

## Jumping for Gaps Is Not a Picnic

By Raymond Clapper

SOMEWHERE IN NEW GUINEA while driving in a jeep I picked up a couple of soldiers who proved to be paratroopers. One of them, Paul, a blond of Middleton, O., has made 22 jumps and never been scratched. He was among the paratroopers in the big landing that took Nadzab airfield. I asked him how it went.

"I was all I knew," he said, "was that I swung once and then my funny landed on a screw of factures. Back in a hospital."

His buddy, Paul Davidson of Tampa, Fla., has made 23 jumps. He sprained his neck once and was in a hospital for a month but was jumping again.

By a coincidence earlier in the day I had picked up two other paratroopers of the same outfit—Carl Pole of Triumphant, Mich., who has made 30 jumps, and Jesse Metcalf, Wheeling, W. Va., who has made 17. Neither has ever been hurt. Their outfit had the men killed by a heavy action, but they left 50 dead Japs on the ground at Nadzab. That was the only landing when Gen. MacArthur flew in a Fortress overhead while the men jumped.

Paratrooper carries more risk than the foregoing might suggest, and sometimes an action brings a dozen or a score of fractures. Back injuries are frequent.

The troop carrier command divides its work between transport and the handling of vital freight, without which the New Guinea campaign could not have been carried on. It is impossible to get men and supplies over the Owen Stanley Mountains by ground, and until recently it was too hazardous to use shipping. As a result, troops carrying loads opened up airfields in the interior at spots inaccessible except by air.

Stalls get the planes to come down a strip of the waist-high kumal grass. Then a transport plane lands with engineers. They

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## Minturno Abandoned By Enemy

### British Capture Three Villages

By EDWARD KENNEDY

A LITTLE HEADQUARTERS, G. G. (AP)

The American Fifth Army in Italy enlarged its bridgeheads above the Garigliano River to a depth of two miles in places today after capturing three villages. In addition the army has announced that they had abandoned Minturno, stronghold along the Apennine Way.

A headquarters announcement said the British troops of the Fifth Army had enveloped the villages of Argento, Tufo and Sotgirola, and the carrying of the thrust across the Apennine Way itself—and that the battle for Minturno was under way.

Berlin said the town had been evacuated. It lies six miles from Rome, near the ancient highway that leads into the capital city.

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## Major Air Fight Waged Over Rabaul

### Three Jap Ships Sunk In Attacks

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, N W GUINEA—(AP)—Forty Allied torpedo and divebombers covered by 60 fighters smashed through heavy Japanese plane interception and anti-aircraft fire to sink three big merchant ships and damage five more in Simpson Harbor at Rabaul, New Britain.

The attack was the most successful since the beginning of the campaign to capture Rabaul. The Japanese navy had been ordered to evacuate the harbor. The Allied forces had been ordered to capture the harbor.

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## Nazi Airfields In Rome Area Raided

By LYNN HEINZELING

A 15TH AIR FORCE BOMBER BASE, ITALY, Jan. 19—(Delayed)—(AP)—The 15th Air Force, having temporarily cut off Rome from rail communications with the north, hammered the most important German airfields in the Rome area today.

The raid was directed against the north and south Ciampino airfields just outside the Rome city limits and against the Ciampino airfield, the most important airfield in the Rome area.

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## Way Open For Big Push With Novgorod Fall

### Ready To Drive Northward To Join Forces Coming From Leningrad Area

LONDON—(AP)—Marshal Joseph Stalin announced in an order of the day today the capture of Novgorod at the northern tip of Lake Ilmen in the sixth day of the Russians' Leningrad offensive.

Novgorod had been the lower peg of German defenses in the Leningrad area. It is approximately 100 miles southwest of Leningrad.

With this long-standing bastion swept away, the Red Army was freed for a mighty push northward in an effort to join Gen. Leonid Govorov's forces moving southward from Leningrad. The way also was cleared for the Russians to thrust westward toward the Baltic.

NAZIS EVACUATE Stalin's order of the day addressed to Gen. Kirill A. Meretskov, said the Volkov army had forced both the Volkov River and the upper part of Lake Ilmen, presumably by crossing on the ice. The bastion thus was outflanked both on the north and south sides. Hearty today the German Command had announced evacuation of the important communications center.

Novgorod lies on one of the main north-south railways leading from the northern tip of Lake Ilmen to the Leningrad-Pskov railway. The railway has cut north-south of the city yesterday. The latest Russian communique disclosed the evacuation of the city.

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## Nazis Hit Slavs Anew

LONDON—(AP)—Marshal Joseph Stalin reported today that heavy fighting was spreading along the Great Carpathian area.

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## Warn About Nazi Peace Feelers

LONDON—(AP)—Britons were warned today to be on guard against a wave of insidious peace-talk propaganda inspired by the Germans as rumors printed earlier in the week by Pravda continued to have repercussions in both London and Moscow.

The warning issued by the London press, coincided with a similar admonition by the Moscow magazine "War and the Working Class," which called for cleaning of the political atmosphere from "positional games" played by the Nazis in an effort to split the Allies.

The Soviet publication declared that recent Moscow and Tehran conferences had furnished ammunition by the Moscow magazine "War and the Working Class," which called for cleaning of the political atmosphere from "positional games" played by the Nazis in an effort to split the Allies.

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