

A War Reporter's Notebook

By Hal Boyle

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Nov. 8. (Delayed) What's on the American doughboy's mind? While I was writing yesterday about the... Weish III, John... University... graduate... and Harvard student who edits 'Mail Call' in the... I began to figure... He proposed that... nearer... knowing the answer than anyone else around here.

Here it is, just as he puts it: 'The soldier in North Africa and Italy is not primarily concerned with the future of the war. He is only interested in the things that have and in the past. Perhaps more than any other group, the remoteness of peace governs the thinking of the average GI.' Very few of the letters received by the Mail Call section of the daily and weekly Stars and Stripes, the troops' paper in North Africa, deal with anything touching policies of government or the post-war reconstructive period which will be determined in next decades will be determined. Of course there are exceptions to all rules. Only recently I received a letter from a GI, which is a certain type of sergeant who is a guard at a prisoner of war camp. He proposed that I start right now to formulate terms for dealing with Germany after her defeat.

The sergeant believes that the plans should be carried out by the revolutionaries in the Axis countries, for it is they who in his opinion will be responsible for the overthrow of the existing national and local governments. 'As rebels they should be given preference over established governments in either disarrangements exist, since the revolutionaries will be closer to the people,' he wrote.

As I pointed out the letter is only a rare exception for the soldier's mind is not on the paper deal with matters of international things such as interest in the war and the things that bring forth a deluge. CURFEW FAILS 'The temperament of the writer can be judged accurately by the amount of passion expressed through his writing. A very good example of this is the soldier's military police suddenly initiated a drive to clear the streets of Algiers of wandering civilians. At 11 P. M. it was a precautionary measure, designed by the authorities to prevent the soldier in the blackout. However, our soldier public reacted to the M.P.'s and their efforts to clear the streets explained in detail a particular case, colored to make the M.P.'s appear the villain and the soldier a military hero of democracy. The outcry was an instance that the M.P.'s abandoned the duty.

'No single factor in recent weeks has aroused the soldier public in the African theater as much as the fact that Senators who visited the dark continent. Upon their return to Washington they have been accused to the effect that Congress should govern limited service overseas.

'A great portion of the men in this theater served in England, Iceland, and the Azores before coming to North Africa with the invaders. They had been overseas sixteen months before their present statement was issued. They were most jubilant. Some were ready to start singing and dancing into barracks bags and shove off for the States. And then, when they found it in their hands to be in the "home front" the whole scene became evident to Johnny Doughboy. His remark was, "I've been a liberated position, as one 20-year-old private wrote. They should have spent their time doing the job of the defense industry."

TWO TYPES WRITE 'What the average soldier thinks is hard to determine, for I find that only two types of individuals write letters to the editors—the "genius" type and the dullard. Very seldom is the middle-land represented. It is easy to see why the other two types of soldiers write their letters to the editors. The first type wants to educate the "imbecile" Stars and Stripes staff members. The second type writes with the hope of seeing his name and letter in print. Most letter writers are attempting to satisfy an ego.

'Forenoon in soldier thought is the day when he can't remember to his family and friends, to take up his life here he left it. Of course there will be a few breakers here, and some of the girls they left behind are finding someone closer and are getting hitched up. But the more fact that a soldier is home safely occupying his old status in his community will make up for a dozen Marys and the 4's they want.

New Swath, Five Miles Deep, Is Cut By British

Germans Mass Before Youka

By NOLAN YOUNG LONDON.—(AP)—HEAQUARTERS, Algiers.—(AP)—Cutting a new swath five miles deep through enemy positions, the British Eighth Army has seized positions overlooking the Sangro River and the heights beyond where the Germans are reported establishing the eastern anchor of an Italian "Winter defense line," headquarters announced today.

To the west the Nazis massed heavy formations of troops and guns in the Mignano area, attempting to halt the American drive toward Cassino on the main road to Rome. They massed a powerful striking force a counter-attack in the area five miles southwest of Mignano and west of Galluccio yesterday, but Allied guns tore down a curtain of artillery and mortar fire before the assault could be launched, dispersing the enemy.

'German soldiers' reports unanimously held the Nazi command planned to dig in for the winter along the Sangro River and around Mignano, although the Italians at Mignano—where U. S. troops already have won footholds—and opposite to the Sangro River.

The Fifth and Eighth Armies already are rammings against this line in sectors. Shelling along the Adriatic coastal sector, the Eighth Army captured Terzio di Sangro, four miles northwest of Cassino, buildings, and Pacific less than two miles from the river. The speed of their efforts to clear the area is explained in detail a particular case, colored to make the M.P.'s appear the villain and the soldier a military hero of democracy. The outcry was an instance that the M.P.'s abandoned the duty.

Statement On Moscow Talks Due In Morning LONDON.—(AP)—A government statement on the Moscow conference probably will be made in London today, according to the British press. The statement and subsequent debate. Later Prime Minister Churchill is also likely to be quoted in a command, said no decisions were reached at Moscow regarding post-war arrangements for civil air traffic.

By DANIEL DE LUCE WITH THE EIGHTH ARMY IN ITALY, Nov. 7. (Delayed)—At 10:10 o'clock the Sunday morning the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack were hung from a building, amidst the shells, were sheltered in buildings that had been systematically vandalized by the Germans. The tall, gray-haired captain summed up the task of bringing Isernia back to life. Our first problem is the dead. This is the first step toward sanitation. 'We will have to borrow trucks from the Army to bring the food, for the captives and the captain said, adding, 'Thank the Lord we don't have

Hour Nears Second Front In The Making

By HUDSON O'QUINN LONDON.—(AP)—With American and British troops grinding swiftly for an invasion of Western Europe, the impression prevailed in London today that the hour for the second front is near, if not at hand.

Considering the Russian past winter successes, their drive may not have been a long one—beginning about April and ending in June when the ground hardens after the rains—a British-American attack during that period would lack the advantage of simultaneous pressure from the East.

Consequently, the most favorable time for the invasion of the great advantage to all three powers would seem to be before the spring melt, or after—and scarcely anyone here believes it will be that late.

Prime Minister Winston Churchill's declaration of Nov. 31, 1942, that the Allies would step in the invasion at any moment that the Germans became demoralized never has been repudiated. The question now is how much Germany is really cracking.

Certainly, Adolf Hitler more than has his hands full trying to stabilize the Russian front, delay Allied occupation of Italy, fight the British and Americans unrelentingly would be another safe strategy, but every week on Germany's condition is being weighed with the utmost precision in London.

STRATEGY ON THE BALKANS An invasion from the West is not immediately possible, the chance still exists, however, that the Russian offensive and Allied Middle East forces may yet close a pincer on the Balkans. A Soviet drive to the Rumanian border—some 400 miles from the border today—would present the three Allies with an unparalleled opportunity to pinch off Hitler's southeast flank quickly, join forces across a 400-mile front along the Black Sea and drive the Germans back into Germany.

Associated Press Correspondent Vice Galagher reported from Italy yesterday that the Germans reached the night of the Allied offensive, being assembled in the Mignano area for a winter attack against the Allies.

On the air front, Allied planes pounded the German line in Albania, scoring a direct hit on a warehouse. The actual timetable of a ground, military effort. That the deadline in the invasion date which was communicated to the Russian Gen. H. J. A. H. commander of U. S. Air Forces, and British Air Marshal Sir Arthur T. Harris have until that time to try to force Germany's surrender by use of air power alone.

Life Begins Again—U. S. And British Flags Fly At Isernia, A Nazi-Murdered Town By DANIEL DE LUCE WITH THE EIGHTH ARMY IN ITALY, Nov. 7. (Delayed)—At 10:10 o'clock the Sunday morning the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack were hung from a building, amidst the shells, were sheltered in buildings that had been systematically vandalized by the Germans. The tall, gray-haired captain summed up the task of bringing Isernia back to life. Our first problem is the dead. This is the first step toward sanitation. 'We will have to borrow trucks from the Army to bring the food, for the captives and the captain said, adding, 'Thank the Lord we don't have

Allies Push Campaign To Take Rabaul Out Of War

Losses of 63 Jap Planes Listed

SOUTHWEST PACIFIC ALLIED HEADQUARTERS — (AP) — A Phosphorus bomb, which look when they first burst like tentacles curling, then shoot forth smoke and flame, have been added to Rabaul's arsenal by the Japanese, desperate for ways to prevent that key base from being bombed out of the war. But the relentless Allied campaign moves ahead unchecked.

Headquarters, in listing losses of 63 Japanese planes within the past 48 hours, reported that 30 were wiped out Sunday at Rabaul by Liberators and Lightnings which bored through the fantastic bomb-laden heavy clouds of anti-aircraft fire.

The big Liberators exploded at tons of bombs accurately among dispersal bays and installations of the Rabaul Airbase, blowing up also the main runway. The Japanese fighters on the ground and shot down by our fighters.

Picture Show Jap Warships Entrapped ADVANCED SOUTH PACIFIC ALLIED HEADQUARTERS.—(AP)—Aerial photographs today showed a fleet of Japanese warships entrapped in Rabaul Harbor frantically trying to escape from dive bombers and torpedoes. The fleet, which had been lunched from American aircraft carriers.

Jap 'Naval Victory' Described By Berlin LONDON.—(AP)—The Berlin radio quoted Japanese news reports today, and saying that three destroyers and two transports were brought down by interceptors and anti-aircraft fire.

WEATHER Fair and colder with light to heavy frost; Wednesday, fair and continued cool. Today's temperatures: 2:30 P. M. 50; 6:22 Sunset Today 5:30; Sunrise Tomorrow 7:53. Additional 5 c. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 2.

Churchill Looks To 1944 Victory

Warns That 'Impending Ruin' of Germany Likely Won't Come This Year

By E. C. DANIEL LONDON.—(AP)—Prime Minister Churchill gravely proclaimed the "impending ruin" of Germany today, but said it could not come before 1944.

Churchill declared the year 1944 also election year in the United States and commented: "I am sure I speak for all those on both sides of the Atlantic who mean the same thing—and they are numbered in scores—when they say that we are our supreme duty, all of us, British and Americans alike, is to preserve the freedom that now exists throughout the English-speaking world and thus aid our armies in their grim and heroic task."

He vowed again his intention not to "liquidate the British Empire." He stated bluntly that this "is no time for those who have practical war work to do to dream of a tribute to Hull."

Of the Moscow Conference, Churchill said "we have all been correspondents in Rome for the Tribune." He said that "all gallant American Eagles." The Moscow accord that had the role of making our friends feel as they never felt before that it is the heartiest wish of our British and American people.

Behind Enemy Lines: North Italy Land Of Plenty As Rome Suffers From Food Shortage (Editor's note—Following is the second of a series of four unnumbered articles on conditions in Italy, written for the Associated Press by Gunnar B. Kuylenstierna, chief of the Swedish newspaper Tidningen, who is working in Italy with the Red Cross.)

Russians Also Aim At Poland And Rumania

Soviets Strike Down With Strong Forces Through Percep Isthmus

By RICHARD McMURRAY Associated Press War Editor Russian troops launched a violent assault against the Crimea from the north today, the German radio at Paris said while other Red Army groups beat swiftly toward Poland, Rumania and Latvia.

Paroled remnants of a dozen Red German divisions were being herded west of ravaged Kiev on an 80-mile front, in which the Soviet forces were 115 miles from Poland and 140 miles from Rumania across the Western Ukraine. Russian troops were declared at the gates of Polotsk, twenty miles from Poland and within striking distance of Latvia. At the mouth of the Dnieper River, the Russians were but 50 miles across the Black Sea neck from Rumania.

The Far radio said the Red Army struck down with strong forces through the Percep Isthmus, the narrow land between the Chinese to the east and the peninsula around Kiev to the west. A vast platoon appeared in the hands of Zelenko. One division reported that some German units had been evacuated by sea and hundreds of Black Sea coastal ships and Danube River boats were being assembled for a "Danubian BREWERY IN PLAIN" At Kiev, 15,000 Germans and 6,200 surrendered. The said the enemy fled in panic abandoning weapons, munitions and even clothes. The Red bitle Red column were within miles of Zhitomir. One division said the Germans were evacuating civilians from the 110 miles between Lake Ilmen and the Mtsensk, likely preventing a Soviet withdrawal from the Leningrad front.

A German communiqué yesterday admitted Nazi forces were engaged in a "defensive struggle against major enemy forces" in the Soviet sector. The Kiev breakthrough was a front with the capture yesterday of Chernobyl. One division of the Dnieper. Here the Russians were planning to force back across the almost impassable Pripiet Marshes, the Soviet war machine decided to retreat.

The Germans, however, view the once beautiful city of Kiev as a threat. They fled. Pravda disclosed that the city was being systematically destroyed by Nazi demolition squads. Pravda, famed for its use of the hammer and sickle as a symbol of modernity, was shambled, and the magnificent pomp of the city was being destroyed. The water and utility systems also were destroyed.

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MEAT VERY HIGH The only meat obtainable in the black market at staggering prices, but it was almost unobtainable. Grapes from the city's vineyards are available abundantly in the winter, now are on the other side of the front.