

# A Far Reporter's Notebook

By Hal Boyle

AN AMERICAN AIR BASE IN NORTH AFRICA. Doc (Don Boyd) — For two years Capt. Wilfred C. Reiss of Lawton, Okla., flew paratroopers on practice and combat missions. Then his curiosity got the better of him and he decided to make a parachute leap himself.

When I saw him the 25-year-old paratrooper, known to his fellow fliers as "Glamorous Boy," was nursing a stiff neck and sore arm muscles—souvenirs of his first jump.

He missed the landing field and lit in a vineyard and doesn't remember that.

"I had been wondering for a long time what it was like to jump," he said. "I found out, I found out, too, that it wasn't as tough as I thought it was. Parachute jumping would be all right, though, if everything went all right."

"I jumped from 3500 feet. There was a fairly stiff wind blowing. I banged up my head and feet when I came chugging out and I didn't even know when I hit. I looked up and there were two Arabs trying to wiggle my chute."

"You have a funny feeling when you leave the plane and start falling. You don't have any control of your arms and legs. They wave around like a kite. You have to come home."

Captain Reiss has been overseas sixteen months and expects to go home soon. He has flown paratroopers on five combat missions.

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## Japs Die In 'Rice Bowl'

CHUNGKING.—(P)—The 40-day battle for China's "Rice Bowl," ended yesterday by the Chinese capture of the Japanese 40,000 casualties. Maj. Gen. C. C. Cheng, Chinese Army commander, declared today.

Teng declared the Japanese had lost 15,000 killed and 25,000 wounded in the battle. He said that while all but 200 men of the Chinese 5th division were reported wounded.

Bitter fighting still rages north of Chungking. The Japanese are being driven back from the Yangtze River, which winds past Chungking and controls the Yangtze.

He also reported bitter action on a 120-mile front twisting northward to a point near the Yangtze from a village 12 miles north of Chungking.

The spokesman said that all Japanese troops south of the Yangtze River, which winds past Chungking and controls the Yangtze, had been driven back across the river.

Headquarters of the U. S. 14th Air Force, meanwhile, stressed that American airmen had destroyed Japanese air bases and aircraft in their successful drive to recapture Chungking. The day before the city was retaken, a communication from Mitchell Japanese bombers softened up Japanese positions in and around the city with a sharp attack.

## Jap Mainland Raid Feared

LONDON.—(P)—Japanese air forces are preparing for an expected American air attack on the Japanese mainland from Japan, China, the Berlin radio said today.

A DNB broadcast heard by The Associated Press quoted a spokesman at Japanese headquarters in China as declaring the American air force was "getting ready to attack the Japanese mainland and communications between Japan and its satellites are getting ready to encounter the enemy air force."

"The situation in China has become more confused and more serious," the spokesman was quoted as saying, "and therefore is receiving greater attention."

## Diplomats Think Nazi European Satellites To Try To Quit War

LONDON.—(P)—Renewed rumblings of tension and uncertainty in the Balkans—particularly in Bulgaria where Cabinet shake-ups, including the post of Foreign Minister, appeared imminent—have led diplomats here to the conclusion that Germany's European satellites will seek a way out of the war before Germany falls.

Bulgarian President Dr. Boris III, reported in dispatches to Stockholm to have received the Cabinet at the request of Parliament's vote of no confidence, was believed ready to resign. Foreign Minister Shishmanov and take over the post himself.

Previously, Dr. Shishmanov was reported to have recalled his envoys from Berlin, Moscow and Ankara for conferences in the new complications, arising from the Tehran and Cairo conferences and the fear that Turkey may be ready for a more prominent part in the war.

## Roosevelt Visits Malta En Route From Conferences

Says U. S. Will Stand With Britain  
And Other Allies After War

VALETTA, Malta.—(AP)—Traveling by plane, President Roosevelt visited this bomb-marked British Mediterranean base on Wednesday, presented its people an illuminated scroll on behalf of the American people, and declared the United States would stand staunchly with the British Empire and other Allies after the war to make "it a victory worth while."

En route from the series of epic conferences in which he and Prime Minister Churchill met in the Middle East, the President arrived in a huge C-54 Douglas four-engine troop transport with an escort of twenty Lightning and Spitfire fighters.

MALTA SALUTED  
The scroll, which eventually will be cast in bronze and placed in Valletta's main square, saluted Malta and its defenders for "valorous service far above and beyond the call of duty" during the dark period while Axis aircraft kept the island under a virtual constant assault.

Roosevelt spent three hours on Malta, departing for an unannounced destination.

The President's plane touched on the world's most bombed airfield at 9:30 A. M. Wednesday, after a 24-hour flight from Sicily, out of a brilliant blue, cloud-filled sky.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Admiral William D. Leahy, the President's chief of staff, Harry Hopkins, and other high-ranking officials accompanied the President.

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## Nazi Lines On Dnieper Bend Crack

German Position  
In Dire Threat

By EDWARD D. BALL, LONDON.—(AP)—The Red Army has captured Znamenka, hub of a system of railroads linking the Dnieper River bend with the area south of Kiev, Premier-Marshal Joseph Stalin announced today in a special order of the day.

The Soviet column that smashed into the town was one of several living through a grueling defense in the Dnieper Bend and fanning out from the Kremenchuk bridgehead.

The capture of the heavily fortified Znamenka, the last of four rail lines connecting in that town and brought the weight of the Russian Drive back to the Dnieper by direct thrust.

The town, some 60 miles north-west of the Iron City of Kiev, was actually taken yesterday, Stalin's announcement said.

With the new victory the Russian drive toward the railroad running northwest to Smolensk and Pastov, south to Nikolayev and east to Dnepropetrovsk.

Tank and infantry forces which had closed in from three sides were aided in the final assault by airborne troops.

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## The Air Offensive: Reaches Pre-Invasion Stage

First Official Report—The first official report that the air offensive against Germany has passed the preliminary phases and entered the final hand-to-hand stage was made public today in an Army War Department release.

In the same article, Col. Ray W. Clifton of the Army Air Forces declared that the divisions of infantry combat units have been formed from the Luftwaffe personnel—an indication that Germany is getting short of aircraft and preparing to fight on the ground.

Clifton, an instructor at the General and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth, discussed the classic "four phases" of strategic bombing in a survey written for the school's monthly military review.

The bombing of German-occupied Europe can be considered in the third phase now, he said, the fourth phase being that in which the air will paralyze the production and movement of enemy war supplies and support the ground forces making a landing.

At the time he wrote (just prior to the massive November air raids on Berlin), Clifton said the air offensive already had reduced Germany's manufacturing capacity by at least 35 per cent, diminished the power of the Luftwaffe and forced it into a weakening defense, and had seriously damaged German civilian morale.

"Germany's production facilities have been so hurt by our bombing that she is able to produce about 1,500 planes a month, which equals a large percentage of fighters," he said. "The reason for the large percentage of fighters is the fact that the German Air Force has gone from the offensive to the defensive."

With an estimated 1,500,000 persons made homeless by the air attacks, Clifton said it had become increasingly evident that German propaganda disseminated by the radio and press was losing its effectiveness.

The President had been urged by War Manpower Commission Paul V. McNutt to veto the legislation, "The President's approval raised a question as to whether McNutt would resign his position."

The legislation removes from McNutt's authority over the administration of the Selective Training and Service Act.

Senator Stephen D. Dill, Missouri, author of the "subsidy wage control amendment," said it had considerable support among both House and Senate members.

Under the proposal the War Labor Board would judge when and if the Selective Training and Service Act would be broken.

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## Americans Win Ridge In 'Battle Of Clouds'

Canadians Make  
Major Advance

By EDWARD KENNEDY, ALGER, ALGERIA.—(AP)—The Fifth Army has cracked German defenses on both sides of the Via Cassiana at Mignano in a bloody nine-day offensive brought to a smashing climax by a brilliant troop drive which seized Mt. Samucro in "The Battle of the Clouds," Allied Headquarters announced today.

As the drive was disclosed that Canadians, infantry and tanks, spearheaded the Ninth Army along the Adriatic, were smashing forward on an eight-mile front after forcing a second crossing of the Mignano River.

HIT SECONDARY LINES  
Fighting against the strongest man-made defenses and toughest natural obstacles yet encountered in Italy, Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army, British and American troops, broke through the German mountain line in both places of the main road to Rome and established the secondary defense line in the direction of Cassino, which has been their advance base since the start of the offensive.

Gen. Clark gave the word for the advance and the troops were faced by a formidable network of fortifications covering the main road to Rome, the Via Cassiana, and the Mignano River.

The deepest penetration of the offensive has been only about three miles.

GREAT SUCCESS  
But by the yardstick of military achievement their success is one of the greatest of the Mediterranean campaign. The Fifth Army has smashed in a little over a week what the enemy hoped would last for months and they have overcome terrain and fortifications usually considered more difficult than those in Tunisia which stalled the Allied attack for a whole winter.

In a single day, the Fifth Army, with their British allies, has now driven the German lines back to the Mignano River, and the Allies are now within 10 miles of Rome.

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## Father Draft Bill Signed Into Law

WASHINGTON.—(AP)—President Roosevelt has approved the Father Draft Bill, designed to delay induction of pre-war fathers into the armed services.

The action was announced by the White House today. The place at which the Chief Executive signed the bill was not disclosed.

McNUTT MAY QUIT  
The President had been urged by War Manpower Commission Paul V. McNutt to veto the legislation, "The President's approval raised a question as to whether McNutt would resign his position."

The legislation removes from McNutt's authority over the administration of the Selective Training and Service Act.

Senator Stephen D. Dill, Missouri, author of the "subsidy wage control amendment," said it had considerable support among both House and Senate members.

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## Air Engine Strike On

PATERSON, N. J.—(P)—An authorized strike through five airplane engine plants in the direction of General Motors, which has been authorized by the National Labor Relations Board, was making a routine inspection.

GIO spokesmen asserted 15,000 workers would walk out, but the company fixed the number at 6,000.

Gen. Motors promptly arranged a meeting with union officials and company executives in an effort to resume full production of engines for warplanes, including the new B-29 super-bombers.

Remsen Remsen, international representative of the United Automobile, Aircraft and Agricultural Implement Workers of America, said approximately 10,000 day-shift workers had walked out today, on the heels of those who quit the night shift. The company spokesman estimated 6,000 were on duty, while a few hundred left the night force.

Remsen said the protest was largely a result of company refusal to negotiate with the union's local No. 669 on wages, upgrading, and other working conditions. He also accused the company of mistreatment of employees which the company had not settled. He said the strike was among causes of the walkout.

## RAF Bombers Attack Crete

CAIRO.—(P)—RAF heavy bombers struck at enemy installations on German-occupied Crete Wednesday night, leaving large fires raging among harbor buildings on the island's main port, Suda Bay, Greece, a communication said today.

Other fighter-bomber sweeps during the week at Suda Bay, the main port of Crete, a communication said today.

The attacks cost the British some planes.

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## Committee Backs Graduated Mustering-Out Pay Program

WASHINGTON.—(P)—Legislation to give all members of the armed services mustering-out pay ranging from \$200 to \$500 was recommended unanimously today by the Senate Military Affairs Committee.

The sliding scale of payments to the highest level of service veterans who served overseas than to those who remained in the United States was recommended by the committee in a bill by Senator Barkley, Democrat, of West Virginia.

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