

Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

WITH FIFTH ARMY BEACHHEAD FORCES IN ITALY, April 22 (By Wireless).—The greatest apprehension I've found in the Anzio-Nettuno area is not among the men on shore who have been under it constantly for weeks but among the crews of ships that sit out in the Mediterranean, unloading.

It takes several days to unload a big freighter, and during all that time they are subject to shelling from land and air raids from the sky. Their situation, I'll admit, is not an enviable one. It's true that few of them get hit, considering the amount of shooting the Germans do out there.

Yet there is always the possibility. And what gives them the creeps is when they're sitting on a ship full of ammunition or high explosives.

The crews of these big freighters are merchant marine. They merely operate the ship. They don't do the stevedoring work of unloading. That's done by soldiers.

They have a good system for this. At Naples a whole company of port battalion soldiers is put on each ship just before it sails. They make the trip up and back with the vessel, do the unloading at Anzio, and when they return to Naples they go back to their regular dock jobs there. A different company goes aboard for the next trip.

The result is that each one-time unloading crew is so anxious to get unloaded and get out of Anzio that everybody works with a vim and the material flies.

Up until a few weeks ago all unloading was done by port battalion groups based at Anzio. As soon as the crew finished one ship, it would have to go to work on another. There wasn't any end to it. The boys just felt they couldn't win. Since the new system went into effect, efficiency has shot up like a rocket.

The bigger ships are unloaded just as they would be at a dock, with winches hoisting out big netfuls of cargo from the deep holds and swinging them over the sides and letting them down—not onto a dock, however, but into flat-bottomed LCT's which carry the stuff to the beaches.

Each hold has a dozen or more men working down below, plus the winch crews and signal men. They are all soldiers. They work in 12-hour shifts, but they get intervals of rest.

I was aboard one Liberty ship about 10 a.m. All five hatches were bringing up stuff. You could lean over and watch the men down below piling up ration boxes. And on the deck immediately below us you could see scores of other soldiers trying to sleep, the deafening noise of the winches making no difference to them. They were the night shift. They slept on folding cots between blankets, with their clothes on.

"So Darned Defenseless"

ONE CREW boss was Sgt. Sam Lynch of Wilmington, Del. He is a veteran soldier, having served four months in the Arctic and 14 months on this side. Before the war he was a fireman on the Pennsylvania railroad and later a railway mail clerk. He is married and has one child.

I asked him how he liked coming up to Anzio on a ship and he said he didn't like it any too well.

Up Front With Mauldin



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"You know I ain't worth a dern in th' mornin' without a hot cup o' coffee."

"The trouble is," he said, "that you feel so darned defenseless. If you could just man a gun and shoot back it wouldn't be so bad."

But the navy operates the gun crews aboard all these freight ships and the soldiers can only sit there idle and sweat it out when bombs or shells start flying.

All Figured Out

YOU SHOULD see them work when a ship is about finished and it looks as though they might not get through in time to catch the next convoy.

They laugh and tell a story about one ship which finished 45 minutes after the convoy started. The skipper pulled anchor and started chasing the convoy. The navy radioed him orders to stop and wait. But this fellow kept right on going. He simply figured he'd rather face disciplinary action at Naples than German bombers for one more night at Anzio.

The navy's premise was that he was in greater danger from German subs and E-boats while running alone after the convoy than he would be from another night at Anzio. They have it all figured out by percentages, and they are right.

But this fellow was lucky and caught up with the convoy. I never heard what his superior did when he got there, but I bet they didn't invite him out for a round of golf.

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Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

CIRCUIT JUDGE C. M. GENTRY, up at Noblesville, heard the case of a young fellow charged with a fairly serious offense several months ago. Instead of sending the young fellow to prison, Judge Gentry agreed to permit the lad to join the army. Ever since, the judge has been receiving letters from him. The latest communication was a postcard from Iceland, reading: "Wish you were here." From what he has heard about Iceland, Judge Gentry still is wondering. . . . Bob Johnson, president of the Johnson Chevrolet Co., is recuperating at Methodist hospital from an emergency appendectomy Tuesday evening. . . . Municipal Court Judge John Niblack, a candidate for the Republican nomination for a third time recently. At the end of the day, he phoned his brother, Griffith, and said: "Hello, John, this is Griff." And he didn't understand why Griff laughed. . . . Howard Friend, of the State C. of staff, was in Chicago recently and ate breakfast at the Stevens hotel. The waitress wrote Howard's order on the last sheet in her order book, and then got another book. There were some other customers at a nearby table, and she started numbering the sheets in the new book. Finally, she said: "Say, you're not busy. How about numbering these order sheets for me, so I can wait on those folks?" Howard did. Anything to help out in the help-shortage situation.

No More Passes

ADD SIGNS OF SPRING: Caretakers have cut the grass on the world war memorial. And we'll be doing the same thing, along with thousands of other householders, at home over the week-end. . . . The park board has halted the practice of issuing free season passes for the municipal golf courses to newspapermen, politicians and city officials. Last year the board gave out something like 200 of the season passes, and in some years past the number has been even higher. The reason back of chopping off the

free list is that the state board of accounts holds they can't give away "city property without showing some return on the books." Those who always have had to pay to play should applaud the decision. . . . Mrs. Betty Hanning was to be taken to her home today following an emergency operation recently at Methodist hospital. While she was in the hospital, her sister-in-law, Mrs. Clifford Hanning, photographed her and is sending prints to the patient's husband, Capt. William F. Hanning, over in England.

Helen LaMarr of the gas company had an annoying experience recently. She arose at 4 a.m. to catch a train scheduled to leave at 6:30 a.m. for Detroit. She looked on the train schedule and decided that it said the train didn't leave until 7. A few minutes before 7, she inquired and found the train had pulled out at 6:30. She had been looking at the arrival-time of a train from Detroit. And so, after arising at 4 a.m., she sat in the station until 10 a.m., when she caught the next train. To add to her annoyance, this train gave her a three-hour layover in Logansport. . . . The service men's canteen is in need of a typewriter desk. If you have one to contribute, get in touch with Mrs. Clarence Merrell, BE-5720.

Here's the Solution

WERE STILL sweating over that little problem we reported in yesterday's column—the one about the three men who rented a hotel room at \$10 each. You probably remember that, in the problem, the hotel clerk decided \$30 was too much for the room and gave a bellboy \$5 to return to the men, proportionately, but that the boy found it easier to give each of the men \$1 and keep \$2 for himself. The reader who sent in the problem summarized that the room cost the men \$9 each, or \$27; the bellboy kept \$2, and "what became of the other dollar?" The way we figure it out, with the help of numerous mathematical marvels, the men originally paid \$30, but the hotel clerk kept only \$25. The men got \$3 back out of their original \$30, making their total cost \$27, or \$9 each. Thus the total amount they were out for the room was \$27, of which the hotel clerk got \$25 and the bellboy \$2. Simple, isn't it? Or is it? And never again!

Celler's proposal was made in a letter to WAC Director Col. Oveta Culp Hobby.

WASHINGTON, April 22 (U.P.).—Rep. Emanuel Celler (D. N. Y.) said today that the women's army corps would have higher morale and more recruits if a touch of "sparkle" were added to their uniforms.

He added that he did not propose dressing them like "drum majors" or "converting the corps into a mardi gras festival," but that "even girls in bright slacks and colored scarf and blouse in war plants seem corsair (glittering or gleaming) in comparison."

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Home Town Papers, Please Don't Copy

FIFTH AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS, Italy, April 22 (U.P.).—Army regulations forbid air force officers and enlisted WACs to have dates unless they are engaged.

About two dozen officers and WACs here asked for certificates of betrothal.

The army said that home-town newspapers would, of course, be notified of the happy partnerships.

All but one application was withdrawn.

Right in Der Fuehrer's Face

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples, April 22 (U.P.).—German troops sneaked out into no-man's land on the 8th army front Thursday night—Adolf Hitler's birthday—and put up a sign in English: "Britons—salute our fuehrer."

British artillery knocked the sign to bits.

IT IS THE PRACTICE of many soldiers to take hammocks into the field with them. Perhaps it is their way of making it obvious that they prefer the navy, but were drafted before they had a chance to make a choice. In some climates, sleeping on the ground is not particularly healthful, due to various and sundry creeping, crawling creatures that infest the area. It is here that the hammock comes into its own and is really appreciated.

My Day

By Eleanor Roosevelt

WASHINGTON, Friday—Yesterday was a busy day because, as usual, there seemed to be plenty of work waiting on our desks when we came in. Some young people came to lunch. Among them was Sgt. John Carey, a member of a marine corps dive bomber crew, who is back here on furlough after many months in the Pacific.

I noted four stars on his service ribbon, but he was as modest as could be and glowed with pride over the achievements of his older brother, James M. Carey, secretary-treasurer of the C. I. O. It was a kind of mutual admiration society which was pleasant to see.

At 2:30 I went out to Walter Reed hospital to attend a discussion group meeting which has been started out there by the patients.

Mrs. Bradley Dewey, wife of the rubber director, is in charge. Those who are in bed in the wards can listen over the loud speaker connections and they can send in questions. These were of a general nature and covered many subjects yesterday, but I think that as they go on they will find it necessary to take up one or two subjects each day, and will have people there who know those particular subjects very well.

I found myself promising to look certain questions up and get detailed answers for the meeting

and to enjoy our time in an atmosphere and in the Army as it is done. In Bougainville.

I am interested to find that St. Louis university is now sponsoring an activity which may be of interest to a number of people who are completely home-bound. The university departments of marketing and the school of commerce and finance have set up a permanent activity, the checking of radio programs by home-bound people throughout this country.

After the war, it is hoped to make this a worldwide operation. An activity of this kind should give work and interest to handicapped people and should mean an improvement in radio programs in regard to accuracy and presentation.

War Side-lights—

PATTON BACK IN EUROPE FOR SECOND FRONT

Dashing Combat General May Be Heading an Invasion Force.

By PHIL AULT

United Press Staff Correspondent LONDON, April 22.—Lt. Gen. George S. (Blood and Guts) Patton, whose main aim is to whip Adolf Hitler and kill a lot of Germans, was in the fighting zones again today, this time the European theater where the allies were massing for the final blow at Nazi Germany.

The swashbuckling, pistol-packing general, who almost ruined his military career by slapping a sick soldier, was in this theater because allied leaders know he is a dashing combat soldier.

While it was not determined if Patton had been given command of an invasion force, the Daily Express carried a headline—"Patton Here for Second Front."

Arrival of Patton in the European zone was the first word of his whereabouts since March when it was announced he had left the 7th army to take over command of "another army."

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower himself—and many other professional soldiers—believe Patton is the kind of man they need to storm tough objectives.

He likes to fight and army leaders believe he too good a combat soldier to be shelved at the time when the army needs rough and ready leaders.

Jap Thrust Fails To Cut Off Allies

By FRANK HEWLETT

United Press War Correspondent ASSAM-BURMA BORDER, April 21 (Delayed).—Japan's thrust into India through the Naga hills to Assam has failed to keep a gallon of gasoline or a pound of food from the allies in northern Burma, and it has not diverted the allied major task in this theater—opening a land route to China.

Observers on the spot believe the Japanese already have been held up long by British strong points at Imphal and Kohima, thus giving the allies ample time to bring up sufficient reinforcements and thereby greatly reducing the danger of the enemy cutting railroad and river routes into northern Assam province.

The successful carrying out of the Japanese plan would have cut off supplies for Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's forces in northern Burma.

Anzio Beachhead On Air Tomorrow

By ROBERT VERMILLION

United Press War Correspondent ANZIO BEACHHEAD, Italy, April 22.—The Anzio beachhead will go on the air tomorrow night beaming a program to the United States from the most shell-battered radio station on any war front.

Station JRRP, whose call is Jig, Jig Roger Peter, will broadcast to New York for the Sunday afternoon army hour. The program will include a newscast by broadcasters in this theater and a regular beach-head news review for B. B. C. in London.

The broadcast will originate in the AVE studio which has been broadcasting press copy by voice transmission and Morse code to Naples for re-transmission to the United States and Great Britain.

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