

The HARBOR NEWS



APO 939

SUNDAY, 1 APRIL 1945

ALLIES SMASH ON BERLIN-170 MILES

Yanks Land On Okinawa

The Yank Tenth Army this morning invaded the west coast of the island of Okinawa, 325 miles from Tokyo, in the Ryukyus in great force. This landing is the largest amphibious operation of the war in the Pacific to date.

The attack on Okinawa was preceded by the capture of the islands of the Kerama groups west of the southern tip of Okinawa.

The capture of Iwo Island gave us an air base 660 miles from Tokyo and greatly intensified our air attack on Japan. The capture of Okinawa will give us bases only 325 miles from Japan which will greatly intensify the attacks of our fleet and air force against Japanese communications and against Japan itself.

The rich Ruhr basin was severed from Germany last night after a 30-mile smash by the U.S. Ninth Army, and American tanks roared through the Reich, 170 miles from Berlin and 130 miles from Munich as General Eisenhower threw all 9 Allied Armies into the grand offensive. The veteran "hell on wheels" Second Armored Division established a tactical radio contact with the U.S. First Army near Paderborn, cutting off 3 German Armies of possibly 40,000 men as well as the

great Ruhr industrial basin without which enemy Army leaders have told Hitler they cannot long wage war.

The U.S. Third Army was hammering the Kassel-Fulda River stronghold and provincial capital of Hesse-Nassau and battled near Lautenhausen, both 170 miles southwest of Berlin. The new U.S. Fifteenth Army took its place in the battle lines at an undisclosed sector of the front putting 5 American Armies in action.

The French First Army crossed the Rhine on 10-mile front from the German Palatinate possibly in the area of Karlsruhe and was fighting east against hot resistance. The U.S. Seventh Army struck a soft spot in German lines and surged 15 miles eastward, crossing the Tauber River at 2 points, 15 miles west of Wuesburg.

THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED ... ALF...

HIS PRAYER WAS 'LIKE A LIFEBELT,' REYNOLDS WRITES OF OUR PADRE

By Sam Ewing

There's a new sign, "Sinners Welcome," on the Chaplain's Office door and there's a new NOB Senior Chaplain behind the desk behind the door. Chaplain Francis J. Ballinger explains that he is "resting" at this Aleutian base. Where the padre has been there has been little time for resting -- just time for fighting and praying.

Father Ballinger was Force Chaplain aboard the USS ANCON with Admiral Hewitt and General Mark Clark in the D-Day invasion of North Africa and the Salerno invasion.

In Chapter XVI, "D Day--Italy," of his best-selling book, THE CURTAIN RISES, Quentin Reynolds has written of Father Ballinger:

"The ship's chaplain, Lieutenant Ballinger, said Mass at 4:30 in the afternoon on the gun deck, and his altar was flanked by open turrets which held the 40 millimeter guns. More than a hundred men stood and knelt on the steel deck. Four men received communion. One was a Negro mess boy still in his white coat; another was a sailor in blue denim; a third was a corporal in battle dress and the fourth was an American general with two stars on his shoulders. Everyone was pretty solemn.

"At the end of the Mass, Lieutenant Ballinger said special prayers, part of a Novena to the Blessed Virgin. One of the prayers said by both priest and congregation seemed apropos.

"Remember, O most compassionate Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy assistance or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of Virgins, our Mother; to thee we come; before thee we kneel, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in thy clemency hear and answer them. Amen.



"I think everyone there (more than half were non-Catholic) meant that prayer. Prayer is like a lifebelt we forget about until there is danger of drowning. Then we cling to it desperately. When danger threatens, prayers which you've forgotten come to mind. A few bombs drop close, a few shells scream overhead, and quite instinctively you find yourself praying and meaning it. It's like that with almost every man I know. Even



complete unbelievers pray in tough spots.. They laugh it off afterwards by saying, "It's just a little insurance I was taking out. I don't believe there's anything to it, but hell maybe I could be wrong. And it doesn't do any harm does it?" The truth, of course, is that even the most rabid anti-Christ cannot fool himself when death is sending messengers to his particular front. All pretense and sham go then. You're alone with your fear.

"Father Ballinger confirmed all this when I talked to him later. Many non-Catholics in the crew had gone to his cabin (which was always open) before the action began. Ballinger himself had been torpedoed during the North African invasion. He had been picked up by this ship of ours and because it had no chaplain the captain made him stay aboard. His first job was an odd one for a Catholic priest to perform. While the ship had been unloading at Casablanca it had been bombed and two Arabs working on the unloading had been injured. The ship finally pulled out with them aboard. One recovered but the other died. Admiral Kirk was on the ship then, and he told Chaplain Ballinger to hold funeral services over the dead man who would be buried at sea. In vain the chaplain protested that an Arab, being a Mohammedan, was, in the eyes of the church, a non-believer and the Catholic funeral service was not designed to send heathen Arabs heavenwards. Besides, the Arab himself would not have liked it.

"But the Admiral was adamant and Lieutenant Ballinger had to obey orders. He solved the difficulty with ingenuity. He remembered that in the Good Friday Mass there was a special prayer (in Latin) for infidels. They wrapped the dead Arab in white sheets, draped an American flag around him and slid him into the Mediterranean while Chaplain Ballinger solemnly said the prayer for infidels. Everyone was happy. Everyone, that is, except the other Arab. His wounds had healed and he watched the sea burial of his pal with envy. He was envying the white shroud which covered the dead man and he asked if he couldn't please have one like it.

Aboard U.S.S. ANCON, September, 1943"

Father Ballinger, a native of Camden, New Jersey, was graduated from St. Benedict's Preparatory School, Newark, and received his Bachelor's degree and Master's degree at Seton Hall College, South Orange, New Jersey. He was ordained in Newark on June 10, 1933. For eight years, Father Ballinger was assistant pastor at Our Lady of Victories Church, Jersey City, N. J. He joined the Navy on December 4, 1941, and was called to active duty on February 22, 1942, as chaplain board the USS JOSEPH HENES, which ship was torpedoed off the coast of North Africa. Following this adventure, the chaplain was assigned to the USS ANCON.



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Supervisor.... Lt. Joe Lunn
 Editor..... Sam Ewing, Y2c
 Associates.... John Pluto, Y3c
 Jim Oliver, Sgt.
 Cartoonist.... Berry Horton, Slc
 Sports..... Andy Hardy, Y3c

Contributors: Miss Frankie Chisholm, J.P.K. Matthews, Kermit Chabino, Don Diblin.

**Varied Movie Thrills
 On Orientation Program
 Navy Theatre Today**

A series of the most recently available newsreels will be shown in the Navy Theatre this afternoon at 1300.

"The Battle of the Netherlands" shows the invasion of Walcheren Island to open the port of Antwerp. "The Battle of the U.S." contains documentary evidence in the FBI's fight against espionage and sabotage in the North and South Americas. And then, there is Private Snafu and the Ohio State-Michigan football game.

"The World at War," a review of the week's news with map slides, will begin promptly at 1300.

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REPORT From The ALEUTIANS

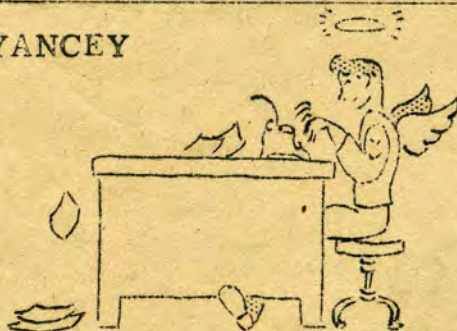


Beginning this afternoon the FAMILY REQUEST HOUR is stepped up to 60 minutes -- 1600 to 1700. Response to the show from folks back home is slightly on the solid side and we like it! Your wives, sweethearts, mothers and friends back in the States are invited to address their musical requests to the Welfare Officer or Special Services Officer at your FPO or APO address here, Attention Armed Forces Radio Station. Frankie Chisholm, popular mistress of ceremonies, will be happy to make the dedications.....

A new schedule of hours is going into effect at Radio Station WXIC. Because of the recent reduction in Army personnel from the staff, certain afternoon programs are being deleted. On weekdays the station will be silent between the hours of 1315 and 1600. This change will not interfere with regularly scheduled newscasts. On Saturday evening, the station will be on the air one hour later, signing off at 2405 with an additional news broadcast. The Sunday schedule will remain the same..... If your radio set is in need of repair, contact Earl Seaman in the Film Exchange Office, topside Welfare Building. Seaman will make arrangements to have it repaired. You are requested to bring all Welfare-issued sets to Seaman for inspection and subsequent re-issue to you....

A special Easter program will be presented on WXIC this afternoon, 1400 to 1500. The program

YANCEY



By JPKM



will include appropriate seasonal hymns in addition to popular Easter music.....

Serial TIGER WOMAN, the exciting movie feature, winds up at Navy Theatre tomorrow night.... Next week a new one, JUNGLE QUEEN, bows in.

* * *

"They appeared when we gave him his Good Conduct Medal!"



Merchants, ARD Birds Clash Again Tonight

FEATHERS HAND COMMUNICATIONS FIVE WORST DEFEAT OF SEASON

By Andy Hardy

Making casaba history again tonight will be the Feather Merchants and the Ard Birds. The Feathers lived up to pre-game predictions last night to score an overwhelming 66 - 40 win over the strong Communicators and advanced to the finals with the Ard Birds tonight.

In scoring their win the Merchants showed more flash and spirit than at any time this past season and appear to be "loaded" and waiting for revenge for the 69 - 60 defeat handed them a few nights back by the Birds. Words comes to us from the Bird camp, however, that the boys did it once and they'll take the Merchants again. The best way to decide this question will be to drop around the gym around 2000 tonight and watch these two fives, which have proven themselves to be the class of the base, square off in what may be the deciding game of the championship tourney.

Starting line-ups will probably read something like this--for the Feather Merchants there'll be Willson and Champagne at forwards, Howard at center, and Neidenthal and Richardson at guards. The Ard Birds will start with Deal and Reitsenburg at forwards, Dresser at center and Crum and Stukowsky at the guard posts.

In previous meetings this season these two teams have turned in some of the season's top performances, capping them all off with their double-overtime thriller in their last meeting. This one will be close too--all the way. Don't be surprised at either way the game goes.

As an added attraction, Lieut. Jack Goodman and Sp(A)lc Joe Berle will play an exhibition badminton match at halftime. The game is the first of a two out of three series to decide the base championship. Lieut. Goodman copped the officer's crown while Berle drug down top honors for enlisted men. This match will decide who reigns supreme on the badminton courts of the base.

* * *

FEATHER MERCHANTS 66, COMMUNICATORS 40

Willard Champagne and Angelo Howard sparked a smooth-working Feather Merchant quintet to an amazingly easy 66-40 victory over the Communicators in last night's only game. Breaking fast the Personnel boys built up a 27-17 halftime lead then went completely beserk in the last half to run away from the Cats. Champagne just couldn't miss. He sunk at least one shot from angle on the court and ran up 21 points to lead individual scorers. Angelo Howard worked beautifully under the bucket for the Feathers, tipping in basket after basket to rack up 18 points and runner-up scoring honors. Bonderia flipped in 17 points to lead the losers while their ace forward, Dave Lebenzon, was held to 11 points by close guarding.

Both teams played some of the smoothest ball seen in the tourney and the game, according to the referees, was the cleanest yet played in the tourney. Although they lost the Communications boys can well be pleased with themselves. They were fighting when the whistle blew and that's what counts.

NOTICE!!!

Bowling alleys will be secured today until 1800.

FIFTH AVENUE'S EASTER PARADE TODAY MOVES TO ALEUTIAN'S PILL ROW



What would Easter be without the Easter bunny, the Easter egg and the Easter Parade? All over America today, charming lassies are stepping proudly down the avenues in their new Spring outfits. Then there's the line from Irving Berlin's song, Easter Parade, which goes: "Down the avenue, Fifth Avenue, the photographers will snap you.... etc., etc....."

Well, here at this Aleutian base our own attractive lassies do not intend to be outdone by the gals back in the States. This afternoon the gals are coming through with a fashion show at the Navy Dispensary to model this season's most fashionable feminine attire. Yes sir, the Easter Parade has moved from Fifth Avenue, New York, to Pill Row, An Aleutian Base.

Gals who will model what the best-dressed women will be wearing this Spring are Pearline Taylor, Gerry Castro, Berni Elliott and Gayle Duff. Frankie Chisholm, organizer of the special Easter party, will be present to emcee the floor show, which will include an Easter egg hunt, melodies by pianist Jack Sample and songs by the College Glee Club under the direction of Leonard Earl Harris.

The Dispensary has been decorated with flowers which have just been winged in from the Stateside especially for today's church services and the smart Spring fashion show and Easter party.

A lot of fun is promised for those in Sick Bay this afternoon, so if you want to enjoy the show better check in this exclusive hotel for men this morning.



MOVIES

NAVY
1745 - 2000
Blonde Fever
Mary Astor
"March of Time"

SEABEE
1330 - 1800 - 2000
Bahama Passage
Madeleine Carroll

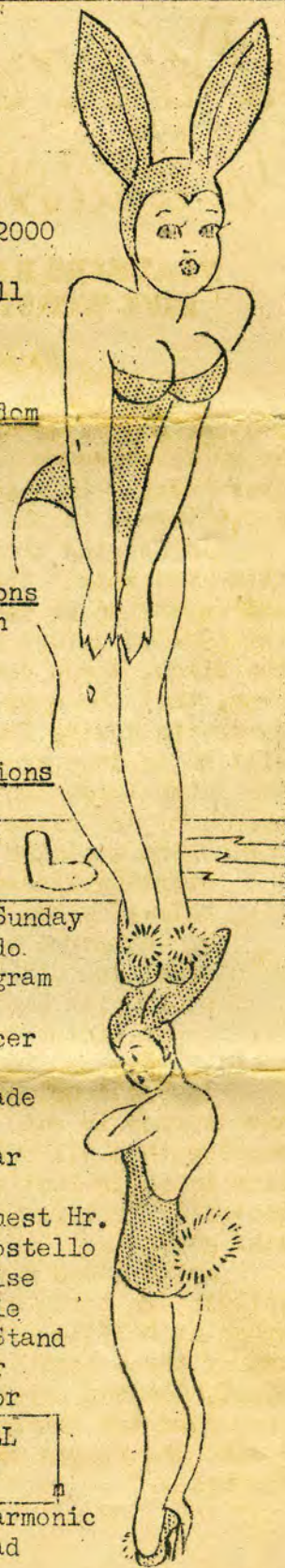
SUB BASE
1430 - 2000
Keys Of My Kingdom
Gregory Peck
Thomas Mitchell

BURMA ROAD
1400 - 1900
Music For Millions
Margaret O'Brien
Jimmy Durante

EL CAPITAN
1900
Grissley's Millions
Virginia Grey

WXL

1130 Music For Sunday
1200 Guy Lombardo
1230 Seabee Program
1300 World News
1315 Johnny Mercer
1330 GI Journal
1400 Easter Parade
1500 World News
1515 Edwin Le Mar
1530 Sammy Kaye
1600 Family Request Hr.
1700 Abbott & Costello
1745 Melody Cruise
1800 Nelson Eddie
1830 One Night Stand
1900 Melody Hour
1930 Eddie Cantor
2000 **BASKETBALL BROADCAST**
2030
2100
2130 N.Y. Philharmonic
2230 Hit The Road
2300 World News
2305 Sign Off



BY BERRY HORTON