

# Lee G. Miller

"Battle" Nets  
Writer's Ship  
Five Prisoners

ABOARD A CRUISER IN THE SOUTHWEST PACIFIC — (By Wire) — Our task force took five Jap prisoners on its way to Borneo. The Japs were Borneo-bound too.

We would have taken more, but two Japs on one raft blew themselves up as one of our destroyers approached. And five more Japs on two other rafts, who showed no disposition to surrender and who were in shallow water too shallow for a destroyer to enter, were killed by fire from a land-based plane we summoned.

The prisoners were a Jap naval physician, three pharmacists, a medic, a soldier, the latter slightly wounded from a recent American air attack on Bongao island of the Tawitawi group. The doctor said they had all been trying to escape from Bongao, but a strong current threw their rafts off course.

Rear Admiral Russell S. Berkey, the task force commander, ordered the prisoners transferred from the destroyer to another of our cruisers. We watched through glasses as a line was rigged between the two ships — while they proceeded at their usual speed. The Japs crossed over, one by one, in a variation of the breeches-buoy method.

Capt. Jack Duncan graciously offered to send me across the same way to interview the prisoners, but I demurred on the ground I was not fluent in Japanese.

Meantime another destroyer, on which my friend Lieut. Jack R. Howard, of New York, was stationed, overhauled two sailboats but signaled that they contained friendly natives.

Well our taking the prisoners wasn't much of a naval engagement, but then sizeable actions have been fought with fewer persons taken, so we dubbed it the battle of Tawitawi.

The "battle" concluded a busy day. We had had an air alarm in the morning, and I got a cracked shin clambering through a scuttle, but the planes turned out to be friendly.

Then the chief engineer, Lieut. Cmdr. George F. Jagla of Cotati, Calif., took the correspondents down to the engine rooms and fire rooms.

It was a hot day even on deck. When we finally emerged from our tour we were bathed in sweat and so limp it was all we could do to stagger to the deck stand for life-saving ice cream. The temperatures below reach as high as 140 degrees. Occasionally we would pause in front of a flower bringing in coolish air, but between pauses it was rugged.

We descended so far that at one time we were gazing upward at one of the four massive shafts that drive our propellers.

The funny thing is, Jagla said, that his machinists, water-tenders, etc., would resent transfer to other jobs on the ship. And he said they didn't like going on deck for an airing. They work four hours, then have eight off, and they spend most of the eight in bunks far below deck.

And believe me, while sailors have many amenities that soldiers lack, the soldiers have some advantages. Whereas soldiers have the privacy of goldfish, sailors have the privacy of sardines under glass. They sleep in four-and five-tiered bunks tucked into every available cranny, no matter how public. It's as soon sleep next to a subway turnstile.

Admiral Berkey reported the wounding of my friend Colonel Bob Allen, in Germany, and my thoughts went to his devoted wife, Ruth Finney, Washington correspondent.

The admiral is reading Ernie Pyle's "Brave Men," which he got for Christmas.

After dinner Lieut. Frank E. Taplin of Cleveland, Admiral Berkey's intelligence officer, played the piano in the wardroom. "Tap" is a Princeton man. He is married to a New Zealand girl named Ngaio, the same as Ngaio Marsh, the New Zealand "Whodunit" writer. So I finally learned how to pronounce the name. Just forget the "G" and say Nigh-oh. You never know what you'll find out in these tropical waters.

## New Member Added To Police Dept.

Harry Chambers, recently of Portland, has been appointed a member of the La Grande police department. He and Mrs. Chambers plan to make their home here and have purchased a home at 808 B avenue.

Chambers is a former chief of police of Hawthorne, Calif., and was also connected with the sheriff's force in Los Angeles county. Before coming to La Grande, he was special agent for Kaiser company in Portland.

# Britain's Ability to Prevent Invasion Turned Tide of War Against Forces of Nazism

By VIRGIL PINKLEY  
United Press War Correspondent

PARIS, May 11 (UP) — It took three years of allied victories to beat Germany to her knees.

The knockout blow carried the accumulative effect of all these mighty land, sea and air efforts.

Once Hitler and the Luftwaffe failed to win the battle for Britain the war was lost for Germany because only the capture and occupation of Britain could have given the reich complete mastery of Europe and the ability to establish the so-called new order.

The RAF and the courage of England's little man, especially from the east end of London, thwarted and then stymied Germany's plan to conquer and rule Europe and later most of the other parts of the world, especially Africa, Russia and the middle and near East.

The United Kingdom was to be cleaned up fast after the fall of France and the low countries. Then all efforts were to be turned to the east and Russia.

## Blockade Fails

Hitler believed after Dunkerque that Britain would sue for peace or, failing this, that a blockade by U-boats would force the British to request a negotiated peace, or that the Luftwaffe mission.

Without Britain as a fortress and base it would have been virtually impossible to prepare, mount and launch the Anglo-American campaigns in north Africa, Sicily, Italy and France. Without England there would not have been air bases to enable the RAF bomber command and the then ever-growing powerful American Eighth and Ninth air forces to bomb, blast and slash the vital lines of Germany's war machine and pull much of the Luftwaffe's power off the east front, where Russia needed such relief.

So the first big British and allied victory was the battle for Britain.

## Russians Block Nazis

Shortly thereafter, two vitally important defeats were inflicted on Hitler's legions in the rubble-strewn streets of Stalingrad and the burning, sandy reaches of El Alamein. Preceding the victories the Russians halted the German drives at the gates of Leningrad and the approaches to Moscow.

The blocking of the German march eastward for oil and the envisaged linkup with the Japanese brought abruptly to a close the idea of a joined axis global warfare.

Then there came onto the scene operational leaders of the war in Britain's big four outstanding the persons of field marshals Sir Harold Alexander and Sir Bernard Montgomery, air chief marshal Sir Arthur Tedder and admiral of the fleet Sir Andrew Cunningham.

## Ceylon Grab Thwarted

On the Easter weekend of 1942 the Japanese made a desperate attempt to assault Ceylon by sea and air in preparation to land troops. This was the dying gasp of master conquest the raiders directed from Berlin and Tokyo.

The RAF managed to pull an unexpected number of Hurricane fighters out of the hat. These stout, heavy-firing fighters smashed the Japanese grab at Ceylon. From that hour Nippon's fortunes in the Indian ocean, India and Burma sank.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower considers the Japanese defeat at Ceylon one of the most devastating and far-reaching blows delivered against the axis military machine.

An axis junction would have enabled not only maximum results from German and Japanese (and at that time Italy's) manpower, air forces and navies, but also could have enabled the Japs to provide raw materials of the Far East in exchange for part of the industrial and chemical output of German-occupied European countries and Italy. Additionally, Germany would have had oil, gasoline and rubber.

## Yanks Turn Tables

After Stalingrad, El Alamein and Ceylon, America's fighting contributions began to turn the scales, although during three previous years the United States production of war tools, raw materials, foodstuffs and ships already had been enabling Britain to dig in and hold on while converting manpower and industry into a military machine. It also helped Russia, while that country fell back fighting to utilize her vast space and manpower to stave off defeat.

First America added its sea and air strength to Britain's and Canada's to help beat the Atlantic submarine menace which Prime Minister Winston Churchill long ranked as the greatest single allied battle. Then American air forces commanded by Gen. Carl Spaatz, Maj. Gen. Frederick Anderson and Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker and James Doolittle began to blast German strongholds and battle the Luftwaffe.

Finally came the north Africa landings Nov. 8, 1942, with the eventual capture of well over 250,000 Germans as Tunis and

Bizerte were liberated and the French north African colonial empire was freed.

These victories between November and May welded the British and Americans, assisted by French, Polish, Greek and Yugoslav forces, into a smooth, powerful fighting machine under the supreme command of Eisenhower.

## Mediterranean Cleared

The victories prepared the way for the successful invasions of Sicily and Italy and the clearing of the Mediterranean. The prongs which the nazis drove into Africa, the Middle East and throughout the Mediterranean were blunted, then clipped off completely. Germany was driven back into Europe.

Following nearly three years of hard work and careful planning, Eisenhower sent his armies — and with them the hopes of the civilized world — onto the beaches of Normandy June 6, 1944.

Before these landings, which he postponed one full month to enable five divisions to make the initial assault instead of three, many big decisions were made by the commander in chief. He decided, in opposition to the British cabinet, that it was necessary to bomb the marshalling yards in France despite danger to the civilians.

He likewise argued successfully for a plan to have the allied forces in Italy attack southern France instead of fighting in the Balkans campaign or landing in northwest France, Belgium or Holland, as Churchill desired.

**Bombers Play Big Part**  
The RAF bomber command and the U. S. Eighth air force carried out three major campaigns against Germany.

These campaigns included: First, the destruction of the German air force in the air and on the ground. Once control of the air was won then the other campaigns became possible.

Second, the smashing of refineries and synthetic oil plants to rob the reich of oil and gasoline necessary to wage a modern war of mobility.

Third, the systematic destruction of German transportation and communications, with emphasis on marshalling yards, electrical installations, rail and road bridges and canal locks.

Meanwhile the Russian armies everywhere achieved amazing gains, destroying vast numbers of German troops and quantities of supplies.

As Eisenhower's armies landed and swung across France, Belgium, Luxembourg and part of Holland the Russians continued their sensational gains along fronts extending up to 2,000 miles in length.

## V-Bombs Terrorize England

And England again was undergoing new terror from the air as flying bombs and then V-2 rockets. Later these same hellish contraptions were to plague civilians in Belgium, especially Liege and Antwerp, and France and Holland.

Now comes the question of which battles since D-day rank as the major turning points.

Eisenhower lists the Normandy landings and the battles west of the Rhine and of the Ruhr. The last victory was really Gen. Ike's classic. Just about everything went according to plan — plans which he started to formulate in Washington in the spring of 1942.

## Germans Lose Heavily

In the Ruhr the Germans did the same as in Normandy — namely, they foolishly remained too long attempting to hold an impossible position, suffering great losses of men and materials before retreating. More than 300,000 German troops were captured in the Ruhr and the reich lost the arsenal which produced up to 80 per cent of the equipment the Wehrmacht, and German navy required in many categories.

The battle of the Ruhr saw 21 German divisions destroyed as it unfolded in four stages to achieve a difficult double envelopment on a large scale.

Ranking in slightly lesser im-



**HIGH SCHOOL BAND OFFICERS**—Recently elected officers of the La Grande high school band above, are, left to right: rear, Doug Talney, and Don Jordahl, councilmen; Robert Wagner, president, and James Bennett, vice president; front, Joyce Schiro and Arline Gaither, librarians, Bernella Bryant, secretary and Loretta Cook librarian.

## Swing Band Unit Will Be Presented In Victory Dance

Making their first appearance in a public dance program, the swing dance band of the La Grande high school band, will play tomorrow night in a Victory dance in Zuber hall.

Leroy Darling, director of the band, said many people who have heard the swing band in various concert programs have asked that the group play for a public dance, and that the affair tomorrow night was arranged as the result of these requests.

The swing unit has made a fine impression on those who have heard it previously. The ten instrumentalists will present a typical dancing program with vocal interpolations by Patty Jacobson.

Members of the swing band are: Glenn Houle, Doug Talney and Vernie Westenskow, saxophone and clarinet; James Bennett, May Nelson and Bobbie Quinn, trumpets; Don Jordahl, trombone; Bob Wagner, bass; Loris Titus, drums, and Lola Mae Rogers, piano.

## Japan Waterways Mined By B-29s

GUAM, May 11 (UP)—Japan's inland sea and major harbors are "polluted" with explosives and mines dropped by an armada of super-fortresses during the last six weeks in operations designed to bottle up the enemy's naval and merchant fleets, the 21-bomber command disclosed today.

A spokesman at Maj. Gen. Curtis LeMay's headquarters said the aim of the mining is to assist in destruction of Japanese productive power, both military and civilian, by paralyzing the enemy's shipborne commerce. It has been estimated that 75 per cent of all Japanese transportation is waterborne.

## ALL SERGEANTS IN FAMILY

BOSTON (UP)—A family of three-strippers are the Frasers of Roxbury. Arthur V. Fraser is a police sergeant, his son is an army sergeant and his wife is a sergeant in the WAC.

portance were the crossings of the Seine and Loire rivers, the forcing of the Siegfried line, the destruction of more than 100,000 nazis in the Saar-Moselle triangle and the linking up with the Russians. The numerous crossings of the Rhine really closed the phases of the battle west of the river and opened the ones of the Ruhr.

Sweeping through vast sections of Germany and into Austria by the allies brought to an end history's greatest war, which started Sept. 1, 1939, when Hitler poured his once-proud, powerful legions across the Polish frontier.

# VICTORY DANCE

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## Weather Is Major Problem Of Big League Ball Teams

NEW YORK, May 11 (UP)—Everything looked fine for baseball when the government gave a "green light" for 1945, but no one reckoned with the weather man, who has been flashing "stop signals" ever since.

Managers made no secret of their concern today over the postponements. Last year at this time only 32 games had been rained out, 16 in each league. To date in 1945, there have been 48 postponements, 24 in each league. The American has played only 64 games to date and the National 63 for a little more than one-tenth of the 161 that must be played in each league on the basis of a 154-game schedule. Yet the season is about one-seventh completed, which means that about one game in three has been postponed.

There was more of the same kind of weather yesterday, causing seven postponements in the two leagues.

In the only game played, a night contest at St. Louis, the Browns made it two straight over Washington, winning, 10 to 2, on Jack Kramer's five-hit pitching. The American league champions clinched the issue in the first inning, scoring three runs on a single by George McQuinn and an error by Gil Torres. The Browns made 15 hits off Marino Pieretti and Armando Roche, including a homer by Vern Stephens, his fourth.

## Roy Helser Nips Winning Streak Of Padre Nine

By United Press  
Southpaws have been the butt of many a baseball joke but the San Diego Padres found nothing to laugh about last night when they met Roy Helser of the Portland Beavers.

Cocky after two straight wins over the Pacific coast league leaders, the Padres could touch Helser's left-handed slants for only four hits as he pitched Portland to an 8-0 triumph. He racked up eight strikeouts and had strong batting support from his teammates, including a homer by Frank Shone. The victory enabled the Beavers to stretch their first-place margin to four games.

The Seattle Rainiers slipped into second place ahead of San Diego by downing the Sacramento Senators for the third time, 6-1. Veteran Carl Fischer limited the Sacs to five scattered blows. George McDonald, Rainier first sacker, clouted a four-bagger.

The Oakland A's dropped to fourth place by losing to Los Angeles, 5-1. It also marked the first loss for Len Gilmore, ace A's pitcher, after three straight wins. Jodie Phipps was on the hill for the Angels and scattered five hits.

San Francisco made it three straight over Hollywood with a 10-3 decision at Seals stadium. Del Young paced the offensive with a triple and two singles.

## Fight Results

By United Press  
Boston—Pedro Firpo, 133, Camden, N. J., outpointed Paulie Jackson, 132½, Reading, Pa. (10).

Fall River, Mass.—Steve Kronis, 130, Boston, knocked out Oscar St. Pierre, 135, Fall River, (3).

HOPPE HOLDS LEAD  
PORTLAND, Ore., May 11 (UP)—The cross-country exhibition tourney of the two top billiards stars, Willie Hoppe and Welker Cochran, stood today at 3,724 for Hoppe and 3,695 for Cochran.

Hoppe won last night's match 60 to 46, after taking the matinee affair 60 to 47.

## PAINTS IN GRAY ONLY

CHICAGO (UP)—This so-called gray world is only a study in gray to Rodney Boyd, 16-year-old high school student. Boyd, a color-blind art pupil, submitted two oil paintings to a local art exhibit. Instead of painting in color, however, the youth stressed clear-cut lines and careful composition in entirely gray-painted hangings.

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**THEY HIRED A TRUCK**—Four men went fishing at Oregon Inlet, N. C., in one automobile, but had to charter a truck to bring home their catch. Shelton Stevens, Thomas Madria and Chick West, left to right, and Richardson Sedgewick caught 37 channel bass totaling 1512 pounds, a nifty addition to food supply.

## Inducted Athletes To Get Reviews

WASHINGTON, May 11 (UP)—The war department today ordered a review of the cases of a number of professional athletes inducted into the army in recent weeks despite their failure to meet physical standards. The department said the reviews will be made individually under a new policy in such cases and that some of the athletes will be discharged.

The new policy provides that hereafter the cases of professional athletes rejected for physical disability will not be subject to review by the war department.

The policy of reviewing all rejections of professional athletes for physical reasons had brought charges that this group of selective service registrants was suffering discrimination. It has been charged that some professional athletes have been inducted merely to avoid the necessity of submitting a rejection decision to the war department.

## John Wayne Stars In Western Film

John Wayne and Ella Raines are starred in "Tall in the Saddle," which has a supporting cast in which Audrey Long and Don Douglas are featured.

It is the story of a ranch foreman who goes to take over a new job and finds the ranch owner has been murdered and a plot to swindle the rancher's daughter of possession of the property. Rather than work for a woman he takes a job at another ranch, only to find it, also, is owned by a woman.

How he solves his employment and romantic problems is the plot of the story.

The skeleton of a 25-pound pelican weighs only 23 ounces.

## Baseball Standings

By United Press

| American League |    |    |      |
|-----------------|----|----|------|
|                 | W. | L. | Pct. |
| Chicago         | 10 | 4  | .714 |
| Detroit         | 10 | 5  | .667 |
| New York        | 10 | 6  | .625 |
| Washington      | 9  | 10 | .474 |
| St. Louis       | 7  | 8  | .467 |
| Philadelphia    | 7  | 10 | .411 |
| Boston          | 6  | 11 | .352 |
| Cleveland       | 5  | 10 | .333 |

  

| Pacific Coast League |    |    |      |
|----------------------|----|----|------|
|                      | W. | L. | Pct. |
| Portland             | 26 | 13 | .667 |
| Seattle              | 22 | 17 | .564 |
| San Diego            | 22 | 18 | .550 |
| Oakland              | 21 | 18 | .538 |
| Sacramento           | 19 | 21 | .475 |
| Los Angeles          | 19 | 21 | .475 |
| San Francisco        | 18 | 22 | .450 |
| Hollywood            | 11 | 28 | .282 |

Of the many obelisks built by the ancient Egyptians, only 36 are accounted for today.

**LIBERTY**  
TODAY AND SATURDAY

A LOVE WOLF  
TACKLES A  
CACTUS COONIE

**JOHN WAYNE - ELLA RAINES**  
**TALL IN THE SADDLE**  
WARD BOND - GEORGE E. HAYES  
AUDREY LONG - ELIZABETH HOSKIN  
DON DOUGLAS

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**SONG OF NEVADA**  
— **THE SONG OF THE PIONEERS** —  
— **THE SONG OF THE FRONTIERS** —  
— **THE SONG OF THE REPUBLIC** —

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**UNIVERSAL NEWS**