

Boyle's Column

Veteran Paratroop Unit
Cut Down To Small Size

By HAL BOYLE

PT. BRAGG, N. C., March 16 (AP)—If America went to war tomorrow, what veteran outfit does it have ready to throw a punch?

Well, there aren't many. One of the best is the famous 82nd airborne division, now back in training here at the "cradle of the airborne force."



HAL BOYLE

This "all American" paratroop and glider unit represented the army in the 1946 victory parade in New York city and claims more battle decorations than any other U. S. division in the second World War.

It was an infantry outfit in the first World War and suffered 6000 casualties in the Meuse-Argonne offensive alone. It had in its ranks such soldiers as a major called "Skinny" Wainwright and a Tennessee sergeant named Alvin York.

Air Force
Hits Limit

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—The air force is having no trouble getting all the men it needs.

It reported today it has reached the \$12,000 enlisted strength ceiling set by the current budget. It is accepting recruits "no faster than it loses through normal separations and terminations of enlistment," the air force announced.

Except for high school graduates coming in under the aviation career plan, the air force will enlist only 5100 men during March and 4000 in April. More than 14,000 enlisted in January and 11,270 in February.

The officer strength now stands "within a few hundred" of the 48,000 recommended figure.

Police Probe
Brutal Beating

CINCINNATI, March 17 (AP)—A 22-year-old girl lay in General hospital Tuesday recovering from a beating police described as the "most brutal and savage" they had ever encountered.

Harold E. Boehm, 32, faced charges of rape, maiming and sodomy, filed by Mrs. Wanda Sarver, the girl's sister.

Mrs. Sarver said her sister, Barbara Sevedge, had failed to come home for two weeks and she believed Boehm had held the girl prisoner. She trailed the man to his room and then called police.

Police said the girl was nearly nude and in a semi-conscious condition when found. Her face was battered, her lips swollen and her eyes closed.

The initials B. S. and H. B. were carved into her left arm near the shoulder, apparently with a pen-knife, Capt. Keith Scott said.

The girl said she had been beaten with the buckle end of a belt.

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TOONERVILLE FOLKS



Salerno Jump

In its next jump the 82nd was called on to help save the imperiled 5th army beachhead at Salerno. The "All American" leaped again to spearhead the Normandy invasion and were later rushed up to bolster the 1st army during the critical Battle of the Bulge. They made their final jump in Holland during Field Marshal Montgomery's fruitless dash for the North German plain.

The staggering 82nd paratroopers ended the war with a record of having successfully completed every major mission assigned them.

But how "veteran" is this famous veteran fighting division today? How hard a punch could it throw?

Certainly it is nowhere near its wartime fighting peak. Most of the old men are gone. There are only 150 combat men left who saw service overseas—and an airborne division numbers about 17,000 men at full strength.

Like the few other American divisions still activated, the 82nd has the job now of training thousands of youngsters. And it is busy also testing new equipment and studying fresh techniques of warfare.

One innovation has been the incorporation of an all-negro battalion in the division. With the exception of the battalion commander and his executive, all officers are negro.

Army promotions have recently removed many wartime leaders from the 82nd, including Maj. Gen. "Slim" Jim Gavin, its commander.

Another was Lt. Col. Robert H. Wienecke, its chief of staff in Holland, who directed "Exercise Snowdrop" at Pine Camp, N. Y., this winter.

"I hate to leave the division," said Wienecke, a former Northwestern university football captain and Chicago insurance executive. "We all do."

The 82nd has always been that kind of outfit.

Dalskog Named BC
IWA President

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 17 (CP)—Ernie Dalskog is 1948 president of the British Columbia district of the International Woodworkers of America, succeeding Harold Pritchett who becomes first vice president, results of recent balloting showed Tuesday.

Dalskog "overwhelmingly" defeated C. C. F. Candidate Stewart Alsbury for the presidency.

Soviets Sending
Wheat To Europe

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—Congress heard Tuesday that Russia is offering large amounts of wheat to Western European countries, possibly for "political purposes."

Undersecretary of Agriculture N. E. Dodd told of the Russian move in testimony released by the house appropriations committee. He said

it is "complicating the situation very much."

Dodd cited a Russian deal to ship 700,000 tons of grain to England in return for heavy machinery. He added:

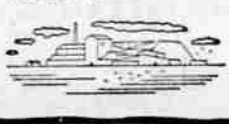
"The Russians also offered to enter into negotiations with other Western European countries for wheat in amounts larger than we have in sight at the present time."



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Forest Roads
Fund Cut Asked

WASHINGTON, March 17 (AP)—The house appropriations committee today proposed a \$300,000 cut in the budget request for funds for national forest highways next year.

Many western congressmen already had protested that the budget recommendation—\$5,300,000—was too small, and had asked the committee to increase the figure.

The committee recommended only \$5,000,000 for the year beginning July 1. It made public its hearings and report today.

The \$9,750,000 for forest roads and trails recommended by the budget bureau was approved by the committee.

The congressmen—including D-Ewart (R-Mont.), Hill (R-Colo.), Fernandez (D-N.M.), and Barrett (R-Wyo.)—had protested that the highway fund proposal would be too small to build up forest roads on a comparable basis with state highway systems of which they are a part.

For full information about navy training, pay, travel and retirement benefits, visit the local recruiting office in the post office building.

Senate Passes
Warren Budget

SACRAMENTO, Calif., March 17 (AP)—The senate Tuesday passed unanimously the Warren administration's state budget which it had upped from \$919,943,287 to \$925,187,280.

Next, the big money bill will be considered by the assembly where it was indicated several days of debate may await it.

Largest of the increases made by the senate to amendments from the floor was to add \$5,000,000 for state flood control purposes.

The budget, even at the lower figure recommended by Governor Warren, is the highest in state history.

British Meat
Ration Slashed

LONDON, March 17 (AP)—Britain's meager fresh meat ration was cut some more Tuesday.

Effective next Sunday, the food

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Spoils
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Tonight**

A little Va-tro-nol in each nostril quickly opens up nasal passages to relieve stuffy transient congestion. Invites restful sleep. Relieves sniffles, sneezy distress of head colds. Follow directions in the package. Try it!

VICKS VA-TRO-NOL

ministry announced, the present ration of fresh meat worth a shilling (20 cents) a week will be trimmed to 10 pence (18.6 cents) worth of fresh meat and two pence (3.32 cents) worth of canned corned beef. A shilling now buys two small lamb chops or a minute bit of beef or steak which housewives piece out with fish or liver. The food ministry said the new cut was necessary to conserve dwindling cattle and sheep herds.

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