Exceptionally well adapted for construction or maintenance.

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We maintain a general repair service for ALL makes of Tractors, Trucks & Power Units, with FACTORY TRAINED Mechanics. We also do Electric and Oxy-Acetylene Welding.
 Lamesa Highway Phone 1471 Big Spring

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This market belongs to the livestock industry of West Texas . . . it is not our auction . . . it is YOURS.

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Our expertly processed Cotton Seed Products will pay "dividends" on their livestock investments. Let us fulfill your feeding requirements.

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You Can Help The War Effort

by gathering all available scrap iron, brass, copper and other metals immediately. We pay best market prices for all types of metals.

Big Spring Iron & Metal Co.

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DRINK MORE Dairyland PASTEURIZED MILK

babies love it—You'll like it

Having Trouble With Your Car?

LET
 JOHNSON GARAGE
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10 miles east of town, service, repair and give it an excellent "tune up" job.

INSURANCE, ALL KINDS

Sympathy helps, but it takes cash to pay bills when disaster strikes. We are large enough to care for your every need. We are small enough to appreciate you. We are building our business on service. Allow us to serve you.

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They'll last longer and give you better service.

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Editorial - =

Praise For Post Office

"Pageant," a new publication, lauds the post office department for a good job in its latest issue.

Few of us have any conception of the complexities of the postal system, and consequently lack appreciation for the remarkable job of dispatching and delivering mail.

Once in offices, the mail must again be worked quickly, boxed or placed in the hands of carriers.

We Are Just Beginning

As farmers hasten to finish harvesting their 1944 crops, they might well heed the words of Dr. H. H. Bennett, chief of the department of agriculture.

Continued success in Hungary might provide the Russians with the opportunity to launch an offensive against the Vistula line and so hasten its withdrawal.

Washington

Civil Air Patrol Aids War Effort

By JACK STINNETT WASHINGTON—The Civil Air Patrol this month is starting its fourth year, and pardon me if I go a little gushy.

Starting three years ago with a little handful of private plane pilots and men and women who

The Youngsters Too?

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (AP)—Two-year-old Linda Lanham, who has a keen ear for family conversations, had mom and pop in mind when she came up with a tough request for Santa Claus.

"And what do you want for Christmas?" said a department store Santa, beaming at Linda.

"Cigarettes," was the solemn answer.

TOM ROSSON Public Accountant Income Tax Service 208 Petroleum Bldg. Phone 1233

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EAT AT THE CLUB CAFE "We Never Close" Dewey Collum, Prop.

Good Food and Good Service, Makes This Place So Popular. TWINS CAFE Lonnie and Leonard Coker 206 W. 3rd St.

The War Today

by Dewitt Mackenzie Associated Press War Analyst

One of the hot spots to watch is that great Russian drive through the heart of Hungary, because it may develop shortly into one of the decisive engagements of the war and alter the complexion of the conflict in eastern Europe.

Naturally in appraising the value of this offensive, or any Allied offensive, we regard it from the standpoint of its value to the united effort to administer the coup de grace to Germany as quickly as possible.

We must remember that Hungary is one of the most important strategic centers in all Europe. The expansive Danubian basin through the centuries has been one of the main routes of invasion to Austria and central Europe—and that means to Germany.

Budapest is more than half surrounded by Red forces which are close to the outskirts. The Nazi controlled government has fled to Austria. On the north the Muscovites have smashed up to the neighboring Czechoslovakian border, and are heading along the valley of the Danube towards Vienna.

It long has provided Europe's military leaders with material for strategic speculation, since it's an obvious site for major conflict. It's a position which one would expect the Germans to defend to the utmost of their strength and we therefore are likely to see a great battle develop there.

A break-through into Austria would be a catastrophe for Hitler, especially since a considerable portion of the Austrian population is said to be ready to revolt against him.

Continued success in Hungary might provide the Russians with the opportunity to launch an offensive against the Vistula line and so hasten its withdrawal. That possibility is strengthened by the fact that this is the time of year when the Vistula and other rivers of eastern Europe freeze and provide ice strong enough to support military crossings.

realize the tremendous possibilities of our agriculture here.

United States

United States with an air umbrella for searches for lost planes, disaster emergencies, and a dozen other things where rapid transportation or observation is vital.

It isn't generally known, but CAP either owns, operates or manages 215 airports in 31 states. It actually has constructed 81, and through the labor or financial help of its members has managed to keep open 403 other fields that would have been abandoned because of the decline in civilian flying.

A lot of credit for all this must go to Col. Earle L. Johnson, CAP's national commander, who never has failed to find new usefulness for his organization. If postwar aviation gets off to a flying start, the aircraft manufacturers will have to thank CAP for a lot of it.

Johnson says "the postwar development of private flying has been advanced months, perhaps even years, by keeping hometown airports open. Without CAP, it would have been necessary to ground private flying altogether. Of the nearly 1,600 airports in the country now open to private flying, fully a third would have been abandoned had it not been for CAP help and patronage."

If you like celebrating birthdays, put three candles on the cake for the Civil Air Patrol. No civilian organization mothered by this global war has even some of the age more quickly.

Crossword Puzzle ACROSS 1. Resist 2. Naucalilte ornament 3. Surface mine 4. Rubbed out 5. Cylindrical 16. Male abey 17. Be still 18. At home 19. Impate 20. Symbol for tellurium 21. Principal 22. Head covering 23. Mark of a wound 27. After treat' Scotch 28. Novel 29. Inhabitant of suffix 31. Writer of certain poetry 32. Articles of furniture 37. Wreath bearing a knight's crest 38. Malaga 39. Drinking vessel 41. Mentions a suit a second time at bridge 44. Antique 45. Uninteresting 47. English river 48. Not so much 50. Above: poetic 51. Dry 54. Haulage 57. Nagas' prefix 58. East Indian 59. Flower plant 60. Title of Mohammed 61. Long abusive speech 62. Public storehouses 64. Calls forth 65. Choos 66. Drains DOWN 1. Most favorable 2. Full 3. Equality 4. Sea 5. Hardens 6. Upright 7. Outer boundary of a plane figure 8. Asiatic sonad 9. Domesticates 10. Plural ending 11. Say again or differently 12. Sticks 13. Was a candidate 14. Encroachments 15. Strike together 16. Plutier 17. Ancestral 18. Sleigh 19. One who rules by fear 20. Child's napkins 21. Exploding vectors 22. Bales 23. One who ridicules 24. Professions 25. Still 26. Spanish view 27. Pinned charges 28. Malayayan antelope 29. Fish sauce 30. Field under y pressure 31. New Zealand tree 32. Indian mulberry

The Timid Soul



Hal Boyle: Champion Sign Painter Of War In Europe Crowned; 35,000 Is His Mark

By HAL BOYLE IN GERMANY, Dec. 4 (Delayed AP)—The champion army signpainter T-4 Liberto Vilarino of Los Angeles, Calif., a former architect, who has painted 35,000 signs since landing in France, his nearest rival slumped out 15,000, but Vilarino scoffed: "I made 17,000 in Normandy alone and once turned out 3,700 in one day."

He used red, white and black paint, either free hand or stencil, for signs saying: "Danger! Mines," "Supply Route," "Booby Traps!" "Cleared to Hedges," "Road and Shoulders Cleared," and "Road Cleared Only," etc. His buddies vote as their favorite sign his picture of a shapely female figure, captioned "Slow Curves." They think that one if officially approved, would slow down traffic and cut down on accidents.

Hollywood

MacArthur Makes History—And Movie

By ROBBIN COONS HOLLYWOOD — The folks at RKO are holding their collective breath and keeping their fingers crossed as they shoot "The Invisible Army," story of Filipino and American guerrilla resistance at the Jap occupation.

Japan from the skies. The B-29, says the picture, is America's "Shinto." A woman visitor on the set of "The Big Sleep" told Humphrey Bogart he was her "ambivalent star." This sent Bogey, and his press-agent, scurrying for the dictionary. Me, too, with this result: "adj. Psychology. Experiencing love and hatred at the same time for the same person, especially for a mother-in-law."

Martin - Howard

Soil Conservation District News

Deep tanks with relatively small surface areas characterize the type of tanks constructed this year by livestock men in the Martin-Howard - Soil Conservation District. In constructing tanks of this type evaporation losses are minimized. Soil Conservation Service technicians point out that approximately six feet of water escapes from surface tanks annually by evaporation alone.

From a survey made by the Soil Conservation office in Big Spring the following figures indicate the average dimensions of twenty tanks designed by the Service and constructed by district co-operators: average storage capacity, 1.8 acre feet or 586,800 gallons of water; average depth of tanks, 13 feet; average cubic yardage in dams, 2380.

The Big Spring Herald

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Today And Tomorrow The Army In Europe

By WALTER LIPPMANN

Measured in terms of ground gained, the speed with which it was gained, and of enemy troops put permanently out of action, the campaign across France, Belgium, and Luxembourg is the greatest allied victory that it might prove to be the decisive battle of western Europe. And indeed it would have been if the dash and fury of General Bradley's armies could have been sustained. For when they halted at the Siegfried line in early September, it was not the Germans in front of them who stopped them.

made it possible for so large an army to live, to work, and to fight its way forward so far from home. Perhaps the observation of a Frechman will help the reader to imagine the operation. My friend had seen many armies in many campaigns, had seen the Germans enter France in 1940, had lived under the Germans for four years, and had seen the American army as it moved through France last summer. "You won't misunderstand me," he said, "when I say that your Americans do not look and act like soldiers as we Europeans expect soldiers to look and act." I asked him what they did look like. "They looked," he said, "like armed working men in a gentle industrial plant on wheels rolling along and knocking down and blasting away and running over whatever got in their way. I felt as if the Americans were digging the Panama Canal right through the German army."

To deliver it in France the Allies had to defeat the German navy and the German air force and to break the Atlantic wall. To deliver our power in Germany we have had during the travail of this autumn to make France, which we had deliberately made unusable to the German army, usable again for our army. For in order to defeat the Germans in France we bombed, bombarded and sabotaged everything an army needs if it is to move and fight. Then, having defeated the Germans in France, we had to turn around and repair the very facilities we had done our best to wreck, plus those which the Germans destroyed. Until September four nations, the British, the French, the Americans and the Germans, did their utmost best to make France a country in which an army could not move and could not fight. Since September the work has been done of making France a country through which an allied army could move to invade what was once the greatest military power on earth, what is still a country so profoundly militarized that it makes up in toughness and cunning the battle experience for its dwindling man power and material resources.

The forces in front of them were much weaker than the forces they had already defeated in Normandy, in the region between the Seine and the Loire, and at Mons near the border between France and Belgium. Our armies were stopped on the frontier of Germany because they were then five hundred miles—by railroads that had been wrecked and by roads on which the main bridges had been destroyed—from the sources of fuel to operate their tanks and trucks and armored vehicles, and from their supplies of ammunition. They were like a man who has to stop running not because of what is in front of him but because he is winded and has to catch his breath. Naturally, this pause gave the Germans as well a chance to catch their breath, that is to say to man their western defenses, to dig in, to lay low minefields and barbed wire, to recruit new divisions, to turn service troops into combat troops, and to replace a considerable part of the equipment which they had lost in France.

Because their strategical calculation was correct, the German high command were able, in spite of all their losses, to prevent a decision and to prolong the war. They had denied the Allies the use of the great ports of France, had held on to the ports to the bitter end and had demoralized them before surrendering them. The railroads, especially those west of Paris, which is the hub of the French transportation system, had been paralyzed by the Allies; the Germans in their retreat made the damage worse, and destroyed or carried off with them a large part of the French rolling stock and the locomotives. They knew that without ports and railroads no modern army can wage offensive war at a long distance from its base of supplies. During the great German retreat in August and September the Allies had only the beaches on which to land supplies and only motor trucks and airplanes to move them. They had only begun to get the use of Cherbourg and the smaller harbors of Normandy and northern Brittany, and they were just beginning to be able to run railway trains from these ports to the region of Paris. What could then be landed in France and moved to the front was not enough to enable the armies to keep moving and to invade Germany.

The purpose of the work was to bring up to the front against the enemy the military power which the people of the United States have been creating since 1940. The issue between the Germans and ourselves has been whether we could deliver on the battlefield the military power which we are able to generate in the United States. Last summer we proved that we could deliver it in France. Since the summer campaign the task of the army has been to prove that we could deliver our power inside of Germany.

Having been over the line of supply from Cherbourg to the front, and having seen how it was wreck and what incredible labor and ingenuity the engineers, the transportation and the signal corps, the ordnance and quartermaster, have put in to make it workable, I cannot in my layman's way grasp how so much was done to supply the armies. I cannot begin to imagine how more might have been done in the critical days of September. To have got enough ashore over those treacherous beaches to knock out a German army of a million men was a feat that is surely unparalleled in the history of war; to suppose that this miracle could have been topped immediately by a second miracle, which was to be able also to invade Germany without a really good port to land supplies and without a railway to carry them, is, so it seems to me, to suppose the incredible and the impossible.

As a matter of fact, it took only two months after the campaign of France to organize the present campaign for western Germany. I wish I had the power to describe, but I have not, the work that has been done by Americans in Europe this autumn. Yet we must try to imagine it. If for no other reason we must try in order that we at home do not become separated by too great a lack of understanding from these two millions and more of our bravest and best.

For these men need and they are entitled to have not only what we can produce and send them, and not only their prayers for their safety and their triumph, but also a constant realization of what in fact they are doing. It is natural enough, no doubt, that we should think of war in terms of the ground gained and of the price paid for it in blood. But in fact this war is a prodigious labor of man working forward against the obstacles of nature and of the enemy. In a sense which at first it is hard for a civilian to appreciate, the successes announced in the communiques and the cost announced in the casualty lists are to the army itself the results and consequences of the grinding task of doing innumerable jobs and of fitting them together correctly in order to move and to use the tremendous equipment of offensive war.

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