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ARMY TALKS



Major General
Professor Doktor
Karl Haushofer
of Munich, Germany

Who's who, what's what, and Hau's hofer



RESTRICTED · EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS · UNITED STATES ARMY

"It is desired that, consistent with operational requirements, group discussions, through the medium ARMY TALKS . . . , be held in all units within this command, using one hour of training time each week . . . unit commanders will conduct an orientation program, using not less than one hour training time a week . . . presentation of this material is a command function. . . . A company officer will be present at each discussion, whether or not he is the discussion leader. . . ."

BY COMMAND OF GENERAL EISENHOWER.

(Extract from letter ETO, 30 April 1944, AG 3522 OpGA,
Subject: Education in Military and Current Affairs.)

ARMY TALKS

EUROPEAN THEATER OF OPERATIONS

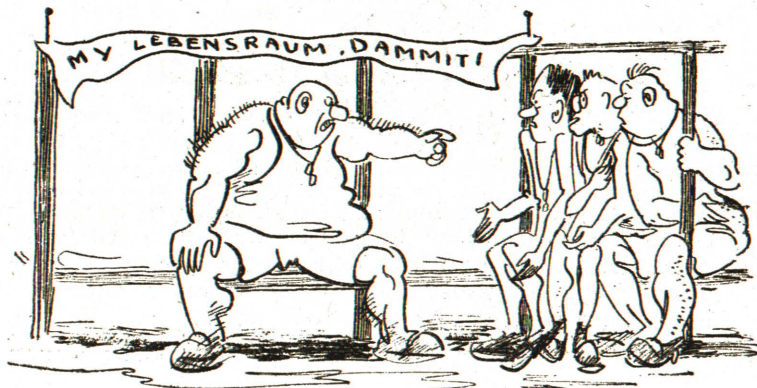
Who's who, what's what, and Hau's hofer

ONCE upon a time you and your pals lived in a barracks or Nissen hut. It was cramped and uncomfortable, and you were in each other's way. So what did you do? You made the best of it.

But all of a sudden Joe Jerk in the bed next to yours decides he wants more living space. He figures out he can't get along in the space allotted to him. In addition to his own space, he wants some of yours, too. In fact, he wants to take one whole end of the barracks and run it the way he pleases. Sure, he'll let a few other men live in it, too, but they'll work for *him*, and he'll divvy up their living space according to his own liking. He'll say who cleans up. He'll tell the boys when they can go to chow and to the latrine, and exactly which chow lines and latrines they can go to. And, to make it final, he'll pretty well tell everyone in the barracks exactly where he gets off, including the sergeant.

Suppose this Joe Jerk happens to be a pretty rugged guy, and what's more, smart. He's got reasons for muscling in and pushing the boys around. His reasons are these :

1. I'm too big a guy to get along in such cramped space.
2. I'm a better guy than you—smarter and stronger—and I deserve a better break than I'm getting.
3. I don't like the way you guys run your parts of the barracks, and I'll take over and show you how to do it—my way.
4. It's God's law for a guy like me to have more space than the rest of you—and the very fact that I *want* more space proves that I'm a better guy than you are.



5. Finally, don't think that just because I'm taking just a little more room at first I'm not going to take more later. Fact is, the more I take the more I'll want—and pretty soon I'll be running this whole camp, and don't forget it.

What would you do to Joe Jerk if he pulled that kind of stuff on you? Don't answer all at once—and don't be sure you know the answer. Because that kind of stuff has been pulled on you before—and you let Joe get away with it. Only it wasn't Joe Jerk—it was Joe Germany. And it wasn't your own little barracks—it was the whole world.

Special 'Science' Covers Theories

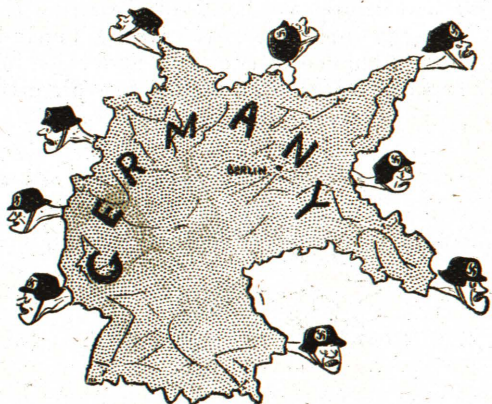
Maybe you'll say it's a completely different case—that if Hitler had got up on his hind feet and sounded off the way Joe Jerk did, you'd have gone over on the next boat and personally crowned him. The truth is that living space—"Lebensraum" as the Krauts call it—is something the Germans have been hammering about for a long time. The Germans, in fact, have trumped up a special science that deals with the living room idea; it proves that Germany is entitled to all the room she can grab. This science is called Geopolitics. Maybe you never heard of it—but nearly everybody in Germany who's graduated from kindergarten has. The man who put geopolitics on a pay-dirt basis is a master-mind called Haushofer. And the angel who pays Haushofer's bills is Adolf Hitler.

When you take two things like geography and politics, and link them together the result doesn't compete with a comic strip or a western story for hair-raising interest. Yet geopolitics—as this combination of geography and politics is called—is one of the things that got us into this war.



While we were reading the funnies, German kids were reading maps. While we were interested in how the Dodgers were doing, Germans were dividing the world up into neat little packages all done up in red, white and black string, with a swastika knot. While we were figuring out how to hit the boss for a raise, the Germans were working out a master plan that puts down in ABC order what countries should be conquered and how.

To give you a clue to how this subject rates with Yanks and Jerries think this over: in preparing this ARMY TALK it was possible to find about half a dozen books and publications in the English language that discussed geopolitics. But a recent list of



German books contains 3,000 book titles under the heading "Geopolitik." And there have been dozens of magazines published in Germany that deal with nothing else but this brain-racking theme.

There isn't a man, woman or child living in Germany today to whom Major General Karl Haushofer doesn't have a very special meaning. Probably the one man to whom Haushofer has the greatest meaning of all is Adolf Hitler. Hitler and Haushofer got together back in 1923, while Hitler was sitting in jail writing *Mein Kampf*. Practically all those parts of *Mein Kampf* that deal with Germany's slant on the outside world—Germany's complaint that it doesn't have enough room to live in, and Germany's determination to get what it wants—all that is a double play from Haushofer to Hitler.

Blame It On Friedrich List

Haushofer didn't invent geopolitics. This special German science goes back to 1825, to a German named Friedrich List. List went to New York and made friends in high places. In one way or another he became a U.S. Consul and went back to Germany, where he took a leading part in the building of the German Customs Union—one of the big factors in unifying Germany. He committed suicide in 1846, but before he died he had planted the seed of the "Lebensraum" idea. How? By selling the Germans the idea of copying America's Monroe Doctrine!

To List, the Monroe Doctrine was really big business. He pointed out that while Germans were still haggling over little hunks of land and

trying to fit them together into one country, piker-style, the Americans saw things in terms of whole continents. He pointed out that if Germany wanted to be a really big shot in the world it had to spread itself over all of Europe. List—a friend of Henry Clay and a student of Alexander Hamilton—dangled the theory of Lebensraum before the German bigwigs of his day—and it looked good to them. They didn't figure out that the Monroe Doctrine was simply a "hands-off" sign to European tyrants—and that America's only interest was to give the newly-born States in the Western Hemisphere a chance to get on their feet without being gobbled up by greedy European tyrants. To them it was pictured as a big, Yankee land-grab.



Another German with an itch for more living space was an ex-soldier and geographer with a name that's easy to remember—Ratzel. Ratzel said: "A large space maintains life."

Ratzel didn't know it, but when he said that about 60 years ago, he gave Haushofer and Hitler exactly what they needed in 1923. Put yourself in their place. If you were looking for an excuse to push the guy in the next bed out into the cold, and you could find a flat statement like that from a big-shot geographer, you'd have what the doctor ordered, wouldn't you? Instead of behaving like a tough bum, you'd pull the book on him. You'd say it is your "natural right" to grab more space. It sounds better—and if the other guy is dumb, the chances of a comeback are slimmer.

Ratzel's Seven-Point Theory Of Growth

Ratzel had been a soldier in the Franco-Prussian war. He was wounded twice and decorated twice. After Germany beat France in that war, he got a lot of satisfaction out of Germany's increased size. He visited America, looked enviously at the spread of our continent. So, adding brains and muscle, geography and militarism, he figured out seven laws of German growth. Here are the rules Ratzel laid down:—

1. A country grows as its culture grows.
2. If a country grows in ideas and in production, it will also grow in size.
3. A country grows by taking over and absorbing smaller countries.
4. The boundaries of a country are like the skin of a man. As the state grows, strengthens and changes, the boundaries naturally change with them.

5. When a country grows it tends to take over valuable parts of other countries—coastlines, river beds, plains and regions rich in resources.
6. Countries with a high standard of civilization are the first to have the urge to take on more territory.
7. The more territory a country takes over, the hungrier it gets for even more territory—or, as one writer put it, "Appetite comes while eating."

Ratzel summed the whole thing up in the statement :

"There is on this small planet sufficient space for only one great state."

Another was : "The decay of every country is the result of the declining space consciousness of its people."

Everything Ratzel said boiled down to the one word, *Lebensraum*.

Ratzel's ideas are the Nazis' ideas to-day. In fact today's Nazis are nothing more than big Ratzels. Here is how it happened.

Haushofer Explains 1918 German Defeat

The Germans were beaten in 1918. Haushofer, who had been a general in that war, tried to figure out the reason for the defeat. He asked himself why the German people had so readily surrendered. His answer was : "Because the German people has never possessed the *Lebensraum* idea inwardly, as a people, or cherished it as a spiritual treasure."

Haushofer began to see his mission in life — open the eyes of the German people to the full meaning of space.

Rudolf Hess introduced Haushofer to Hitler. In Hitler, Haushofer found the man who could bring his ideas to life.

When Hitler took over Germany he promptly appointed Haushofer to the presidency of the German Academy. He decreed Haushofer's wife, who was partly Jewish, and their sons, to be "Aryans." He built and paid for a tremendous geopolitical research organization in Munich. Haushofer rarely appeared in public. He was never seen at the big Nazi celebrations. He didn't wear a fancy uniform like Goering. He didn't make speeches like Goebbels. The exact degree to which he influences Nazi policy isn't known. Some people claim Hitler has made no move without Haushofer's approval ; others claim that Haushofer's influence has been greatly exaggerated. The truth probably lies somewhere between the two.

Let's see for a minute the special kind of eye-wash Haushofer was peddling. To do that, we have to look at another man—an Englishman named Sir Halford Mackinder—from whom Haushofer stole the idea which he twisted into the shape he and Hitler wanted. Mackinder, a patriotic Englishman and a serious student of geography, was deeply concerned with England's position in the future world. In 1904 he made a short speech to the Royal Geographical Society in London. Very few

people heard it. Few people read it. But when Haushofer ran across a dusty copy, he saw in it the prize package in his bag of tricks.

Mackinder had tossed aside all fixed ideas of geography and the boundary lines of different countries. He saw the world divided into vast land masses and vast areas of ocean. He noticed that the greatest land mass in the world was a "Heartland" formed by a combination of Europe and a part of Asia—land cut off from the sea and inhabited by land-locked peoples. Fringing this "Heartland," as he called it, were border lands inhabited by sea-faring people. Mackinder asked: "Is not the pivot of world politics that vast region of Europe and Asia cut off from the sea, but which today is about to be covered by a network of railways?"

Mackinder realized that in this region lay the seeds of tremendous military and economic power. In this broad region were Russia and Germany. If Germany and Russia were joined and took over the border lands of Europe and Asia which faced the oceans, then the vast resources of the greatest land mass in the world would be available for building great fleets. The empire of the world would then be in sight.

Mackinder, writing for the English, pointed to the danger of a German-Russian alliance joining the pivot peoples of the "Heartland." He wanted an Anglo-Russian understanding. He got his wish. After nearly 100 years of bad feeling between them, Russia and England got together again in 1907.

What 'Heartland' Meant To Haushofer

What did all this mean to Haushofer? He saw how Mackinder's ideas could be worked in reverse. He realized that three-quarters of the surface of the globe is covered by ocean. Two of the remaining three-twelfths were covered by the joint continents of Europe, Asia and Africa. America and Australia together barely occupied one-twelfth and are thus merely smaller islands detached from the big World Island. Haushofer saw that the World Island could out-build and out-fight all powers based on the American or Australian islands. The World Island, which only a great land power could conquer, would enable that great land power to become also the greatest sea power of all times.



Mackinder knew that command of the Heartland spelled world rule. "Who rules Eastern Europe," he said, "commands the Heartland; who rules the Heartland commands the World Island; who commands the World Island rules the world."

Haushofer picked up the ball and ran with it. All Germany had to do, he saw, was to rule Eastern Europe. Then the rest of the world would fall into Germany's lap. How Germany and Russia joined together didn't matter to Haushofer. People get together in a friendly way—or one of them slugs the other and sits on him. As it turned out, Germany tried to do both.

Haushofer and Hitler started out under great handicaps. Geopolitics was the master plan of conquest they needed. After the last war a belt of small states had been created around Germany. Haushofer built a "scientific" case for blotting out such states. "They are," he complained, "bits of states." He argued that they were too small to have what it takes for independent existence.

That didn't stop Haushofer from making a big case for the right of people to govern themselves. "Soviet Russia," he pointed out, "is made up of many racial minorities. Each of these minorities should rule itself." His idea was to break Russia down to the same little bits of states he complained about on Germany's borders. His hope was that these states, small and weak, would lean on Greater Germany and give Germany control of the Heartland.

Haushofer was also convinced that the British Empire was all washed up. The roots of British power were withering, he said. When the British Empire placed its Dominions on a basis of equality in 1926, he saw in this democratic act the surrender of power. "Isn't this surrender of power," Haushofer asked, "the first step towards dissolution?" The march of the dominions toward complete self-government, as Haushofer saw it, meant that British power was in a state of decay.

Haushofer And The Monroe Doctrine

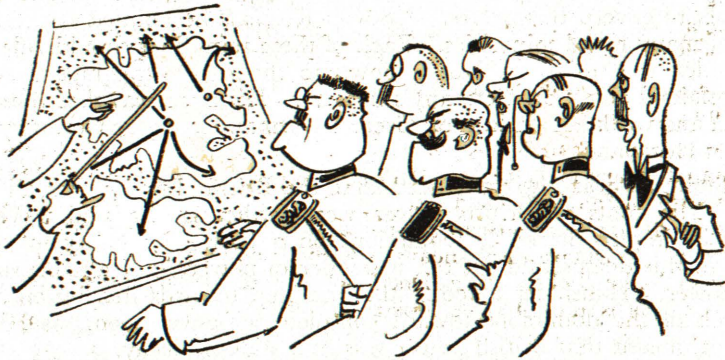
The United States was a hard nut for Haushofer to crack. Like Friedrich List, 100 years before him, Haushofer was an admirer of America's Monroe Doctrine, which Haushofer liked to point to as an example of sound geopolitical principle worked out in practice. And yet the United States didn't see eye to eye with Germany in the last war and didn't warm up to Haushofer, Hitler and Company and their Lebensraum idea in this war. So Haushofer explained it away by saying that the American people are a backward people because they are a racial hodge-podge. He hinted that internal troubles would tear the United States apart unless it got on the geopolitical band wagon.

Haushofer didn't like the idea of the United States and Britain getting on too well. He tried to egg the United States on to knocking the props

from under the British Empire. At the same time he warned Great Britain against mortgaging her empire to the United States, which, Haushofer said, was interested in liquidating the Empire.

Haushofer predicted war between the United States and Japan. This sound prediction is cancelled by his statement that Germany, which would by that time be ruling the roost in Europe, would umpire the contest. Haushofer never proposed the German-Japanese alliance in so many words; what he did do was to build up a list of Japan's grievances against the same countries which opposed Germany's Lebensraum ambitions.

Haushofer's influence reached out into every nook and corner of Germany's life. His lectures at the University of Munich were packed. The Army and the diplomatic service sat in the front seats. Thousands of men were trained by the master to join his staff or to go out into the world and spread the Nazis' geopolitical ideas.



Haushofer kept in close personal contact with Hitler, but his group was not part of the Nazi party. Some of his staff believed that Germany could expand by diplomacy; others insisted it could only expand by war. The one thing they all agreed on was that German Lebensraum *must* be expanded.

Nazi-Russian Pact Part Of World Plan

Haushofer's true connection with Hitler is best shown by Germany's strange actions towards Russia. When Germany's von Ribbentrop and Russia's Molotov signed a peace pact, everybody said it proved that Haushofer was top man with Hitler. Then when Hitler attacked Russia, people said Haushofer was out on his ear. The truth is that Haushofer had said that Germany must dominate the Heartland by "colonisation,



amalgamation or conquest." Hitler probably never even consulted Haushofer when making his momentous decision. He didn't need to. Geopolitics was Nazi foreign policy.

Haushofer's biggest success was indoctrinating the German masses with geopolitical ideas.

No country in the world published so many maps as the Germans did. In no country in the world did people become as familiar with maps as the Germans. From kindergarten on through the grades, German kids were brought up on maps. Beautiful, colored maps of Lebensraum were displayed all over Germany. Propaganda maps were distributed by posters, moving pictures, magazines, leaflets, and even postage stamps. They all publicized Germany's Lebensraum ambitions.

The German Folk Map Service became a tremendous map enterprise. It put out cheap and flashy maps to teach history. Boys and girls learned their geopolitics from a little illustrated catechism entitled "The German People and Their Living Space." Movie strips in the Walt Disney manner popularised Lebensraum on the screen.

Haushofer's output flowed over into foreign countries—part of Hitler's softening-up tactics.

The United States was flooded with geopolitical propaganda. The German Library of Information in New York, a propaganda outpost, put out a little magazine called *Facts in Review*. In it the Lebensraum idea was touted to the American people as a German version of the Monroe Doctrine. "Lebensraum means simply Living Space," said *Facts in Review*. "The Lebensraum Doctrine should be recognised throughout the world as is the Monroe Doctrine."

Carving Up The Globe—On Maps

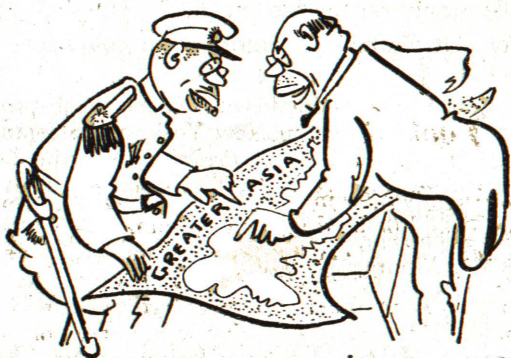
In another article Americans read that the world was to be divided into four regions to replace the present system of independent countries. There would be a Greater Europe managed by Germany, with the Mediterranean sub-region under Italian branch management. A second zone would be managed by Japan and would include China, Indo-China, Malays, Burma, Dutch possessions and all the islands of the Western Pacific. The third zone would be known as the Russian greater area (at the time this was published Germany was friendly to Russia). The fourth zone was supposed to be the clincher. It would include the American continents. But it didn't say who would manage them.

Maps were also used to make Americans suspicious



of the British. For example, a map was published entitled "England—Threat to the Monroe Doctrine." It showed the Americas in green, but Canada, Bermuda, the Bahamas and the other even smaller possessions of Great Britain in the Western hemisphere were shown in yellow. On the basis of straight treatment it would have been hard to show how America was being squeezed in a ring of British power. The Germans got over this by printing all the British areas in large, solid, yellow circles. The effect is that the zone in which the Bahamas and Bermuda lie look about as big as one-third of the United States. The map shows a small mass of green almost completely surrounded by yellow. Many an American, unwise to German geopolitical tricks, must have had fits when he saw that one.

Special geopolitical stuff was prepared for export to South America. Maps and books were prepared showing the great advantages that would come to Latin-American export trade once all European markets were dominated by Germany, and once the United States was out of the picture.



The Japanese lapped up geopolitics and couldn't get enough of it. Haushofer was a great friend of the Japs. He wrote many books proving the Japs' right to domination in the Pacific. Japanese admirals, generals and politicians flocked to Haushofer's institute in Munich. Long before the world woke up to Japan's territorial ambitions, the Japanese were studying their future bridgeheads of invasion.

"Geopolitics Purely German Science"

With all the dough of the Nazi party to work with, there was nothing Haushofer couldn't do. A lot of money and facilities were put at the disposal of his group of so-called scientists. These scientists specialized in the most careful survey of geography the world has ever known. They examined every fact and figure they could possibly lay their hands on,

whether it had to do with the population of Elgin, Illinois, or the amount of coal in the mines of Pennsylvania. All this material was evaluated and filed away for use by German authorities. These authorities included the German General Staff, who had in Haushofer's Munich Institute one of the finest G-2 set-ups the world has ever known.

If Einstein, or Dr. Alexander Fleming—the inventor of penicillin—had taken over geopolitics, it might have turned out to be a constructive science, of benefit to the entire world. But the Germans kicked geopolitical science around in the same way that they kicked the Poles around. As one smart Frenchman said: "Geopolitics is a purely German science. It is militaristic. It glorifies the State. Geopolitics builds up the importance of space for the growth of the State. It pays no attention to the individual. As in everything else that's Nazi, geopolitics proves that the State means everything and man nothing."

That, of course, is the big German fumble: Hitler found in geopolitics a blue-print for his plan of empire. He set out to conquer the Heartland of the world. But the Heartland contains people. Unless these people cooperate willingly with the power that tries to control them, the whole plan breaks down.

A Tool To Enslave Humanity

The Nazi blitzkrieg didn't win friends for Germany. Instead of building a vast area which would be used to build armaments to conquer the world, Hitler found himself with a bear by the tail—and that does not only mean the Russian Bear. It was pretty clear to most people that Germany didn't really want living room in the sense that Germans would be exported to help develop the rest of the world. The true nature of Germany's plans for the world were revealed when Hitler imported hundreds of thousands of men and women to slave in Germany's factories. Instead of developing regions in the rest of the world, it became clear that Hitler's and Haushofer's idea was for all other states to become farmers, miners, and slaves supporting



a tremendously expanded German industrial machine. It represented a tearing down of other areas of the world for the building up of the German Reich, instead of the greatest good for the greatest number.

Haushofer spilled the beans on Lebensraum when he gave his idea on boundary lines between countries in the following words : "The most magnificent concept of frontiers that has come to us from classical ancient history reveals the frontier as a battlefield. Written in 95 B.C., it should not be forgotten because of its wonderful greatness and beauty. It is the picture of the spear thrower who, as the last man, stands at the extreme borders of space, always anew hurling his missile into the unknown, into the invisible. There is no better illustration of Ratzel's scientific theories in the entire literature of the world. Yet it is no picture of eternal peace." Signed : Haushofer.

If Hitler's Haushofers and Ratzels make tomorrow's frontiers, it is the kind of thinking expressed above that will make tomorrow's world.



Material for this issue was prepared by the staff of ARMY TALKS from the book "Geopolitics" by Robert Strausz-Hupé, an article in "Fortune" by the same author, and from numerous articles and reports made available through the courtesy of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London.

How to prepare this Army Talk

NOTE TO GROUND FORCE UNIT LEADERS :

Haushofer has helped to sell the Germans a bag of ideas about their own superiority and their "right" to more *Lebensraum*. These ideas when put into practice threw the world into war and brought about your shift from your peacetime job in Civvy Street to your present address, Foxhole 3, somewhere in Normandy. In Italy, Russia, and now in Normandy, the Superman has been taking a beating. German superiority doesn't seem to stand up to the battle test and the stolen *Lebensraum* is shrinking before the advance of United Nations ground forces.

NOTE TO AIR FORCE UNIT LEADERS :

Both Mackinder and Haushofer agreed that the large central area of the Asiatic land mass was a heartland of vital strategic importance. One of the reasons that Russia survived the German attack was her ability to move her heavy industry into this heartland out of effective range of German bombers. Haushofer's ideas helped start the war—helped put you in your Air Force job—forced the Allies to create and develop Air Power. Will the development of super-bombers, like our B-29's, destroy the strength of the heartland and at the same time destroy the soundness of Haushofer's theories?

NOTE TO SOS UNIT LEADERS :

Your men are getting supplies to the fighting fronts. One of the reasons that Germany took the plunge into war was that Haushofer and his geographers believed that geography favored them in the movement of supplies and men. The Axis powers counted heavily on their geographical advantages—short interior lines of communications. Our success in moving equipment and troops in spite of physical difficulties has upset Axis calculations and is contributing to Axis defeat.

Introduce the topic with a short talk. Use the American Forces Network dramatizations (every Friday at 1100) as an opener if you can get it. Focus the discussion on the part of Haushofer's ideas which affect your outfit most directly. Tie in the loose ends with a summary at the end of the hour.

TIP TO UNIT COMMANDERS

ARMY TALKS ON THE AIR

Tune in on your American Forces Network station for a dramatized presentation of the week's Army Talk.



TIME: Friday, 30 June 1944 at
1100 hours.

PLACE: Any convenient spot
where you have a radio
and a room for your
platoon to listen in
and discuss the subject.

STATION:
American Forces Network.