Engineers Move 49 'Dozers Via Air Into Burma

Myitkyina, North Burma (IP-Myityina's famed airstrip-building engineers claim two firsts for any theater of war-they have flown in the first full-size bulldozers and other heavy equipment and they have flown in the first battalion of all-Negro aviation en-

The engineers say that for the first time in any theater they flew in full-size bulldozers, huge dirtin full-size bulldozers, huge dirthauling carryalls, heavy shovels, road graders, sheepsfoot rollers and 20-ton flat-bed trailers. All but the rollers were cut into sections with acetylene torches so they would fit in transport planes, flown in to the Myitkyina area and welded back together—an operation the engineering higherups had frowned upon as impractical.

The all-Negro engineering battalion, not a regular airborne unit, wasflown in from one of the B-29

Superfortress fields. The members of the battalion are well-trained, experienced troops and have given "excellent" performances, according to Capt. Leo Vecellio, Beckley, W. Va., plans and operations officer for the aviation engineers.

Whipped the Monsoor

Commanding officer of all four

Commanding officer of all four battalions of the engineering troop—the "airstrip fixers" who made the Myitkyina airstrip serviceable during the monsoon after inadequate Japanese repairs had left it a mass of holes—is Col. Manuel J. Asencio of Passiac, N.J. Asencio said that when the rains set in on the Myitkyina airstrip—five and one-half inches in six hours on one occasion—the shell holes in the strip which the Japanese had hastily filled with loose dirt began to sink. As a result, several American transport planes cracked up while attempting to land. The engineers went to work, patched the holes and put in a drainage system so effective that after an early morning fivenich rain the dust was flying on the strip in the afternoon.

The engineers are more proud of cutting and volding the base.

The engineers are more proud of cutting and welding the huge machines with which they work than they are of the work they have accomplished with the ma

1,300 Flights Needed
The devices which they took

reelings

OLD-TIME AMERICAN CHRISTMAS

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O. K. With G. I.'s

Out of place in this setting? Not so you could notice it, say G. I.'s behind lines in Italy who see Rita Roper, Chicago dancer, shown leaving tent "dressing room," do her stuff as U. S. O.

apart and flew in to Myitkyinaand welded together without los-ing a single machine—included 49 sixteen ton bulldozers, seven 16ton shovels, 22 twelve-ton road graders, 27 eleven-ton carryalls, 12 sheepfoot rollers and seven 20-ton flat bed trailers. It required 1,300 sorties by transport planes to bring in the equipment.

equipment.

Vecellio said that "some of the

Vecellio said that "some of the best welders in the business" were on hand to weld the machines back together after the various parts were unloaded from the planes. And considering the fact they had no great amount of equipment with which to work, Vecellio considers they did a good job. It took 10 hours to disassem-ble completely a heavy bulldozer and make one necessary cut with a torch. A day and a half was needed to put it back together.

COW BRINGS THE COPS

Fort Wayne, Ind. (IP)-A bawling cow, left cramped in a small truck, in front of a Main street tavern, received the attention of a police squad, a city councilman and a humane officer when its bawling of more than six hours became more insistent and pitiful and the nearby residents could no longer stand the cries.

Norden Bombsight Is Shown To Public for the First Time

By George D. Crissey

Chicago, Dec. 23 (Pi...The Nor-Chicago, Dec. 23 dP.—The Nor-den bombsight is so efficient that after it has been set on a pre-con-ceived target the plane would continue toward its objective even though all the crew had been killed, it was disclosed recently at a public showing of this heretofore secret weapon of the U. S. air force.

The bombsight was the subject of a press' review at the Victor Adding Machine company where it is manufactured in part and assembled in full for the army air technical service command and the navy. Hundreds of sub-con-tractors contribute parts to the final job of the instrument which might well be called a mechanical

might well be called a mechanical eye for Superfortresses and other bomb-carrying planes.

Device Described

The bombsight is comprised of two units—upper and lower. The lower part is the stabilizer which holds the craft on its course through the ship's rudder during the bombing run. The upper part is the "sight" itself. The two function as a unit although there are 900 parts to the lower unit alone.

tion as a unit although there are 900 parts to the lower unit alone. Most important parts of the sight itself are the telescope, the computer and the gyro. The computer is called the brains of the sight by engineers who said its mechanism is approximately 40 times more accurate than the finest watch.

The function of the computer is to solve various mathematical

is to solve various mathematical problems which confront the bombardier just prior to the bombing run. It answers questions as to ground speed, altitude and atmospheric conditions almost instantly.

dopes out various conditions and circumstances, including the curvature of the earth; the stabilizer seizes on the set course for the bombing run and the "sight" fixes its eye on the target and follows it to a pre-determined spot, loosing its load of destruction at the exact moment planned in advance. Without it, engineers said, precision bombing such as Tokyo has experienced from Superfortresses would be impossible at the altitudes being flown.

As remarkable as the 75-pound bombsight itself are some of the tools used in making it. There are gadgets, for example, which are capable of measuring the thickness of a piece of human hair after it has been split lengthwise 3,000 times and others which take such things as 70 millionths of an inch in stride.

GAS STEALER 'KICKS'

Manchester, N. H. (U)—Arrested after stealing three automobiles and breaking into a gasoline station in his escape from an indus-trial school here, a 17-year-old boy complained to police: "While I was in the filing station, a mean guy came along and let the air out of one of my tires. You can't trust anybody these days."

BIAND LAWYER WINS
Springfield, Mass. (IP—A precedent was established in probate court when Attorney John F. Nagle, a blind lawyer, read questions to witnesses by means of Braille, Nagle's client won the case.

problems which confront the bombing run. It answers questions as to ground speed, altitude and atmospheric conditions almost instantly.

Sighting Explained
In effect the three-way team plays this way: The computer ment of agriculture reports.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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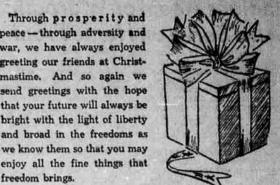
G. I.'s 'Prof.'



Maj. Gen. Frederick H. Osborn above, head of the Army's In-formation and Education Divi-sion, intends that 800,000 soldiers sion, intends that 800,000 soldiers will be better educated when they return to civilian life. Through his enormous correspondence school—the U. S. Armed Forces Institute — that many men take 300 courses, preparing for better jobs.

Through prosperity and peace - through adversity and war, we have always enjoyed greeting our friends at Christmastime. And so again we send greetings with the hope that your future will always be bright with the light of liberty and broad in the freedoms as

freedom brings.



THOUGH THE EARTH ROCK, THESE THINGS MUST NEVER CHANGE-

LIBERTY-FREEDOM the SPIRIT of CHRISTMAS

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At Christmas time it is our privilege to give expression to our thoughts concerning those whose friendship and good will we cherish above all else.

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