

83rd SPEARHEAD

Vol. 1 / No 8

Somewhere in France

October 2, 1944

RED CROSS GIRLS GIVE OUT COFFEE, SINKERS "STARDUST"

"Spearhead" pays a visit

Not to be outdone by our many readers getting coffee and doughnuts from the two dozen pretty maidens here last week, we decided to take a quick run down to the 330th to see for ourselves what the reaction of the starved male would be at the sight of a few of the fairer sex, American style.

So, with quivering heart, we set out in our old Renault, and finally arrived at the 330th's Service Company. There in a pine grove we saw what was really something. Our friend who came along, said, "Look they move. Yes, and they breathe, too". We reassured him that everything was all right. So we approached a little hesitantly and looked up over the tail gate of one of the rolling kitchens to see inside two real, honest to goodness females. Our friend, by this time, had lost his voice and his eyes fairly bulged out of his head. We understood, though, for our mouths were suddenly very dry. No one could say—a word.

Being good stalwart Yankees, we were somewhat shocked out of our stupor by the sound of a voice unmistakably from the southland. We looked up and from around the truck came a young lady wearing a broad grin and a field jacket covered with insignias from practically every outfit on this side of the ocean. She said her name was Louise, so we told her ours. Then she asked if we'd like to have a doughnut. We did, so we got one right off the stove, all sugared and hot. We were glad of this break, because it kind of gave us a chance to think. Also a little time to look.

By this time our friend had recovered himself and suddenly got in the groove. So he asked Louise

(Cont. on page 4)

GILBERT BY CPL. N. S. FIRFIRES



THE WAR IN BRIEF

MONDAY — Airborne forces near Arnhem battled fiercely — Supplies held up by heavy German guns — American First Army continued advance beyond Aachen — American shells landed 18 miles from German industrial city of Cologne — Russian and Rumanian forces liberated 1600 towns in two days — Nazi forces cut off in Estonia. — In Italy, American Fifth and British Eighth Armies on threshold to Northern Italy — In Phillipines, American airpower for-

ced Jap fleet to move from anchorage near Manila. **TUESDAY** — German radio admitted airborne troops putting up heavy resistance although cut off. Some British reinforcements crossed Rhine and linked up with airborne units. — German troops in Latvia and Estonia being cut up by Russian infantry and tank units — Circle tightened around Riga. In south Red forces less than ten miles from capital — Despite stiffer German resistance in Italy, American troops pushed to

(Cont. on page 2)

24 American girls visit 83rd division

American girls — twenty-four of them — not motion pictures nor reasonable facsimiles but real, live, walking, talking feminine representatives of the U. S. A., arrived at 83rd Division Headquarters last week and spent five days with various elements of the division.

The girls are all members of a Red Cross doughnut baking team which visits different American fighting units, serving coffee and doughnuts and "shooting the breeze" with the boys in good old American style.

Eight clubmobiles containing three girls each rolled into division headquarters Tuesday morning and later on in the day were dispatched to various elements of the 83rd to set up their kitchens and bake 50,000 doughnuts for G. I. distribution. In addition to the "sinkers", some 25,000 cups of coffee were brewed and served during the week but all this was merely incidental to the chance of being able to see and talk with the feminine pulchritude. As one GI put it, "We speak the same language."

Clad in Red Cross field garb and having a remarkable talent for making the GI's feel right at home, the girls passed out doughnuts and piping hot coffee from their mobile vans amid the strains of "Stardust" and other popular American tunes which came from a portable juke box installed in each vehicle. The question chiefly put to the girls was, "Where Are you from?" and, in more than one instance, men renewed home town acquaintanceships.

In charge of the group was Vicki Atkinson from Billings, Montana, who fell heir to the problems of finding transportation for eight barrels of flour, five hundred pounds

(Cont. on page 4)

83rd Spearhead

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THE COLD SHOULDER

No more kisses. No more flowers. No more champagne. Sounds kind of final, doesn't it? Pretty gloomy? Well, perhaps. But it's not that bad.

When you landed in France, you were something of a conquering hero. You were one of the fair haired boys from across the sea come to liberate an oppressed people. You got a big welcome. Nothing was too good for you. Plenty of wine. Champagne flowed.

But... here's something to think about. One of these fine days you're going to wake up right in Jerry's front yard. And he's not going to like it. Not by a damn sight. That goes for the guy running around in civvies as well as for the fellow in uniform.

The Germans don't think you're a liberator. Quite the contrary. You are, to him, one of the enemy. You're one of those "Amerikaners" who represents everything he's been trying to defeat. You're one of those guys who's putting a crimp in his glorious plans for World domination.

Do you think he's going to throw flowers in front of your jeep, and open up the best stuff in his cellar? Not on your life! You're going to get a nice cold shoulder.

And here's something else to remember. Things are getting tough for Jerry. It's beginning to sink in. He's getting punchy. He's sagging at the ropes, and he can't last. But he's still as slippery customer and you want to remember it. Treat them all with suspicion, soldier and civilian alike. Don't get chummy with the civilians.

Before long, maybe we'll all get home where, as one GI put it, "We can walk in the garden and drink cold beer from the bottle and kiss somebody we know." That's worth a cold shoulder any day, isn't it?

SPEARHEAD The war in brief

(Cont. from page 1)

Starting with the current issue of The SPEARHEAD, two GI's join the growing staff of the 83rd SPEARHEAD. One is Corp. H. S. Firfires of the 308th Engineer Battalion and the other Pvt. Maurice (MIKE) Renek of the 83rd Signal Company.

Firfires, author of "Gilbert", that poor beknighted individual who is the 83rd's own Sad Sack, has been with the division since its early days back in the States. Starting out in the Artillery he gradually worked his way up to Division Headquarters and from there to the Engineers.

No burly chap with hairy ears, as we like to think of Engineers, Firfires is quiet, soft spoken and modest. Sporting a slight mustache on his upper lip, he smokes a pipe and dreams and talks of the days when he can get back to the "wide open spaces" and resume his life's work of painting and drawing. In the meantime, he does portrait sketches and cartoons of "Gilbert" while not getting buried under the blue prints in the Assistant Division Engineers office.

Corp. Firfires comes from Santa Maria, California, studied art out there and prefers painting pastoral scenes to building bridges and roads. He admits "Gilbert" isn't a bad sort of fellow, almost feels sorry for him in kindly sort of way. His greatest ambition is to see "Gilbert" wearing the Victory ribbon and bound for the States on board a good American ship.

Pvt. Renek is a newcomer to the ranks of journalism in the division, but is an oldtimer at the business one surmises from his conversation on the subject.

Hanging out his shingle only recently in the Tel. and Tel. Section of the 83rd Signal Company at Division Headquarters, Renek caused something of a bombshell when he first authored a dainty sheet for the GI's in the company called "The Sump Hole".

Exhibiting the insatiable curiosity of a born newsman (questions come a mile a minute) Renek has all the earmarks of a newsman in the making. Only 19 years old, a product of Brooklyn itself, and of Public school Number so-and-so, Renek worked for the New York

(Cont. on page 4)

point 25 miles from Bologne — B-29 bombers attacked Jap steel mills in Manchuria-Marines in Palau Islands made slow, steady progress.

WEDNESDAY — Allied headquarters announced units around Arnhem withdrew south side of Rhine. Desperate German counter attacks in corridor between Eindhoven and Nijmegen beaten off — Whole eastern flank of salient strengthened — Canadian troops reached outskirts of Calais — Heavy bombers of Allied airforce pounded German troops around city — American Seventh Army troops crossed Moselle River in strength near Epinal. Forced new salient to the east — Russians described battlefields in Estonia and Latvia as "hugh graveyards for Germans." — Rhineland recon photos show 2/3 of naval base of Kiel destroyed. — B-29's which raided Manchuria returned without losses. U. S., O. W. I. announced it would take 1-1/2 to 2 years to defeat Japs after German collapse.

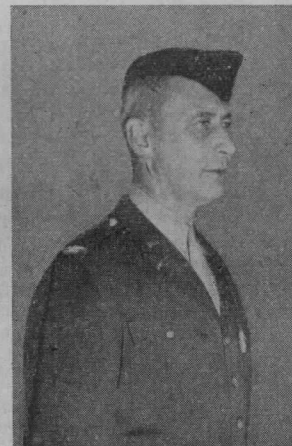
THURSDAY — Of 8000 British airborne forces landed near Arnhem, only 2,000 withdrew through German lines. 1,200 wounded left behind in care of medical aid men... Russians within sight of Riga. Bombers blasted port installations... German radio said Red Army crossed Hungarian border. — Not confirmed in Moscow... Marshal Tito said partisans reached Hungary-Yugoslavia border... Churchill set German casualties at 400,000 since D Day... Half million Nazis now in prison camps... Large portion of British fleet now in Indian Ocean operating against Japs... In Italy, Fifth Army now only 20 miles from Bologne. British Eighth Army established 10 mile bridgehead across Rubicon... In Philippines, Jap airfields hammered by airmen.

FRIDAY — German commander at Calais asked for armistice to discuss terms with Canadian forces... Latter demanded unconditional surrender. No word on decision yet released. Citadel of Calais fell yesterday... Allied troops continue gains in Belfort Gap area... German counter-attacks reported east of Nancy... Churchill announced Allies now have two to three million troops in Europe. 40 per cent are British. U. S. losses about 145,000 compared to 90,000 British-

(Cont. on page 4)

KNOW YOUR LEADERS

Wearer of the Legion of Merit for meritorious conduct in performance of outstanding service with the War Department General Staff as Chief of the European-North African Section, Operations Division, Brigadier General Claude B. Ferenbaugh came to the 83rd Inf. Div. in February, 1944, as Assistant Division Commander. He had previously been G-3 of the Second Corps during the African campaign.



Signal Corps Photo

A graduate of the United States Military Academy, General Ferenbaugh received his commission in November, 1918, and served with the 21st Infantry at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, from 1922 to 1925. He later went to the Philippines with the 57th Infantry and remained there from 1937 to 1939. In 1936 he graduated from the Command and General Staff School at Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas, and in 1940 from the Army War College.

General Ferenbaugh has been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action and is also the wearer of the Bronze Star, both received during the present campaign. His home is in Penn Yan, New York.

DO YOUR XMAS MAILING EARLY

BLONDIE

by CHIC YOUNG



CNS REPRODUCED BY CPL. N.S. FIRFIRES

DOWN THE DRAIN

The next time you see a GI from a new outfit, ask him how everything is back at the beach. You'll be surprised at the answers you get.

Isn't it amazing how it always rains everytime we go somewhere.

We wonder just how many GI's got down to Club 63 back in Vendome. It didn't look like much to us from the outside. But they say the floor show was pretty good. Almost a Minsky nightmare.

Someday someone is going to put on a movie without having the lights go out.

The Renault sedan you see floating about the countryside marked "83X—PRO" belongs to the Public Relations Office at Division Head quarters. Somehow, someone always wants to get us mixed up with the medics.

Not only is Paris "on limits", but everyone can wear a field uniform there. Guess the Battle of the Sexes is still going on.

A Division Hq Co. officer carried an electric heater all across France before he found a place he could use it. And then his heater blew out the lights.

We hear there's a new K-Ration called K-8. They ought to call it K-9 then they'd have something. Woof, woof!

We understand the WACs have a nice new winter number, soft wool, tan in color, and accentuated shoulders. It's ideal for teas and evening wear. Swish. Let's go home, boys.

The latest decoration to be added to the fast growing list is a piece of red flannel worn on the seat of the pants. This decoration is won by those who make five or more successful sorties to the 1st sergeants tent.

Theme song seldom heard anymore, "Roll Me Over and Do It Again".

We wonder if Turkey will be in the war by Thanksgiving.

Question of the Week: What do they do with Bottle Fatigue cases?

Say, who writes this column, anyway?

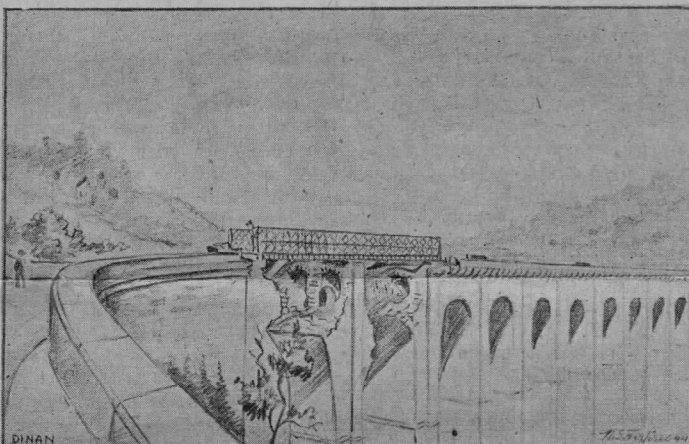
"Dirty" engineers proud of their history - Carry ball when going rough - Perform many duties

With three battle streamers from the last war securely tacked on to their standard, the 308th Engineer Battalion has been more than once the unsung heroes of many battles in this war. They may be dirty engineers with hairy ears, as the song goes, but when the chips are down and the going gets rough, these boys of the Bulldozer, Jack hammer and saw keep on with their often back breaking, heart-breaking work.

The 308th Engineers was formed with the 83rd Infantry Division in the 1st war back at Camp Sherman, Ohio, from men mostly from Ohio. They came overseas with the division and when it was split up in France, the Regiment, as it was in those days, was assigned to the SOS

and our boys, who removed mines built bridges, and buried hundreds of dead horses and cows. There's was and is the kind of work that goes on at all hours of the day and night regardless of the situation.

At Saint-Malo and Dinard they prepared demolitions to blast Jerry blockhouses, removed mines and booby traps. They built bridges, the biggest and best of all being the 40 ton Bailey Bridge at Dinan which still stands today as the only means of transportation north into the city. At Beaugency it was they who solved the problem of transporting vehicles, supplies and prisoners across the Loire by building and operating several ferries and sufficiently repairing the bidge in time for foot traffic.



to build barracks. A month later the outfit was reassigned to the Third Corps and participated in the Aisne-Marne, Oise-Aisne and Meuse-Argonne battles. From the end of the war until it returned to the States in May 1919, the 308th was a part of the Army of Occupation. During this time it built the first floating bridge across the Rhine River, made from captured German materials in the vicinity of Cologne.

As with any outfit with a history there are always a number of stories which become famous as the years go on. Perhaps of all connected with the 308th, there is one outstanding which is spoken of with pride. It seems that General Pershing paid a visit to the Third corps and the commander desired to put on a review for him. He told the General he had no troops for the review but his "dirty engineers", and the 308th fresh from the line, and with no time to spruce up, passed in review before General Pershing dressed in their dirty, unwashed fatigues.

Of the present campaign the 308th needs no mention for its many deeds. In the hedgerows of Normandy it was they who blew the hedgerows for the tanks, who strung barbed wire between Jerry

Yes, theirs is a dirty job and a back-breaking job but the engineer is proud of it for he knows that the artillery planes need the air strips he builds, that the GI's need the water he pumps and purifies that trucks with men and supplies cannot roll without his roads, and that when that extra pound of push is needed to go over the hump he'll be at the side of the doughboy fighting as a doughboy right with him to the end.

Snipes with 57 AT Gun

The first story we've heard on sniping with a 57 AT gun came to our attention the other day. It seems that there was a well-camouflaged 57 sitting by the side of the road. The gunner happened to look out to the front and saw a Jerry patrol approaching blissfully unaware of the gun. Our friend, as the story goes, got slightly excited and banged away with said 57. The results were a direct hit on one Jerry (he was killed) and the wounding of another. The other Jerries dropped their weapons and fled in panic.

"The Sump Hole"

BY Pvt. MAURICE RENEK.

Einstein's theory (the civilian's field manual) when put into simple terms means that time goes fast when your kissing a beautiful bundle of charm... but just sit down on a hot stove for a split second. You think you've been there for hours.

We don't know about Einstein, but the longest time anyone can spend is running a short hundred yards to the latrine.

Wanted: One or two men with fine musical talent to supply melody to jump number called "Buckin for the Blue Suit"... a sure fire juke box hit for the post-war cats.

They call the romantic French language a nasal lingo. But after going cross eyed and winding up with a permanent crick in the neck looking at those voluptuous French maidens, we can say that a lot of talk is not done through the nose.

She had the dollar sign look in her eyes, but when he went to cash in on it, she rung up "no sale."

Letter to an infantryman who is always too busy fighting to pose for newsreels. The most galmorous thing he sees is a pair of dry socks and the only thing he hugs is the ground.

"Dear Charlie:

You must be having a wonderful time kissing and hugging those French girls. Why do you let them do that to you? Haven't you got no pride no more? Or don't you love me no more? Seeing that you are having such a wonderful time of this war, I started to go out with your old friend, Willie. Remember him? He's making so much money now. The Navy gave him a discharge after eight weeks because he had bad legs. Boy, you should see him Lindy. None of the girls can keep up with him. By the way, honey, is the army curing your flat feet, huh?

I don't read nothing in the papers about your outfit. I bet you're having a snap time of it in Paris or Cherbourg. We hear you got lots of champagne and all for free. Dotty's boy friend, Earl, has got the Purple Heart. Why don't you get some medals?

I'll close now as I can't concentrate when Willie is singing. Willie sends his regards and says to give the hun hell. Your devoted girl friend.

I love you,
JENNIFER

Huss and Ball visit division

Pierre Huss, war correspondent for the International News Service and Ed Ball, who serves in the same capacity for the Associated Press, were guests of the division last week.

THE GRAND STAND

Am. Lg. Pennant won by Brownies Baltimore Orioles win playoff series

For the first time in 43 years the St. Louis Browns have won the American League pennant and the right to meet the St. Louis Cardinals, champions of the National League, in the 1944 world series. The first game will be played at Sportsmen's Park on Wednesday of this week and Jack Kramer, ace hurler of the Browns, will take over the chores on the mound. Although the starting pitcher for the Cards has not yet been officially announced it is expected that Morton Cooper will get the nod from Manager Billy Southworth.

The Brownies won the pennant Sunday afternoon when they trimmed the New York Yankees 5 to 2, while the Washington Senators were taking the measure of the Detroit Tigers by a 4 to 1 margin. Prior to this game both the Tigers and the Browns were tied for first spot in the junior circuit.

Scheduled to hurl the second, third and fourth games for the Browns are Nelson Potter, Danny Galehouse and Sigmund Jakubi respectively.

Ed Devlin, former Bay State sports enthusiast, and now a member of the division, has nominated the Browns as his choice to cop the world series flag.

No scores

Owing to unforeseen circumstances we are unable to bring you Saturday afternoon football scores in this issue of SPEARHEAD. However we hope to have results of this Saturday's games by press time next week, and we shall also give you results of games which were played on Sept. 30.

"Spearhead" visits

(Cont. from page 1)

where she came from and she said, "Tennessee." Then he asked her last name, and she said it was Smartt, spelled S-M-A-R-T-T. Our friend by this time was feeling no pain and so asked her what the extra "T" was for. Not to be outdone, Louise came right back at him, "Why" it stands for Terrific." Our good companion was floored by this, but soon bounded up with a mumble, "I bet they had to catch her to get her shoes on."

With that we poked our heads inside the kitchen. The first one to catch our eye was Virginia Roberts from Tampa. She had red hair and freckles and, we kind of

Representing the International League in the Little World Series this year will be the Baltimore Orioles, who won the right last week by defeating the Buffalo Bisons in the playoff series four games to three. Baltimore finished on top of the heap at the end of the regular playing season but under the league set up, the winner of the playoff series among the first four clubs, is the team that meets the winner of the American Association playoffs in the Little World Series.

In the American Association playoffs, Louisville was leading three games to none, in its series with St. Paul.

"Dizzy" Trout wins his 27th victory

Top pitching honors in the major leagues this year will go to Detroit's own "Dizzy" Trout who this week notched victory No. 27 when he blanked the Athletics 6 to 0 and enabled his club to keep in the running with the red hot St. Louis Browns.

In achieving this triumph, Trout, gave the Mackmen a half dozen bingles over the route while Luke Hamlin was being touched for 13 safeties including homers by Rudy York and Dick Wakefield. Trout is expected to twirl again this week against the Senators in the final intra-league series of the season.

The slim right hander's biggest complaint is that he doesn't get enough exercise during the day and nearly every night he can be found at a bowling alley limbering up that valuable right arm.

liked that. We started to call her Red but found out everyone called her Ginger which we thought was just as nice. We didn't know anyone around Tampa so we turned to dark and lovely Marie Roversi who comes from Kew Gardens, N. Y. That was our undoing for our friend suddenly found he and she had friends in common up Buffalo way. So we grabbed a fist full of doughnuts right of the stove, leaned back and listened, and munched.

It sounded like good old times. These French women, we thought, may be okay, but there's something about shooting the breeze with a gal from the States that warms a fellow's heart, and we wished we could have stayed there all day talking and listening and looking, mostly looking.

NEW GI SHOW MAKES BIG HIT

With eight first class entertainer from the Special Service Section of the division providing the talent and the retreating Germans the musical instruments, a fast moving ninety minute show was presented to the men of the 330th during the past week.

Headlined by Corp. Milton Charleston, former Olsen and Johnson funnymann, the GI's got plenty of laughs from start to finish. Hot licks were dished out with regularity by a six piece band and this made for good listening among the jitterbugs and hep cats. Sgt. Rddie Lathrop's educated trumpet and his interpretation of Harry James' "How Did You Make Me Love You" was one of the best offerings of the show. Sgt. Russel Preston's hot licks on the drums had the rug cutters stomping their feet with ecstasy.

Others in the band who are going about the division with the show are Sgt. Oscar Guerra, clarinet; Pvt. Roy Hamerslag, trombone; Sgt. Russel Sonju, trombone and Corp. David Brinkmoeller, accordion.

Sgt. Sandy McPherson's slick handling of Master of Ceremonies deserves honorable mention, especially his interpretation of the song, "What Say-Let's Be Buddies."

Staff grows

(Cont. from page 2)

Herald Tribune as copy-boy before the War. Since then he has from time to time contributed to the Herald Tribune and the Chicago Sun, both of which, he claims, are fighting for his services when all this business of shooting the Jerries is over.

Renek, is a little fellow, wears his hair short, and gives the appearance of being on the hot seat. He admits his little sheet "The Sump Hole" is a fine product and grins with appreciation when you mention it. When asked to loan a bit of his time to The SPEARHEAD, to write us a column called "The Sump Hole", he was quick to respond. His only complaint was, "I don't get around much anymore"

This week's issue is his first appearance in real newsprint on this side of the ocean. He may not get around much anymore, but we're sure you'll like what he puts out.

Beechum sharpens up

Sgt. Robert Beechum of Wilkes Barre, Pa., division news correspondent with the 329th, reports that covering stories on Red Cross girls is by far better than getting eye witness accounts of patrol actions. Jerry almost sharpened his pencil for him the other night.

Red cross girls

(Cont. from page 1)

of shortening and an equal number of hundred pound sacks of sugar which were needed to bake dough nuts for men of the 83rd. Other girls who comprised the party and their home towns are as follows:

Martha Richardson, Chicago; Margaret Wathan, Greenville, Pa.; Kathryn Kirkpatrick, Indianapolis; Jean Hatcher, Detroit; Kathryn Blair, Cleveland; Pat Hurley, Warren, Ark.; Louise Smartt (the second Tis for terrific and she's from Smartt Station, Tenn.); Marie Roversi, New York City; Virginia Roberts, Tampa; Dorothy Dow, Cambridge, Mass.; Barbara Ridgeway, New York City; Helen Longshore, Washington. D. C.; Ann Furguson, Syracuse; Mary Pitcarian, St. Louis; Jane Phillips, Ft. Worth; Marie Phillips, Kirkwood Mo.; Cameron Jelliffe, New York City; Kathleen Crocker, Boston; Sally Peters, Hampton, Va.; Leslie Fenn, Hartford; Mary Metcalf, St. Louis; Barbara Gunmerie, Worcester, Mass.; and Sally Craighill, Dallas.

P. S.: Their address fellows: Hqs. 12th Army Group, APO 655, U. S. Army.

The war in brief

(Cont. from page 2)

... In initial proclamation to German people, Gen. Eisenhower stated Allied forces coming as conquerors not as oppressors... Russians cleared entire west coast of Estonia. Now in Riga outskirts... Hungarians forced to give more ground in Hungary... American Fifth took additional strong points on road to Bologne... In Pacific, 65 Japs ships and 36 planes fell to American carrier based aircraft... In past month 500 Japs ships and over 1400 planes destroyed.

SATURDAY — All German long range guns at Cape Grisez captured by Canadians. Guns shelled England for four years... No news on Canadian-German fighting at Calais... U. S. Third Army broke counter attacks in Moselle Valley knocking out 82 tanks... During last 10 days in Estonia, Red forces killed 30,000 Germans. Took 15,000 prisoners... Railway centers western Germany blasted by Allied air force... Rain and heavy Nazi counter attacks slowed drive in Italy... Marines win two more islands in Palaus.

SUNDAY — Port of Calais fell to Canadians. About 400 prisoners taken. Allied third and seventh armies repulsed German counter attacks... Poles fighting in Warsaw hard pressed. Russian troops crossed Danube... RAF bombed Hamburg... In Italy, heavy rains making major operations impossible... Four Jap ships sunk off Borneo in Pacific. Allied bombers again pounded Jap airfields in Philippines.