



# DEADEYE

*feature*



THE WEEK OF JANUARY 27, 1945

PUBLISHED BY THE 96th DIVISION INFORMATION AND EDUCATION OFFICE

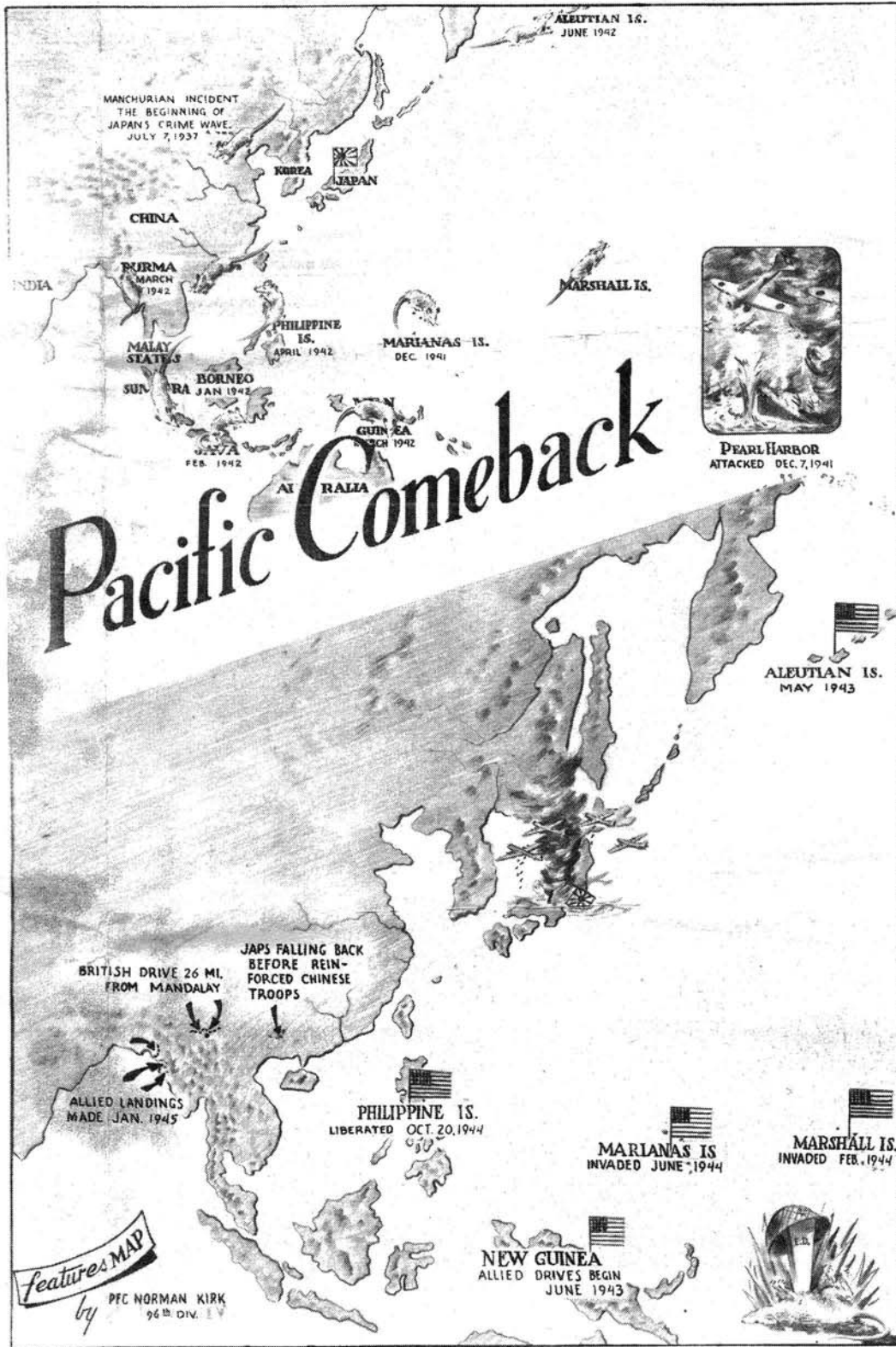
TELEPHONE EXTENSION 75



PHILIPPINE NIGHT

S/Sgt Vincent P. Dorgis

# DEADEYE *features*



# DEADEYE *features*



## House of the Lord

A G.I. who is tired from weary months of fighting could well be expected when the opportunity came, to sink down upon his cot and do nothing but rest. Unnecessary labor might easily be the last thing that he would consider. In a pagan nation that would be the case. But in the Division CP stands an example of the American soldier's belief in his God—a structure that will stand for many years as a prayer of thanksgiving that he had been brought through the battle unharmed, and as a monument to his buddies who will lay in the Philippines forever. A Chapel.

When the word spread that a place of worship was being constructed, contributions of labor, equipment, and advice came from nearly every unit in the CP. From privates to generals the cooperation was wholehearted. And the result is the church that stands today.

Probably the chief credit goes to chaplain's assistant T/5 Harry C. Eichberger, architect, and Pfc. Wilmer W. Braithwaite, contractor. It was their problem to conquer the innumerable obstacles encountered in trying to erect a building in the midst of a Philippine wilderness. Strange and few materials were available. Eichberger, who was an architect in civilian life, had to draw the plans with no more drafting equipment than a G.I. pencil, and Braithwaite built everything from altar rail to steeple with bamboo.

The permission and encouragement to construct the edifice was wholeheartedly given by Col. Herbert R. Damisch of Special Troops and Capt. John P. Hecimovich of Headquarters Company. It was they who saw to it that as many of the laborers as available were delivered to those working on the Chapel.

A set of eighteen chimes was the Division Band's gift, and in addition, one of their men will be on hand each week to play them during the intermission between the Catholic and Protestant services. The chimes were made from a variety of artillery shell casings, including several Jap 75's.



Chap. Koniaky of Divarty.



T/5 Harry C. Eichberger.

The Filipino workers showed their good will by obtaining a special type of insect-resistant bamboo which often necessitates lengthy excursions into the groves to find.

The building is intended to be a Division Chapel, although it will mainly serve the Special Troops. All services in the CP area will be held in this Chapel. Catholic Mass will be said at 0900 Sunday mornings by Chaplain Koniaky of Divarty, while general Protestant services will be at 1015 and Lutheran Communion at 1100, both by Chaplain von Husem of Special Troops.

When the 96th and all the other Divisions that came to this island as liberators have been loaded upon the vessels that brought them, though our tents be gone and our foxholes crumbled, one symbol of the spirit of the American fighting man will remain. A House of the Lord.

### VIGIL

What can I say now that the tongue is hushed  
That spoke of autumn leaves as butterflies  
On golden wings? He who would step aside  
For fear of trampling down a violet—  
He was a man who noticed little things;  
A hedgehog poking furtively along  
The furrow, or a hawk come wheeling through  
The clear clean air to light upon a gnarled  
And withered upland bush.

At night he stood  
Here in this very doorway, tapped the ash  
Out of his pipe and watched the  
full-starred sky  
Of winter. Will this thought arise no more?  
I'll ask him, for he always had an eye  
For mysteries such as these.

When the first small  
Pale crocus pushes through the snow  
I'll stoop  
And brush the frozen flakes aside and think:  
He'd like my noticing the little things  
That he no longer sees, now he is gone.....

By — Aust Matthews.

DEADEYE features

# hazardous trail



by  
JOHN J. ARCHIBALD

As 1944 came to a dismal end, seven members of the Intelligence and Reconnaissance platoon of "The Vikings" went over the mountain to see what they could see. In a 10 day heirla behind the Jap lines they saw plenty.

The patrol led by 1st Lt. Charles "Red" Hymers, Erie, Pa. had the mission of establishing contact with the (censor, hold your scissors) Division advancing on the other side of the mountain range.

Their jumping off place in the foothills is so rugged that supplies can get in only by hand carry but compared to the precipitous cliffs the patrol had to scale it is as smooth as the parade ground at Fort Lewis, Washington.

Says Corporal Thomas H. Page, Niagara Falls, N. Y.

"The trails were so steep you could see the bottom of the heels of the man in front of you. At some places the only way we could advance was to wade up streams."

While it hardly seems possible that any place could receive more rain than the DEADEYES have seen, the mountain peaks are continually drenched with rain by the low lying clouds resting on them. And of course there is the accompanying mud. Every step along the slippery trails clinging to the sides of the mountain was fraught with danger. Blood sucking leech and king size mosquitoes plagued their journey.

#### NO COMRADES IN FRANCE. GI RECORDS SHOW

PARIS: (CNS)—Not a single American soldier in France has been executed for cowardice, desertion in the face of the enemy or any other military offense for which a court martial may decree capital punishment, since the D-Day landings June 6. The records disclose only 16 instances of capital punishment in which final action has been taken. Of these four were for murder and twelve for rape.

Instructions were not to fire on Japs unless necessary. Even if they wanted to, they were hopelessly outnumbered by the Jap patrols combing the area. Mostly the doughboys laid low and prayed they would not be seen.

On a couple of occasions, however, they set up neat ambushes. Tipped off by Filipino guerrillas about approaching Japs the patrol deployed along the trail. They let the Japs come within 20 yards of them and then let loose with every weapon they had. They wiped out eight Japs in one trap and added four more to their total in another.

For several days while searching for trails to their objective, they made their headquarters in a guerrilla hideout near the top of a mountain peak.

On Christmas Day the Filipinos threw a native feast for them of dishes, silverware and fancy tablecloths carefully hidden from the Japs for the past two years, appeared as if by magic. As they feasted on roast suckling pig, camotes and concoctions of rice and carabeo meat, they watched Jap patrols operating far below them.

Later in the day they had their narrowest escape from the Japs. From three sides Jap patrols moved toward them, nearly surrounded and in almost plain sight of the Japs on their right flank, they feared discovery at any moment. They bucked their own trail through the rough terrain and

managed to reach the safety of their mountain refuge.

To reach their rendezvous on the other side of the mountain it was necessary to pass through five miles of open country gradually sloping down to the valley below.

They set out at night to cross this ground. Several times they sweated it out as they crept past Jap occupied shacks. In one of them, a Jap was smoking a pipe in the doorway.

At midnight a heavy rain started to fall. This was one time when rain was welcomed by doughboys. It hid the sound of their approach.

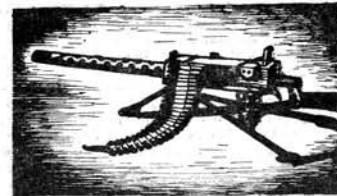
A new fear beset the patrol as they approached the outposts of the (mustn't say it) Division. Afraid that they might be mistaken for enemy troops, they holed up in a nipa shack until dawn.

The next morning they completed their mission. Greeting them were no less than three two star generals - two division commanders and one corps commander, who praised them highly for their daring achievement.

They were treated like conquering heroes by soldiers in the Division CP. They were toasted with the first beer they had during the operation. The men then took off for their own unit hitch-hiking clear around the island and arrived back at regimental headquarters in high spirits.

#### THIS WEEK'S ADOLF HITLER STORY

LONDON: (CNS)—Although the worries of war are turning his hair gray, the eyes of Adolf Hitler still "beam with youthful radiance," according to an article prepared by Propaganda Minister Paul Joseph Goebbels for publication in DAS REICH. "Never does a word of deception or of base intent cross his lips," the Goebbels article adds, "He is truth itself."



# DEADEYE *features*



## SPAIN

INTERNATIONAL



Of all the dictators which flourished in Europe, only one remains yet untouched by Allied might—Franco. This man still dominates the government he seized in 1937. Between 1937 and 1942, Franco and his regime came out openly for full cooperation with Hitler. Today, as the Allied Armies encircle his country, Franco has been more silent. He realizes that he can now control Spain only as long as the Allies wish him to. Franco's next most logical move will be to win Allied sympathy for his cause. He will put on a penitent face and say he was forced to deal with Hitler, that he believed in the Allied cause all along. In order that none of us be taken in by such propaganda, let us examine the facts.

### FRANCO AS A FASCIST

Franco's history as a fascist is well known. The U. S. State Department knows it, England, France and Russia know it. The Allies are well aware that Spain is Nazi Germany's last big spy center in Europe. After five years of close collaboration with Hitler, Franco in 1942 said, "The historic destiny of our era is either according to the...formula Spain offers us, or according to any other formula of the Fascist nations." At the time he spoke, Franco was offering the industries and mineral wealth of Spain to Germany, as a future Nazi-controlled sphere.

Commenting on German economic influence in Spain, the conservative London Financial Times said in April, 1944: "It is known that in 1942 Germany controlled more than 900 of Spain's 4800 limited companies. In the chemical and mining industries, Germany has also succeeded in building up a strong position. In recent months there has been considerable evidence of German infiltration into Spain's industry in the form of making available patent rights, technical plants and advisory engineers...Germany controls the most important iron and steel concerns on the Iberian Peninsula. These enterprises supply Germany with iron ore, lead, and zinc, the last being one of the scarcest base metals."

The London Financial Times goes on to say that one of the leading Spanish chemical firms, the Union del Norte of Bilbao, is at present engaged in the construction of a large synthetic dye plant using I. G. Farben's processes. I. G. Farben is the gigantic German chemical combine which acts as a cornerstone for all German industry. Before the war, I. G. Farben's activities reached into almost every country in the world, even into the United States chemical industries.

Other figures showing Franco's collaboration with Hitler comes from the German

publication Die Deutsche Volkswirtschaft. This Nazi publication reveals that German imports from Spain in February 1944 were 39.2% of all Spain's exports; 30% of these exports went directly to German factories in occupied countries. The matter of wolfram shipments to Germany is known to every one. Until British and American officials cracked down on Spain, about 100 tons a month were reaching Germany. Wolfram hardens the steel so necessary for modern armor.

Nor was Franco's collaboration limited to Spain's industries. According to Spanish exiles in England, the Nazi Army exercised direct control over Spanish seaports. These exiles also state that at least 50,000 Spaniards have been sent out of Spain by Franco to work as slave labor in war plants of the Reich. Arrese, a member of Franco's cabinet, made this statement last July: "Despite official withdrawal of the Blue Division from Russia, Spain has from 1,500 to 10,000 men fighting with the German army on the Eastern front."

Despite present Allied successes in Europe, Francisco Franco has been surreptitiously helping Nazi Germany by extending Spain's diplomatic privileges. A news correspondent in Montevideo has reported that via Spanish shipping facilities, key Nazi financial and industrial organizers have been travelling to Argentina. This correspondent further states that Nazi party leaders have transferred much of their ill-gotten plunder in the form of credits through Spain to Argentine banks. He estimates that these assets total as much as a billion and a half dollars.

### INSIDE SPAIN TODAY

While Franco and his Falange government has been working hand and glove with Hitler, not all Spanish citizens have seen fit to follow Franco's lead. Unity has not been achieved among the various Spanish groups of opinion, but nevertheless, unity among anti-Franco groups is growing. These groups include the Communist Party, the Catholic Church, men from the old Republican Army and the Royalist supporters. All of these groups have been severely suppressed by Franco at one time or another. Also, the fact that an estimated 50,000 political prisoners swell Spanish jails does not promote internal harmony either.

Food is scarce in Spain today. It has risen to a cost of three to four times its price in 1936. In San Sebastian, a person is allowed only a half pint of cooking oil—which is one of Spain's food staples—a week, and sometimes only a quarter of a pint in 15 days. The offic-

ial price for oil is 4.80 pesetas a quart. Due to lack of price ceiling enforcement, however, the actual price of oil varies from 30 to 45 pesetas a quart. Eggs are hardly ever available when they are, each person can get only two each 15 - 20 days. There have been many serious food strikes in Spain, but due to Franco's complete control of news in Spain, the outside world seldom hears of them.

Whenever a dictatorship is not overwhelmingly successful, there is political unrest in that country. So too is it with Spain. Although the Spanish Civil War officially ended on March 28, 1939, the labor Republican movement has never stopped opposing Franco. This resistance is not open and active, but rather, passive. There exists throughout Spain many small sectors of passive resistance, where a Falangist runs a grave risk in walking alone at night.

The number of underground anti-Francoists is estimated between 50,000 to 100,000 Spaniards. They are composed mainly of soldiers of the Republican Army who could not get out of Spain when the war ended. These resistance factions have been augmented by younger generations of Spanish democrats who were too young to defend the Republic during the Civil War.

Anti-Franco opposition has solidified in Spain enough during the last six months to see the organization and action of guerrilla forces. Operating somewhat like the guerrillas in the Philippines, Spanish bands have sought to combat Franco by sabotage and propaganda. They have set up numerous secret printing presses, as well as two illegal radio stations. Spanish guerrilla sabotage activities have been aimed at preventing war materials from reaching German factories. Reports of guerrilla activities are quickly suppressed, but some do trickle out. In one instance, the guerrillas dynamited a railload of oxen destined for Germany, and tied up two important railway lines. For ammunition and weapons, the guerrillas raid Falange headquarters in daring hit-and-run attacks. Spanish Republican sympathizers contribute food to keep the guerrillas alive.

### WHY FRANCO STILL MULES SPAIN

Allied political policies in Europe have been dictated by military expediency. They interfered in the affairs of neutral countries only when actions of the neutral countries affected the over-all military situation. During the critical period of 1941-43, the Allies hesitated to take stringent measures against Franco for fear that he would abandon his position of dubious neutrality and officially enter the

Continued on page seven.

DEADEYE FEATURES: Published weekly in conjunction with the DISPATCH, the official news organ of Maj Gen J. L. Bradley's 96th Inf Div, by the I & E Office, G-3 Section. Reproduced by the Compilation Unit, 5th Photo Tech Sqd. Reproduction of UNS and ANS, 205 E. 42nd St., NYC 17., materials is prohibited without permission of the originator. Any publication may feel free to use any other material, but



credit must be given the author, artist and DEADEYE FEATURES of the 96th Inf Div. STAFF: Editorial and writing: T/4 S. Meyer, T/4 J. Hannasch, Pvt J. J. Archibald, Pvt G. Feinstein; Art: Pvt J. Foreman; Technical: Sgt J. P. Bartoszek, T/4 J. E. Koon, Pvt L. Reeder; Censor: Lt J. P. Stevens, Chief Base Censor; Cooperating Agency: 96th Div Ptd, Lt O. R. Davidson; Officer in charge: Capt D. W. Millsaps, Jr.

DEADEYE *features*

# Among Men..



Battles are won by men. Bare communi-ques mentioning the taking of this town or the ten mile advance of that Division cannot possibly convey the thousands of individual actions that went into those victories. The 96th Division made its splendid showing in its first campaign because of its good training, excellent equipment and skilled leadership but more than that it has men with fighting spirit.

Let's take a look at some of the brave deeds of a few of our buddies. These are picked at random. There are many DEADEYES who have equalled and even excelled the feats of these men. It would take a large volume to do justice to all the brave men in the Division and would include virtually everybody.

Take Staff Sergeant Leary C. Ray of Little Rock, Ark. Cool and courageous under fire, he has volunteered for every hazardous patrol assigned his company. Twice he led patrols into a village, through a gauntlet of enemy bullets to evacuate wounded soldiers and recover bodies of comrades who had been killed.

Then there is Private Albert M. Bartzat of Eugene, Oregon. Members of his company were pinned down by Jap machine gun and sniper fire. Although he himself, was in a safe spot, he grabbed a light machine gun, advanced to an exposed position and covered with fire the evacuation of all the men including the casualties.

Typical of the spirit of the doughboy who would risk his own neck to protect his comrades is Corporal Andrew Schoeb, Jr. of North Bergen, N. J. While standing guard on a battalion outer perimeter, he saw a Jap crawling toward him. Knowing that other doughboys were in his line of fire, he jumped out of his foxhole and fought

the Jap armed only with a machete.

From every state in the Union, from every walk of life, and of all creeds are the brave men of the Division. Technical-Sergeant Daniel K. Mermela is a native of Honolulu, T. H. While his platoon was trying to neutralize a strong enemy emplacement, he advanced alone against the Jap position and killed two Japs in his advance.

Staff Sergeant Albert S. Kimberlin, West Columbia, S. C., enacted in real life the sort of deed that is depicted in Hollywood versions of the war. A sniper had been holding up the advance of his reconnaissance patrol from dugout on the opposite side of the river. Stripping off his clothes, he took his tommy gun and swam across the stream. Moving forward under fire, he eliminated the sniper.

Every doughboy in the Division has praise for those unsung heroes, the medical aid men who brave enemy fire countless times to rescue wounded. We mention one of them, Corporal Roy Dunn, Oaklawn, Ill. Three doughboys of his company were wounded. They lay helplessly on open ground exposed to Jap mortar fire. Without a moment's hesitation, Corporal Dunn ran forward to their aid, treated their wounds and remained with them until they could be evacuated.

Doughboys had no monopoly on bravery during this campaign. Look at Corporal Samuel W. Ettinger Jr., Lonrville, Iowa, an Artilleryman. The very first night of the operation, a mortar shell wounded his commanding officer and four enlisted men of his forward observer section. Despite intermittent enemy mortar fire, he cared for them throughout the night and evacuated them to safety the next morning. He

then assumed command of the section. His skillful adjustment of artillery fire helped break up a Jap Banzai attack.

For courage and persistence Private First Class Florian G. Promowicz, Flint, Michigan, has set a fine example. His platoon leader fell wounded in a rice paddy. With enemy bullets flying around him, Pfc Promowicz crept 300 yards waist deep in mud and water to go to his aid. Because of the heavy enemy fire, an hour and a half was required to make the rescue.

In the finest tradition of the Infantryman was the action of Private First Class Wilson A. Trahan, Greole, La. His squad was advancing across an open field, out in front as point man, Pfc Trahan spotted three Jap snipers in perfect position to pick off members of the squad. He attacked them singlehandedly, exposing himself to their fire and so diverted their attention, that the squad was able to cross the clearing safely.



Lt F. C. Ohland talks with S/Sgt E. Diaz, the FEATURES personality of last week.

# DEADEYE *features*

**SPAIN** Continued from page five.  
Axis nations' war camp. A neutral Spain, from the Allied point of view, was a lesser evil than a Spain at war.

Then came the North African campaign. Here again, the Allies could not afford to have Hitler's troops just behind their backs. If Germany could have supplied her Afrika Korps directly from Spanish ports and airfields, the war in North Africa might have been indefinitely prolonged. Today, with the battle against Germany taxing the Allies' every last reserve of strength, they cannot deviate in their attack to interfere with Spain.

### THE COURSE OF FUTURE EVENTS

Francisco, as mentioned before, knows that he rules Spain only as long as the Allied nations allow him to. The day of reckoning is approaching when all fascists in Europe must answer to Allied courts for their past actions. As an indication that the various Allied nations have not forgotten Franco, many British, American, and French statesmen have called for Franco's dethroning by their governments.

Since the return from Paris of Anthony Eden, the British Minister for the Foreign Office and the Minister of Information have made strong anti-Franco statements in the House of Commons. This suggests a

joint British-French policy towards Spain. Several weeks ago in a speech before the British House of Lords, Lord Templeton called Franco Spain "practically a semi-occupied country". He accused Spain of being pervaded by German Gestapo influence over press and radio.

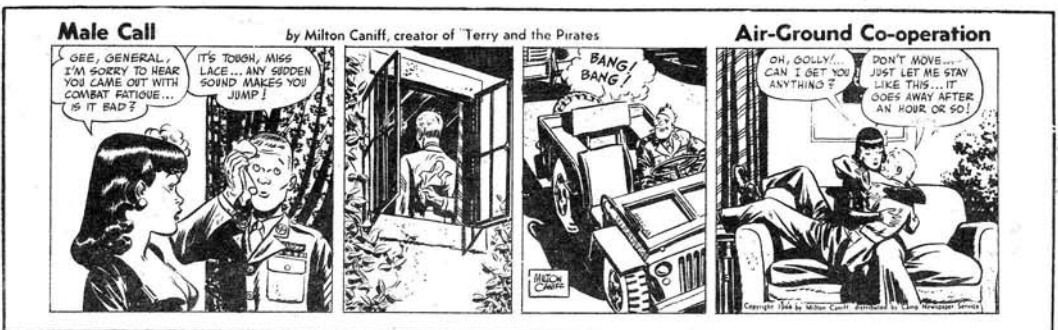
In London, Madrid's bid for a place in the world peace conference has been officially snubbed. At the peace conference, Spain is more likely to find herself before the bench than upon it.

General DeGaulle, while he has officially recognized the government of Spain, on the other hand continues to give refuge to Spanish Republican refugees. In the United States, the ghost in the closet of the State Department has been its relation with Franco-Spain. Critics have been most outspoken in their demands that our government break with Franco. The U.S. State Department, however, has been following the policy of expediency and appears likely to do so in the future—at least until cessation of hostilities with Germany.

The course of future events will, in all likelihood, see Francisco Franco deposed, either by his own countrymen, or by Allied political pressure. The future of Spain can be most promising. She has extensive mineral deposits which have only been tapped. As cultural head of all Latin America, Spain could enjoy a brisk

foreign trade. As a nation, Spain is geographically united. A sound government is all that is needed to unite Spain politically and restore her to a respectable place among the powers of the world.

### The Wolf by Sansone



# DEADEYE *features*

## VISIONS

Again we come to you as an interested, worn-out beggar to play upon your imagination and transport you to celestial heights.....no man gave us this time a song of poetic flavor to ease our mind and say that real house lizards eat flies and spiders.....no Paramount gave us a photographic phenomenon with which to augment our fox-hole affairs..... although our versatile demented brushman gives a good likeness for this use.....no State Department took unto itself a post (MacLeish) to set the tongues of Congress wagging against such "long-haired creatures" forgetting ones like Horace (can they say he upset Caesar's government?) and Oliver Wendell Holmes; forgetting the like of Solon, who happened to be the father of Greek Democracy.....a POET in public office?..... The Saturday Review took the view: Did Congressmen think of the sane and lucid wording of the Congressional Record when they spoke of the obscurity of certain of a poet's works?.....The highlight of the week came soulfully running in with the rainfall during last Wednesday's light shower in the form of words permed in violet ink:.....

Said glamorous Magda Lepsescu  
Who came to Rumania's rescue;  
It's a wonderful thing  
To be under a king,  
Is Democracy better,  
I ask you!

And we became the proud possessors of the right to publish.....

all this can be ours

how much do I miss you? your  
presence close to me is like the fragrance of night-jasmine,  
cooling to the burning ardor that ravages my heart;  
your eyes, wondrous in their glow, add courage to mine own,  
helping to thwart the foe which is loneliness;  
and your smile is graven in my memory, spurring and quickening  
the weary hours of long separation.

how much do I love you?

I love you so much, deeper than the greatest sea and higher  
than the stars of evening:

my devotion encompasses that which others dare not:

the scorn and pity of others are as nothing;  
and it is more than Heaven, more than life itself, this  
humble gift I offer....all that I possess, everything within me,  
when shall we meet?

we have never been apart, darling, can never be apart. You  
come to me in my dreams; I summon you in beautiful fantasy;  
ours is something that transcends time and distance

because both of us feel that it was meant to be;  
and someday, when present trials are past, there shall be  
no need for fantasy. Then shall we come into happiness  
beyond all understanding, to peace and contentment not  
known before, with dignity and honor beyond all question.  
all this can be ours.....

Michael Oden

