

# Hoosier Vagabond

By Ernie Pyle

Editor's Note: This is the 50th of the Ernie Pyle war dispatches that are being reprinted during Ernie's vacation.

ON THE WESTERN FRONT, August, 1944.—The ways of an invasion turned out to be all very new to Pfc. Tommy Clayton, 29th division.

It was new to thousands of others also, for they hadn't been trained in hedgerow fighting. So they had to learn it the way a dog learns to swim. They learned.

This Tommy Clayton, the mildest of men, has killed four of the enemy for sure, and probably dozens of unseen ones. He wears an expert rifeman's badge and soon will have the proud badge of combat infantryman, worn only by those who have been through the mill.

Three of his four victims he got in one long blast of his Browning automatic rifle. He was stationed in the bushes at a bend in a gravel road, covering a crossroads about 80 yards ahead of him.

Suddenly three German soldiers came out a side road and foolishly stopped to talk right in the middle of the crossroads. The B. A. R. has 20 bullets in a clip. Clayton held her down for the whole clip. The three Germans went down, never to get up.

His fourth one he thought was a Jap when he killed him. In the early days of the invasion lots of soldiers thought they were fighting Japs, scattered in the German troops. They were actually Mongolian Russians, with strong Oriental features, who resembled Japs to the untraveled Americans.

On this fourth killing, Clayton was covering an infantry squad as it worked forward along a hedgerow. There were snipers in the trees in front. Clayton spotted one and sprayed the tree with his automatic rifle, and out tumbled this man he thought was a Jap.

## How He Did It

TO SHOW how little anyone who hasn't been through war can know about it—do you want to know how Clayton located his sniper?

Here's how—When a bullet passes smack over your head it doesn't zing; it pops the same as a rifle when it goes off. That's because the bullet's rapid passage creates a vacuum behind it, and the air rushes back with such force to fill this vacuum that it collides with itself, and makes a resounding "pop."

# Inside Indianapolis By Lowell Nussbaum

SOME VERY RED faces were worn by members of a Junior C. of C. reception committee for Brig. Gen. Gerald C. Thomas, who spoke at the marine anniversary luncheon. Evan Walker, John Tyler and Jack Reich met the general at the train and escorted him to the Claypool where, they informed him, they had a suite of rooms for him. They went to the registration desk, obtained the key to the suite they had reserved, and went on up. Being polite about it, they unlocked the door, then ushered the general in ahead of them. He stepped inside, and halted abruptly. "Looks like you've been having a good time," he said. The Jaycees looked over his shoulder, and were horrified to note that the room was littered with empty and partially empty beer bottles, mixer bottles, and glasses, and was in a general condition indicating it had been the scene of a big party. What would the general think? They quickly explained they'd never seen the room before—that the rooms just hadn't been cleaned up after the last occupants. The general graciously accepted the explanation. Then it dawned on the committee that a newspaper photographer was due there any minute to take the general's picture. It wouldn't do to have the bottles showing, so all set to work removing the litter and straightening up the room. Even the general helped.

Time to Get Up  
IT'S GETTING so a fellow can't take a nap any more. A telephone company linesman who lives in Shelbyville but works here arrived in town a bit early yesterday and decided to take a nap while waiting until time for work. He parked his car in front of 520 W. Washington, and proceeded to nap. Imagine his embarrassment when he found a squad of police shaking him. A passerby had seen him snoozing in the car and, thinking him dead, had called police. It was time to go to work, anyway.

World of Science  
WHAT SHALL a science editor write on the Armistice day of one world war that falls in the midst of a second? I shall take the opportunity to preach a sermon on the necessity of maintaining adequate scientific research in the military field in the post-war world, not to prepare us for world war III but to prevent world war III.

There is a very close connection between modern wars and scientific advances. The Kaiser could not have started world war I without the Haber process for turning the nitrogen of the atmosphere into nitrates. For the British navy shut off his access to Chilean nitrates and without nitrates there can be no explosives.

Hitler could not have started world war II without the various processes for the making of synthetic gasoline for he has had to depend upon synthetics for the fuel to run his tanks and planes.

Need for Research Remains  
BUNGLING of the peace at the close of world war II might very well set the stage for world war III, but what would do the most to incite an aggression of the future to overt action would be the possession of some secret weapon of amazing power. Every scientist knows that there is the potentiality of that kind of weapon in the release of atomic power.

My Day  
WASHINGTON, Friday.—Yesterday at Hyde Park I spent most of the day trying to get the orders for winter arrangements on the farm and in the house, arranging for the closing of my cottage, and finally finishing as much mail as Miss Thompson and I together could get through.

After dinner a few people from farther up the river, in Rhinebeck and that neighborhood, came down to speak to the President, and he went out on the porch to greet them.

By 10 o'clock we went to the train, and little Johnny Boettiger, who had taken a nap after his supper, seemed to feel that this was great excitement. His only annoyance was that he had not been allowed to stay up all evening.

We arrived here this morning, and the members of the cabinet, representatives of the congress and other officials all greeted the President before he left the train.

We stopped for a few minutes on the plaza in front of the station while Under Secretary of State Stettinius read a scroll from the government workers assuring the President of their support and continued work for the duration.

Mrs. Wallace and our daughter and I were in the car behind the President, the vice president and the vice president-elect. We were sorry that there were no loud speakers around the plaza, because we could not hear either Mr. Stettinius or my husband, and we were sure that the crowds round about were also disappointed.

Once at the White House, we stopped with the Vice President and Mrs. Wallace and Senator Truman in the diplomatic reception room to receive all the people in the White House itself, and those from the executive offices, as well as the guards about the grounds.

Most of us had our breakfast before we left the train, but the President insisted that he was going to have his after he got here. I found him in his study at 10 a. m. still enjoying his tray, and we had a little chat with various other people.

At 11 I met with the ladies of the press. The President had held his press conference at 10:30, so a few ladies came dashing over breathless from his conference to mine.

Clayton didn't know what caused this, and I tried to explain. "You know what a vacuum is," I said. "We learned that in high school."

And Tommy said, "Ernie, I never went past the third grade."

But Tommy is intelligent and his sensitivities are fine. You don't have to know the reason in war, you only have to know what things indicate when they happen.

Well, Clayton had learned that the pop of a bullet over his head preceded the actual rifle report by a fraction of a second, because the sound of the rifle explosion had to travel some distance before hitting his ear. So the "pop" became his warning signal to listen for the crack of a sniper's rifle a moment later.

Through much practice he had learned to gauge the direction of the sound almost exactly. And so out of this animal-like system of hunting, he had the knowledge to shoot into the right tree—and out tumbled his "Jap" sniper.

## Weirdest Experience

CLAYTON'S weirdest experience would be funny if it weren't so flooded with pathos. He was returning with a patrol one moonlit night when the enemy opened up on them. Tommy leaped right through a hedge and, spotting a foxhole, plunged into it.

To his amazement and fright, there was a German in the foxhole, sitting pretty, holding a machine pistol in his hands.

Clayton shot him three times in the chest before you could say scat.

The German hardly moved. And then Tommy realized the man had been killed earlier. He had been shooting a corpse.

All these experiences seem to have left no effect on this mild soldier from Indiana, unless to make him quieter than before.

The worst experience of all is just the accumulated blur, and the hurting vagueness of too long in the lines, the everlasting alertness, the noise and fear, the cell-by-cell exhaustion, the thinning of the ranks around you as day follows nameless day. And the constant march into eternity of your own small quota of chances for survival.

Those are the things that hurt and destroy. And soldiers like Tommy Clayton go back to them, because they are good soldiers and they have a duty they cannot define.

Found—One Beanie  
SOMEWHERE, SOMEONE probably is wondering what ever happened to her "beanie"—a small skullcap type of hat with four little black bows on it. Well, we can tell her. All she has to do to find it is to contact Mrs. Mildred Flanner Linblad, BR. 0424, Mrs. Linblad's son, Bob Linblad, the sailor (not Simbad), left Sunday for the naval reserve pre-midshipman's school at Asbury Park, N. J., after graduation from the V-12 program at Purdue. His sweetheart, Miss Betty Lou Fleigh, of Ohio Wesleyan university, spent the week-end with the Linblads, then rode as far as Columbus with Bob on his way east. When they got ready to leave, Sunday, she couldn't find her "beanie." She thought back, and decided she had lost it at the Illinois St. Service-Men's Center the night before. She called there, and sure enough—somebody found such a hat. Bob dashed in and got the hat on their way to the train. The next day, Mrs. Linblad discovered a hat just like it on the running board of her car, which hadn't been used since Saturday. Now, she wonders who lost the hat Betty Lou is wearing.

Weapons Change Constantly  
EVERY ONE seems agreed that we must maintain our magnificent navy at approximately its present strength after the war. We must likewise have an air force of considerable size. There is more discussion about the army and I am not certain that we need or can afford a very large peacetime army.

Many army experts want a small but highly professional and finely equipped peacetime army. But the most important fact to remember is that weapons and ways of war constantly change. Our "Battleship X" shot down the Japanese airplanes that attacked it off Guadalcanal. But precisely the same sort of attack previously sunk the Repulse and the Prince of Wales.

Radars, electrical gun-pointers, bazookas, rocket guns of all sorts, weapons that are still secret—these are the things without which modern wars cannot be fought.

Not of these devices is the ultimate in its field. Thus our national safety requires that we continue the researches upon them after this war.

We must never again make the mistake of starving the research and development activities of our army and navy.

Lawrence Parker, Tech Pupil, Dies From Traffic Injuries  
A Technical high school junior died early today at City hospital from injuries received yesterday when he ran into an automobile as he was crossing in the 2000 block of E. Washington st.

Lawrence Parker, 16, of 1201 Hoyt ave., police said, was crossing the street diagonally and ran into the door of an automobile driven by Paul A. Pierce, 42, of 936 N. Tacoma ave.

A member of the Tech band, young Parker was returning home from a football game between his school and Washington high school, when the accident occurred. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Parker.

Witnesses said, Pierce was driving west about 20 miles an hour at the time.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed.

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PORTSMOUTH, N. H., Nov. 11 (U. P.)—One sailor was killed, another seriously hurt and eight others rescued last night when a U. S. submarine on routine surface operations off here crashed into a 70-foot U. S. coast guard cutter, the navy announced today.

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The father pondered his son's confession and finally went to police.

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"This suicide definitely closes our investigation of the girl's murder," Gregg said.

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ANY PEACE WORSE THAN NO PEACE AT ALL, NAZIS DECIDE—

# Why Germany Will Sign No Armistice

By CURT REISS

Written for NEA Service

THE Germans have decided that they want neither armistice nor peace, according to a report which has been received by this writer. As far as they're concerned, the war can go on forever.

This decision was reached by Adolf Hitler and his most trusted lieutenants in a series of conferences, in which a number of high army officers took part.

Total mobilization, as proclaimed by Dr. Goebbels on July 26, was not, as hitherto believed, an attempt to use every ounce of strength still left in Germany to prolong the war and postpone the unavoidable military defeat.

On the other hand, the Nazis believe that as long as Hitler does not sign an armistice or a peace he will remain the only legal power in Germany, having been legally appointed by President Hindenburg who, in turn, was elected according to the Weimar constitution.

AS LONG as Hitler remains the head of the only rightful German government, everybody appointed by him retains his position within the government, even if he has to go into hiding or into exile.

This again would make it impossible for anybody except the Nazis themselves to negotiate with the allies.

The Nazis have established a commission to carry through measures which may be necessary to avoid the conclusion of an armistice or peace treaty by any other German representative.

This commission, whose members are a few topnotch Nazis and high-ranking officers, may later on function as German government, either in hiding or in exile.

IN THE MEANTIME, Dr. Goebbels has prepared a host of decrees to clarify the situation for the German public.

It is strictly forbidden for any German to co-operate in any way with the occupation authorities wherever the allies occupy Germany.

No German mayor must run his city; no German judge must preside over a trial; no German government employee down to the least important must do any work under the allies.

The Nazis know well that if their policy of resistance is carried through, sometime in 1945 the allies will occupy a Germany completely in ruins. And this is precisely what they hope for.

FOR NO matter how efficient the allied authorities of occupation may prove, the Germans will have a tough time in a country completely a shambles.

In such circumstances the Germans can remember only that "after all, under Hitler it was better."

The more thoroughly Germany is destroyed before the allies take possession, the more certain such a reaction on the part of the average German will become.

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE that German industrialists want to follow the new Nazi party line. They will now try more than ever to come to terms with the allies.

They will attempt to find representative personalities to sign an armistice before all their plants, factories, mines, etc., are destroyed.

Nazi propagandists today will have no difficulty in pointing out that the coming Nazi underground will be incomparably more efficient in wiping-out any would-be traitors; that is, anybody who may want to sign an armistice or peace with the allies or collaborate with them in any other way.

Some of the house members who voted for the law and who will not return to congress will be absent for reasons of redistricting, deaths, cancellations for other offices, or primary defeats. The same applies in about the same proportion to the members who voted against the law and will not succeed themselves.

But in no instance which is readily apparent was a vote for the Connally-Smith bill the determining reason for rejection of any congressman—despite all the ballyhoo that was raised around the issue 18 months ago.

We, the Women  
Non-War Wives  
Help to Ease Loneliness  
BY RUTH MILLETT  
I'VE WRITTEN several columns on the problem of how service wives should be treated by other wives in their communities and now the non-service wives would like to have their side of the picture presented.

Here is how some of them feel:

First, they don't think they have been given much credit in print for what they have done for service wives. And they may be right there.

Miss Millett Duration, "widows" have certainly not been socially neglected as real widows have always been in the past.

THERE IS many a hostess today who has parties where the women outnumber the men (which is certainly not a hostess' idea of a perfect dinner table arrangement or party set-up) just because she invites two or three war wives whenever she entertains.

Then, too, non-war wives feel that they shouldn't be expected to invite into their homes duration widows who wouldn't even have been entertained by them if their husbands were around.

And they probably have a point there, too. If they just take on the duration "widows" who were members of their social group before the war, they are doing as much as can reasonably be expected of them.

BOY, 10, ROLLS INTO PATH OF AUTOMOBILE  
A 10-year-old boy playing in a large cardboard carton rolled into the street yesterday and received head injuries when he was struck by an automobile near New York and Spring sts.

The boy, Richard Mootz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cedric Mootz, 713 E. Vermont st., jumped out of the box and ran down the street after he had been struck by the car, driven by Herbert Taylor, 32, of 1066 E. New York st., police said.

The youth was taken home by two schoolmates.



Dead Aachen, striking example of the new Nazi policy to make a shambles of Germany. This scene was typical of the city's appearance when the fanatical resistance to American occupation was ended.

CURT REISS, on the eve of his departure to cover overseas assignments, presents another of his revealing analyses of Nazi policies. Complete chaos in Germany, Reiss reports, is the specific aim of her military and political leaders. Here he tells you why the Nazis will never sign an armistice.

able under present circumstances.

In 1918 the army demanded an immediate armistice in order to save Germany from invasion and destruction.

Only four years later Gen. Ludendorff declared: "Chaos in Germany would have been a better solution."

It is precisely this better solution to which the successors of Ludendorff have pledged themselves.

THE SAVAGE fight for Aachen is proof that the new Nazi program has been put into effect. Contrary to what they may have believed before, German military leaders are now convinced that the allies will not give them a chance to rebuild the German army.

Therefore, no peace seems better to them than any peace obtainable under present circumstances.

THE AIR FOR LATIN? Aviation Course Proposed in Lieu Of Classic Study  
INDIANA HIGH school pupils in the post-war period may be given an opportunity to substitute a course in aviation for classical Latin, if the general assembly accepts a proposal made yesterday.

It was one of several made by witnesses who appeared before the governor's commission on aviation at a public hearing in Evansville.

The commission heard testimony on the establishment of a state aviation commission with authority to promote and regulate aviation in Indiana.

IT WAS unanimously recommended that such a commission be separate from the public service commission, highway commission or other existing regulatory body.

The session yesterday was the second in a series of four being held throughout the state by the commission appointed by Governor to take evidence and outline proposed legislative action.

Another hearing will be held at Ft. Wayne Nov. 22 and the final one will be held Dec. 4-5.

Among those who testified were L. L. LeMoine, president of the Evansville board of aviation commissioners; Leslie Lacroix, traffic manager of the Evansville Chamber of Commerce; Capt. William T. Brackett, commander of the civil air patrol in the Evansville area; Harry Newcomb, assistant to the president of Servel, Inc.; C. Nelson Smith, vice-president of the Hoosier Cardinal Corp.; Walter W. Noetting, vice-president of the Faultless Caster Corp.; and Walter E. Koch, member of the Evansville board of aviation commissioners.

STOVE BLAST BURNS EMPLOYEE AT HOTEL  
A woman employee of the Dearborn hotel, 3208 E. Michigan st., was burned about the face and an arm when a gas oven exploded this morning in the hotel kitchen.

Mrs. Stella Logan, 57, of 4117 E. New York st., was taken to City Hospital with first-degree burns. The accident occurred when a grill caught fire and ignited gas in the oven, police said.

By Crockett Johnson

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WAGES OF SIN— Mental Torture Seen in Suicide Of Girl's Slayer  
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A few hours before he took his life his conscience led him to reclaim his victim's gold wrist watch from the brother-in-law to whom he had given it.

The glittering timepiece was found beside him as he lay on a bed, a gas tube between his lifeless lips in the newly rented room to which he fled while police, who suspected him as the killer, waited for his nerves to crack.

POLICE, piecing together the stories told them by Marquis' father, Ernest, and friends of Marie Rose Lacombe, reconstructed this modern version of Dostoevski's "crime and punishment."

Marquis, emotional and moody, who lasted only from February until May last year in the army, then got into trouble in Illinois when he was released from a corrective institution a few weeks ago, met the young girl at a movie, they made love.

The girl's brutally bludgeoned body was found the next morning in the lonely stadium.

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