

TWO WORSE THAN OTHER CAMPAIGNS SERGEANT CLAIMS

By Lisle Shoemaker
United Press War Correspondent
With Fifth Marine Division,
on Iwo, Feb. 25—(U.P.)—"This is twice as bad as Tarawa and Guadalcanal doesn't even count against this."

Those were the words of a marine veteran after four days of grenades and mortar fire and four nights of bayonet banal attacks.

He was Gunnery Sgt. Earl M. Heacock, El Centro, Calif., a 31-year-old veteran of 11 years in the marines. He fought on both Guadalcanal and Tarawa—and now Iwo. He knows the difference.

Stood In Foxholes

"I moved up with my outfit—the first battalion, 26th regiment—at noon of D-day and we fought the Japs almost with our bare hands," Heacock said.

"We flushed them along the west side of the beach through pillboxes and underbrush. At night we stood up in our foxholes on the front lines and fought off their counterattacks with grenades, bayonets and knives."

His description of what all marines on Iwo were going through was echoed by two beary-eyed buddies, Cpl. Guy Liberatore, Mansfield, Mass., and

Song Pun Points Road to Cologne



(Acme Radio-Telephone)
The road to Cologne is pointed out—from the popular song of practically the same name—near Duren, Germany. Four Allied Armies ripped through Germans' western defenses on a blazing 150-mile battlefield in a general offensive that has rolled the enemy's vital Rhineland line back within 14 miles of Cologne.

19-year-old Pfc. E. P. Erby, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Tosses Grenades

During the second night, when the Japanese tried to infiltrate, Liberatore said he never fired his rifle once, but tossed grenade after grenade at the enemy. He saw a marine in the next hole wait until the Jap sneaked up to the top of the hole, then leap up and pull the Japanese down.

"I heard the Jap screaming like hell for a minute," Liberatore said. "Then all was quiet."

Erby said one night seemed like another.

"It was just one big nightmare of fire, fights, grenades and those damn Japs yelling and running at us and us bumping them off while ducking their grenades," Erby explained.

After those four days and nights, the battalion was relieved.

Florida's tobacco crop has an annual value of well over \$5,000,000.

Roosevelt Aide Dies On Journey

Washington, Feb. 28—(U.P.)—Maj. Gen. Edwin M. (Pa) Watson, White House secretary and military aide to President Roosevelt, died last week while en route home from the Crimea conference, it was learned today.

Watson, artillery officer in World War I and former West Point football player, had been ill for some time. It was reported he died of an heart attack.

NEWEST BOMBER NEARS RANGE OF B-29 WARPLANES

Florence, S. C., Feb. 28—(U.P.)—The army took its fastest and one of its deadliest bombers off the secret list today and reporters were permitted to view and fly in the A-26 Invader.

In action in Europe since last October, the two-engine warplane which packs a 75-millimeter cannon made 30 missions between Nov. 17 and Jan. 11 without challenge by enemy aircraft, the Ninth Air Force has announced.

It is not yet in extensive action against the Japanese, but "we believe the Japs cannot catch us after we've released our bombs," Brig. Gen. Robert O. Oliver said. Japanese fighters with speeds of more than 400 mph. have been reported recently.

Oliver commands the First Air Force's 5th training wing, whose combat veteran instructors are training new crews for combat in the A-26. His new Douglas plane is expected to replace the B-26 and A-20 in the near future.

Here's how Oliver compares it with the medium bombers:
Range: Nearly twice as great—approaching that of the B-29.
Speed: 60 to 100 miles faster.
Bomb Load: Heavy.
Maneuverability: Akin to that of a pursuit ship.

Rate of climb: Approaches that of a fighter.

Fire Power: Various combinations of up to ten 50 calibre machine guns and 20, 37, and 75 mm. cannon. Top and bottom turrets, each mounting two 50 calibre machine guns, are operated by remote control in an installation similar to that of the B-29.

Crew: Two or three depending upon which of alternate noses—one a bombardier's—is installed.

The A-26 has a 70-foot wing span, a squared, 50-foot nine inch fuselage, tricycle landing gear. It is powered with twin 2,000 horsepower Pratt-Whitney engines and three blade Hamilton standard propellers. A bubble-type canopy provides excellent pilot visibility.

Klamath Air Depot Housing Approved

Washington, Feb. 28—(U.P.)—The house appropriations committee has approved construction of navy personnel training and housing facilities in 22 states at a cost of \$24,778,608.

Other items included in the bill, still to be passed by the

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house, included the following projects:

Klamath Falls, Ore., air station housing, \$188,800, North Bend, Ore., air station housing, \$110,000.

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The Superfortresses Boeing Aircraft Company builds in the west are test-flown and delivered on Chevron Aviation Gasoline, as an extra safeguard against one thing that can stop even a B-29—engine trouble. Boeing, like others who build and fly fine aircraft, have found there's a world of dependable power and performance behind the Chevron label. You'll make the same discovery the day this great Chevron Gasoline comes down from the sky.

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