

A Year Reporter's Notebook

By Hal Boyle

ENROUTE TO ALGIERS, Oct. 17.—(Delayed)—Winter, a fox that makes the troops more uncomfortable than the Germans is on the march in Italy.

It is something like an old-fashioned cold storm in that it is a silent movie. Nature overtakes us much more hard to believe in than it is. You ride along through sunny weather in the Alps and suddenly the sky is cloud and the wind is blowing.

Just when you think you can stand no more and will have to park the car on the left side of the first building the rain lets up, the wind dies down, the clouds move on the Alps and you are back in Sunny Italy. But you are also extremely wet and uncomfortable.

The soldiers feel a little betrayed, just as they did when they found, to their surprise, that the "dry climate of North Africa" was a myth, at least between November and June.

"Why don't we get this war organized?" one of these asked. "Now if I was in the High Command I should like to see a tropical country in the Winter time and a place like Italy in the Spring. It would be much more comfortable—even the enemy."

The enemy in Italy—the Nazis—have just as much time during the bad weather as the Allied troops, but the climate fights on. It always favors the defense. The Germans were able to cling to their Volturno positions because autumn rains made the river impassable. Then March-like winds swept the area. They cut the shivering troops like knives but they rapidly dried up the roads and fields and made it possible for the Allies to launch their successful offensive across the stream.

COLD BARS MORALE Another moral of the "Italy" campaign is that the Allied commanders, struggling with one of the most difficult campaigns of the Mediterranean campaign, are well aware of this and are making the most of it by every possible means. This is one time when the boys at the front are really in a priority. Super or refrigeration facilities make it possible for the bread quarters to get to the front and duck the bullets, but in this matter the Allies are distinctly playing second fiddle.

"Come back and see us in a couple of weeks or so and maybe we can give you some good" the quartermaster tells the supply sergeant from the headquarters camp.

Another camp near these who carefully stored away their Winter gear in their barracks back had spring. Their winter and field jackets and let the other fellow worry about the weather.

A broken cot is my own supply problem. A cot at the front means more than gold because it is more comfortable to sleep on. They so hard to get now that you almost have to have the signature of the Gen. Staff to get one. I quit the slip to have one found to you.

I put it aside, intending to have it sewed up by some medical officer the tentman at the front. I managed to wrangle a cot for myself last April. After the Spring thaw I carefully guarded it. It was a pleasure to enjoy it this Winter. Recently it developed a small tear in the canvas.

The very next night, four visiting soldiers in the tent with me at the same time. I find the canvas is one grand tear. It looks like a hole in the long, cold Winter on the top soil.

During a stopover in Sletly 1 mile S. of Davis, California, a high ranking Air Corps supply officer. "I'm trying to fix some kind a rider over to Sletly," he said, "but darned if I know yet how long it's going to take."

Now there's a democratic army for you. Even a lieutenant colonel had to be here.

Arline Judge Cautels Suit Against Ruggles LOS ANGELES.—(AP)—Film Actress Arline Judge, four times divorced, has withdrawn a suit against her former husband, Arline Judge Cautels.

THE GIGANTIC FIGHTING STREETS

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ITALY'S FIGHTING STREETS

Last Nazi Units Pull Into Line In Mountains

Retreat To Left Bank of Trigno

By EDWARD KENNEDY. ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS. (AP)—Allied troops advancing three to six miles have taken two more towns below the Trigno River in Italy, but fighting generally subsided as the last of the German rear units were pulled back into the massive new mountain line guarding Rome, official reports disclosed today.

Air warfare intensified with smashes at Greek airfields and hammering of enemy supplies and transports in Italy.

The Nazis are withdrawing to the left bank of the Trigno River near the Adriatic Coast, headquarters said, and Eighth Army units inland on this flank have taken Civitavecchia and Acquafredda, about seven miles west of the Trigno.

Canadian troops were in the thick of the fighting and acquitted themselves well, front reports said. The German emphasis on their defenses in the center of the front was undoubtedly based on the realization that the road running northward from Velletri to the Alban hills was the main line of building their new mountain line.

An Allied advance along this line, which runs through the mountains south of the Trigno, was reported by the Italian press, which threatened Velletri, a key point in the new line.

The War Department, which emphasized that dependents are not required to file new applications for the new law, stated that when the change-over in the 3,000,000 family allowance accounts finally is completed, the difference between the old and new rates will be paid retroactively as of Oct. 25.

Under the new schedule a wife filing for the first time in a month, with one child 18 or over, will receive \$10 extra for each additional child.

The proposed new draft bill would not prohibit the deferment of men-fathers but would require that fathers of children born prior to Sept. 16, 1942, not be called unless their fathers are "available for induction." A single man deferred.

Christen Airlift With Liquid Air AKRON, O.—(AP)—Mrs. Jean Rosendahl, wife of Rep. Mrs. C. E. Rosendahl, christened the Navy's first liquid air transport today in a ceremony coinciding with the celebration of the Navy's 100th anniversary.

Jap Worries Over Raid Possibilities Reflected LONDON.—(AP)—Japanese worries over the possibilities of a "complete reorganization" of the population of large towns.

Search For Canadian Cadet's Uniform In New York Death Case NEW YORK.—(AP)—Every available detective was detailed today to search for Wayne Longstreet's missing Royal Canadian Air Force Cadet uniform as authorities awaited his arrival from Toronto for further questioning in the slaying of his 22-year-old neighbor, wife, Patricia.

Suit Against Ruggles LOS ANGELES.—(AP)—Film Actress Arline Judge, four times divorced, has withdrawn a suit against her former husband, Arline Judge Cautels.

Roosevelt Urges Giant Post-War Education Fund Program Would Provide Training For Those Leaving Services

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—A billion-dollar program to provide post-war educational opportunities for men and women in the armed services was recommended to Congress today by President Roosevelt.

Draft Delay Bill Not In Clear Yet House Votes To Put Fathers at Bottom of List But Controversy Looms

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Legislation requiring that all available childless men be inducted ahead of proffering fathers was reported to the House today.

Japs Give Up Fields Bombed Into Uselessness By Americans

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC.—(AP)—Three vital airfields on the island of Iwojima, which Japan had depended on the Solomon Islands to sustain her operations, have been bombed into uselessness and enemy planes have abandoned them.

Month's School Vacation Urged WASHINGTON.—(AP)—Many colleges and prep school students will get a month's vacation in the Christmas-New Year holiday season if educational institutions follow requests made today by the ODT.

Steel Strike Comes To End PITTSBURGH.—(AP)—A two-day steel strike ended today as the Carnegie-Illinois Steel Corp. and the United Steel Workers local union agreed to a new contract.

Four U. S. Ships Run Aground Off Jersey BELMAR, N. J.—(AP)—Four United States Navy merchant vessels ran aground on the northern New Jersey coast last night and early today in one of the worst storms of the season.

Weather WEATHER slightly colder tonight and tomorrow.

No General Movement To Work In Coal Mines WLB Approves Wage Adjustment

By JOSEPH A. LOFTUS. WASHINGTON.—(AP)—War Labor Board approval of a compromise wage adjustment for soft coal miners failed today to bring any quick work-resumption in the fields where many began laying their tools more than a week ago to demonstrate their dissatisfaction with continued lack of a working contract.

Soviet Forces At Outskirts Of Vital City Fall of Important Iron and Rail Center Appears Imminent

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Nazis Grow Desperate Move In Men, Weapons Against Reds

By EDDY GILMORE. MOSCOW.—(AP)—The Red High Command has moved in troops, planes and tanks from Italy, France and Germany into the Ukraine to meet the Nazi offensive in the Donbas region.

German E-Boats Hunt In Packs LONDON.—(AP)—German E-boats, copying the tactics of the British submarines, are presently being adopted by the Luftwaffe in a stepped-up campaign against British shipping in the English Channel.

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