



**Mont-St. Michel Offers  
Peace to all**

At left, the Normandy sanctuary Mont-St. Michel, one of Europe's most renowned places of pilgrimage and curiosity to GI's appears to be a fortress, yet is a church, with an ancient Benedictine monastery, named in honor of the Archangel Michael who is highly regarded in France—considered a powerful captain who led the angels to victory.

German reinforcements, the Avranches-Mortain counter-attack was no more. The SS 1st (the famed Adolf Hitler Division) and 2nd Panzers took most of the losses.



**FROM THE INFANTRY**

*It was one of those hectic days during the Third Army's rush from Saint Lô to the German border. Nobody was very sure where the leading elements of the ground troops were, and the P-47's out ahead were having trouble identifying troops. Finally, one flight spotted a likely-looking column of troops using horse-drawn vehicles—usually a sign of Germans. The fighters dropped their bombs, which that day happened to include leaflets advising the enemy to surrender, promising good food and civilized treatment. The payoff came a few days later, when one of the forward command posts of the Tactical Air Force was visited by several dozen grimy Third Army infantrymen. "OK," said an American infantry sergeant, "we surrender. Now, where the hell is that promised good food?"*

"Always our patients came first," reported Lieutenant Seraphine Petrocelli, "it's up to the flight nurse to care for them, make them comfortable, and see that they arrive at the destination in as good physical condition as expert nursing can assure. When an evacuation plane is airborne, the cabin becomes literally a hospital ward, with the nurse in charge. 'Routine nursing care,' it is called. But, anyone evacuated by air knows that it's more than just watching symptoms, changing dressing, giving plasma, or bringing out the morphine when you see fists clinched in silent pain. Its more than adjusting the splint on a leg, or treating someone for shock, or asking the pilot to descend slowly so that a too-sudden pressure change won't make a tank man's condition worse."

"Maybe it's a lot of little things—like the subtle way she has of keeping a boy's mind off fears of losing his mangled, injured leg. Or the manner



The Orival rail bridge over the Seine, one of many transportation targets that were knocked out by Gen. Quesada's 9th A.F. in 1944. Today in 1994, the fastest train in the world crisscrosses the Brittany sector in astounding speeds of 318 mph, it is called the TGV Atlantique.



U.S. 9th Air Force



9th Inf Div  
Cotentin Peninsula, St. Lô