

BATTLE FOR OIL ONE OF BIGGEST SECRETS OF WAR

By Lyle C. Wilson
United Press Correspondent
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Inside Germany, June 27—
(U.P.)—One of the great untold
stories of World War II is the
"battle for oil."

It was a top secret operation
which began May 12, 1944 and
continued for exactly 12 months.
Engaged in it were more than
500,000 American air force men
and their 5,700 planes.

The most significant aspect of
the fantastic story is that it is
being repeated now in general
outline against Japan. The same
strategic considerations and
the same methods of operation
which were unbelievably suc-
cessful against Germany already
are being developed in the Pa-
cific theater.

Japanese industrial targets
will disintegrate under that at-

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Messana, soothing medicated powder
brings cooling relief. Family favorite for
minor rashes. Costs little. Get Messana.

**BREAD IS AT ITS BEST
ALL WAYS...WHEN IT'S**



Refineries Smashed
Brux, Politz, Schloven, Blech-
hammer—all are blasted to bits.
There were 36 prime refinery or
synthetic manufacturing targets
in all. In May 1944 those plants
produced 1,344,000 metric tons
of gasoline and lubricants each
month. By January, 1945, pro-
duction had been cut to 36 per
cent of normal. It was down to
24 per cent in February. Late
last March under the precision
bombing of the United States
strategic air force production
had increased to 29 per cent.
The Germans are sturdy folk
and they were repairing their
plants as the fliers knocked
them out.

But it was an uneven contest.
Repair materials were short.
Manpower was shorter. By mid-
April of this year as the great
German war machine was run-
ning down, production was cut
to 7½ per cent of the 1,344,000
metric tons a month of which
the plants had been capable.

Germany's refineries by then
were producing only 4 per cent
of their gasoline capacity, 1 per
cent of their kerosene capacity,
8 per cent of their diesel ca-
pacity.

Taken Underground
Germany was through. She
tried to go underground with
her refineries as she had with
her airplane industry. At Eben-
see a great underground refinery
was built. It actually had pro-
duced 24,000 tons of synthetic
oil when the war ended. The
plant was built into a mountain
with elaborate air conditioning
equipment. But the job was too
great for the enemy. Putting the
whole industry underground was
an impossible task.

Marines Push Through Naha City Ruins



Tanks of Sixth Marine Division blast enemy as they move through the rubble of Naha, (capital city of Okinawa), to broaden their bridgehead across Asao River inside the city almost to the shores of the East China Sea. Bridges shown were blasted by retreating Japs. Marine Corps photo.

tack just as targets did in Ger-
many.

Began In 1944
The complex story of the
"battle for oil" begins in Febru-
ary 1944 when the United States
strategic air force commanded
by Gen. Carl A. Spaatz and the
Royal Air Force bomber com-
mand hit the German luftwaffe
a stunning blow. In six days, Feb.
20-26, the entire allied air force
was concentrated on the German
aircraft industry. Our airmen
had determined that deep day-
light penetrations into Germany
were not feasible until the Ger-
man airforce had been knocked
out. Those six days stopped Ger-

man plane construction for a
time. The time was long enough
for the allied air forces to obtain
mastery of the air—and they
never lost it.

The storm broke over Ger-
many's refineries in May, 1944.
It continued in terrible blasts of
high explosive and incendiary
bombs until the Germans quit.
I have just returned from visit-
ing some of Germany's greatest
refining areas. The great instal-
lations in the port of Hamburg
are masses of twisted pipe, bro-
ken retorts and rubble. The
enormous Leuna plant in central
Germany simply does not exist
anymore.

Plant managers became dis-
couraged as the Americans de-
veloped their attack on oil. As
plants were knocked out they
were put under almost daily
photo reconnaissance. Time after
time German workers would re-
pair the great refineries, un-
tangle twistings of pipe, patch
the retorts, get steam under the
boilers. This could be done
sometimes in a matter of weeks
if no effort was made to repair
the buildings themselves.

At Rhenania and elsewhere
the refineries actually kept
stand-by of repair workers in
barracks near the plants. They
sometimes were more numerous
than the workers in the refin-
eries themselves. When the Amer-
icans came over, repairs were
begun before they had returned
to their bases in England or
France or Italy.

Plant Blasted 16 Times
The great plant at Leuna was
attacked 16 times in 10 months
from May, 1944, to the end of
the war. On May 28, 1944, the
8th air force knocked out the
synthetic gasoline plant at Roth-
ensee. The plant was out of pro-
duction three weeks. It resumed
production June 20 and made 50
tons of synthetic gasoline that
day. On the afternoon of June
20 the 8th airforce re-appeared
over Rothensee. This time the
plant was knocked out until De-
cember, 1944, when it resumed
production at a rate of 12,000
tons a month.

On January 15 the 8th air
force called again. Thereafter
Rothensee ceased to be a factor
in oil production for the luft-
waffe. The story of Rothensee is
typical of all of them.

When the war ended Ger-
man's refining and synthetic in-

dustry was a wreck. Three
weeks before the surrender
there remained in all the ex-
panse of Hitler's reich only two
production targets and seven
storage targets which were con-
sidered worth attacking at all.

ARMY TO LOWER POINT MINIMUM

Washington, June 27.—(U.P.)—
The army is expected to lower
the number of points required
for discharge from 85 to between
78 and 80 in the next few weeks.
It was reliably reported today.

At the same time members of
the house military affairs com-
mittee said they anticipated no
change in the army regulations
qualifying men for automatic
discharge on reaching 40 years
of age.

They also said that the army
will stand on its demands for
7,000,000 men to lick Japan. If
one group is relieved of service
the pressure will mount for re-
lease of other groups, they said.

However, the army itself has
made it clear that some time
soon the number of points need-
ed for discharge will be further
reduced.

New Soap Won't Leave Tub Rings

Cincinnati, (U.P.)—Rings around
the bathtub, the bane of house-
wives since American families
stopped scrubbing themselves in
galvanized tubs—will be ban-
ished by a post-war soap that
isn't soap at all.

Chemists of Procter & Gam-
ble Co. call their new product a
"soapless soap." In hard, soft
or salt water, the soap—result
of 10 years' research—cleans,
but leaves no tell-tale rings.

Soap experts said it was done
by juggling molecules.

Dr. Brougner Will Wed Ex-Parishoner

Glendale, Cal., June 27.—(U.P.)
Dr. James Whitcomb Brougner,
Sr., 75-year-old Baptist clergy-
man and newspaper columnist,
tomorrow will marry Mrs. Mar-
garet Townsend Wood, 55-year-
old widow whom he first met
when she was a parishoner at
White Temple Baptist church,
Portland, Ore., where he was
pastor.

ACCUSED CALIFORNIAN UNDER ARREST HERE

William Nick Schmittroth,
wanted by California authorities
on burglary and parole violation
charges, was arrested by sher-
iff's officers yesterday in the
south end of the county. He is
being held in the county jail
awaiting California officers. He
signed a waiver of extradition,
sheriff's officers said.

Closing time for Classified Ads 8:30
a. m.—Too Late to Classify 12:15 p. m.

PFC. LUNSMAN OF OF 96TH KILLED

A wire received yesterday
from the war department by
Mrs. Marjorie E. Lunsman stated
that her husband, Pfc. Harvey H.
Lunsman of the 96th Infantry
Division was killed in action
May 22 on Okinawa. Pfc. Lun-
sman, 25, had been overseas
eight months and before in-
duction was an employee of Timber
Products company.

The soldier is survived by his
wife, one daughter, Sharon Lee;
his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Har-
vey H. Lunsman of Oakland,
Calif., and a brother, Cedric, 9.
He attended school in Oakland.
Mrs. Lunsman and daughter
make their home here with her
sister, Mrs. Juanita Brenner, 728
King street.

Cordless Electric Iron Heated From Element In Base

Detroit, (U.P.)—The house-
wife's "postwar dream" of a
cordless electric iron, free of
dangling and entangling cords,
has become a reality.

A go-ahead signal has been
given by the war production
board to the Eureka Vacuum
Cleaner Co. to begin production
of the iron, which the company
recently perfected.

"The cordless electric iron is
an entirely new kind of iron,"
according to H. W. Burritt, pre-
sident, "and represents the most
important development in this
field since the invention of the
original electric iron."

Operated without a cord, the
new iron draws instant heat
from a thermostat-controlled
electric safety base, and retains
the heat for considerable time
through a sponge-like heat ab-
sorbing plate inside the iron. A
micro heat control unit governs
the exact temperature required
for any fabric being ironed, and
insures safety even if left unat-
tended while connected.

One of the chief features of
the cordless electric iron is a
"silent watchman" regulator that
prevents overheating and elimi-
nates the fire hazard, which
through defective and unattend-
ed ordinary irons accounts for
\$2,000,000 of damage every year.

Receptionist Plans Necklace of Teeth

Camp Maxey, Tex., (U.P.)—Miss
Ruth Grant, receptionist in the
dental clinic, has a bracelet of
wisdom teeth—extracted from
soldier patients.

The dental surgeon once asked
Miss Grant to hold a private's
hand while he performed the ex-
traction. He found the plan
worked wonders, so he continued
it. And now the receptionist is
planning to make a necklace and
ear screws from wisdom teeth.

FIRE DAMAGES ENGLISH HOME

Fire at 7:18 p. m., yesterday
did considerable damage to a
residence occupied by Clarence
English, 113 Laurel street, and
owned by E. F. Bigham. Fire
Chief Roy Elliott said today.
Cause of the blaze is unknown
but is under investigation, ac-
cording to Elliott.

The conflagration had a good
start by the time the fire de-
partment was called and burned
throughout the lower part of the
house, through the front part of
the upstairs and the roof. Elliott
said there was no insurance on
the furniture but the house is
understood to be insured.

The family was home when
the blaze was discovered.

THE GRANGE

Griffin Creek Grange
The quarterly birthday party
will be held by Griffin Creek
Grange members following the
regular session July 3. The party
will be a picnic dinner at 7 p. m.
for Grangers and their families
and each family is asked to bring
table service.

A patriotic program will be
given under the direction of Lec-
turer Isabelle LeVander.

Closing time for Classified Ads 8:30
a. m.—Too Late to Classify 12:15 p. m.

"E" Bond Buying Shy One Billion

Washington, June 27.—(U.P.)—
Total sales in the seventh war
loan stood at \$20,791,000,000 to-
day but E bond buyers were a
billion dollars away from their
\$4,000,000,000 goal.

The gigantic total was primar-
ily the result of corporation sales
which reached \$14,121,000,000
according to latest reports. That
was more than twice their origi-
nal \$7,000,000,000 goal and
more than the overall goal of
\$14,000,000,000 for the entire
drive.

Closing time for Classified Ads 8:30
a. m.—Too Late to Classify 12:15 p. m.

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LIBERTY-TYPE COTTON
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This frock personifies "Oh what a
beautiful morning" with its crisp
sheer appearance and its myriad of
bright garden flowers. Exquisite
stitchery traces its loveliness down
each side of the button-down front
panel. Tiers, etched with stitchery
and banded with spanking white
lace-work, cross the bodice three
times and the skirt once for good
measure! The smart skirt is flared
yet gives a pencil-slim look. In love-
ly new spring pastels. Sizes 10 to 20.

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