

Airborne Forces Key to Victory In Event of War No. 3

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK—(P)—I want to tell you about a book that may affect your life and the lives of your children.

It is a book without a plot. It has no hero or heroine and no love interest—except maybe love of country. It has no happy ending, because it ends on the note that we are just beginning.

The book is "Airborne Warfare"

and it is published by the Infantry Journal Press, whose volumes for one reason or another don't hit many drugstore book counters.

Maj. Gen. "Slim Jim" Gavin wrote the book. It is a kind of blueprint of World War Three—time when which may rank in time with the historic book on armored warfare written by an obscure French captain, Charles DeGaulle, before the outbreak of World War Two.

"Slim Jim" is a kind of military Horatio Alger. A steel-willed man with a pleasant grin, he enlisted in the army at 17 and at 37 became commander of the famed 82nd Airborne Division.

He has a great battle record and is a cool and sensible man.

He was respected and liked by his troops—the hard-bitten paratroop kids who had as their motto: "Anybody who hesitates to attack a pillbox or kiss a pretty girl is a coward."

Air Force Top Weapon

Gavin thinks the danger of the military mind lies in spending its time now learning how to fight the last war better. On the other hand he doesn't think war in the foreseeable future will be merely a matter of pushbuttons. He believes the man who pulls the trigger will still be needed—but he wants to put wings on all the walking soldiers.

"The future of our armed forces is in the air," he says, "all fighting men and everything they

need to fight with in the future and live on as they fight must be capable of movement by air."

Gavin cites evidence to bolster his belief that airborne landings played a decisive role in saving the beachheads in Sicily, Italy and perhaps Normandy. Yet he says that as late as 1942 the faculty of a leading American military school was teaching that it was impossible to land a division of airborne troops behind enemy lines because too many takeoff airfields were required.

Two years later three full divisions of airborne troops were the first Allied soldiers to land in France.

"If our development of equipment for amphibious warfare

Tiny, Aged Woman Uses Axe On Cop

MONMOUTH, Ill., Feb. 12—(P)

A tiny, 80-year-old woman, ac-

were as retarded as our development for airborne warfare has been," he observes drily, "we would have made the Normandy assault in rowboats."

What will future warfare be like?

Well, Gavin thinks beachheads will be replaced by airheads on enemy territory—a full army landed by air and functioning in

cused of slashing a constable with an axe after he and a policeman forced open her door to serve an eviction notice, today was charged with assault with a deadly weapon.

Mrs. Elizabeth Jean Snedecker, a little over four feet tall, spent her 80th birthday anniversary yesterday in jail without charge. She remained in jail today.

Constable Jess Berner and Policeman Max K'dder alleged that when they forced open the door of her home Monday night to serve a notice evicting her from her home, she met them with upraised axe and slashed Berner on his left wrist and arm. Today he was reported recovering.

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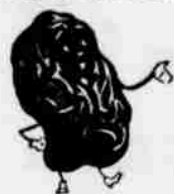
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