THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Final

ESTABLISHED 1888 | CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1944 | 26 Pages—Price Five Cents

Fighters Feel Home Folks Let Them Down

By JACK O'BRIAN

NEW YORK—(AP)—Many American soldiers in the stalemated Italian campaign feel there's a real inequality of sacrifice in this war, Hal Boyle, Associated Press war columnist, said today on his return from sixteen months with troops in the Mediterranean.

"The battle morale of these doughboys is high," he said. "But they are fighting for a land which some feel has forgotten them."

BOYLE

"Many have been overseas for two years and have given up hope of ever coming home. To them the war has become a blind alley with death at the end."

Boyle, whose war front column has made him one of America's greatest links between the boys at the front and the folks back home, said that infantrymen who had fought through three campaigns—North Africa, Sicily and Italy—felt common sense dictated that they should have a rest at home.

"These overseas veterans in the ground forces want to be told there is a limit to the sacrifices demanded of them," he added, "and this can best be done by giving them a real rotation system of home leaves such as that enjoyed by the air forces."

The 33-year-old reporter, whose gaelic humor found amusing copy even while wallowing in mud up to his knees, has found little amusing since he arrived in Italy after flying from Europe on the combat bomber "The Blue Streak," which completed 110 Mediterranean missions. It was his first break away from front line action since the African invasion.

LIKE "BALL GAME"

"The boys overseas have an idea that the people at home still think of the war as a ball game—and that they're enjoying the seventh inning stretch," he said.

"It does look like if all the energy being used in fighting the battle of the income tax could be expended on the battle of the Anzio beachhead, Rome would fall in short order.

"One of the things that impresses you most on your return is that everyone over here has a bad conscience—about the other fellow. Everybody seems to be pointing at the next guy and saying, 'Look at that cluck. He don't know there's a war on'."

Boyle said life appeared more complex here than on the other side.

"Over there things are comparatively simple except for mud, fleas, Germans, C rations and bullets. But at least you didn't have to lace your leggings with red tape."

When he finally winnowed through immigration regulations at Miami, the first person he saw was a captain he had left three weeks before in Italy.

"He said he wanted to get right back to the war front where things run a little more smoothly," Hal said.

Boyle has been through three major amphibious campaigns—at Fedala, French Morocco, where he nearly lost his life in the landing, Nov. 8, 1942; at Gela in Sicily and at Salerno.

JEEP TRAVELER

He covered the battles of Tunisia, Sicily and Italy by foot and jeep—which is tough on the kidneys. He claims he's travelled well over 40,000 miles in the sturdy contraptions. He has slept, eaten and lived with the infantry over all three campaigns.

War reporting, he says, is much simpler than covering police headquarters or writing politics.

"There's a story in every guy you meet," he said. "The only limit is your leg and jeep power."

Hal has balanced his portable typewriter on jeep fenders, his lap, K-ration boxes, in planes and lying flat on the ground. His copy comes out amazingly readable after circumstances that must have made him groan.

Boyle is from Kansas City, got his first job as office boy with the Associated Press there, worked in St. Louis and then New York, where he was night city editor until he left for the wars. His mother lives in Kansas City and his wife lives in Greenwich Village, here, three doors from Eleanor Roosevelt.

FR Orders Review Of Occupational Deferments

RAIDS CRACK NAZI AIR DEFENSES

GERMANS STAB AT BEACHHEAD

Marianas Attack Wipes Out 135 Japanese Planes

No American Warships Lost And Only Six Planes Destroyed

By CHARLES H. McMURTRY

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, PEARL HARBOR—(AP)—The battleship-escorted American task force which ranged 3,800 miles west of Pearl Harbor Tuesday to strike at the Marianas, less than 1,500 miles from Tokyo, wiped out 135 Japanese planes, scored against shipping, caused heavy destruction—and didn't lose a warship.

Disclosures of these results by Adm. Chester W. Nimitz were permitted by lifting of the radio silence protecting movements of the battleships, aircraft carriers, cruisers and destroyers. The warships were not even damaged despite the fact their approach was detected the day before the attack and enemy torpedo planes repeatedly tried to sink them.

Only six out of hundreds of attacking carrier planes were lost.

GAUM BOMBED

Guam, American outpost occupied by Japan at the war's outset, was bombed for the first time.

The elusive Japanese fleet wasn't found at Saipan's Tanapag Harbor—as it also had not been in great strength at recently bombed Truk—but a cargo ship was sunk; another was damaged and beached; a third was set afire; a patrol craft was blown up; and seven small boats were damaged.

Runways, seaplane aprons, airdrome facilities, fuel dumps and buildings were bombed heavily during the attacks on Saipan, Tinian and Guam.

The task force sent against the Marianas duplicated the Feb. 16-17 feat at Truk of risking capital

See ISLE ATTACK on page 2

Pressure Is Maintained Upon Allies

But Enemy Push Is Ineffective

By RICHARD G. MASSOCK

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NAPLES — (AP) — The Germans, maintaining steady pressure on the Allied beachhead below Rome, harassed American and British forces with shells and bombs but were knocked back in their single small attack yesterday, headquarters announced today.

The ineffective Nazi slab was made on the Allied right flank in the Poutine Marsh area about four miles from the coast at a point south of Cisterna and west of Littoria. Taking advantage of the ravine terrain near Carroceto on the other end of the beachhead, the Nazis tried to slip through the Allied lines, but all their attempts were unsuccessful.

CASSINO "QUIET"

High winds sweeping the mountains on the Cassino front together with snow flurries helped to keep that sector more or less stationary except for patrolling, but the Germans again attacked a French-held hill northwest of Cassino and again were thrown back. On this front as well as on the beachhead heavy guns of both sides kept up their endless shellings.

Headquarters announced that 93 German planes were destroyed and fourteen more probably were knocked down on the Italian leg of yesterday's simultaneous American heavy bomber assault against Regensburg, Germany, by bombers flying from Italy and Britain.

Thirty-nine bombers and five fighters were reported missing from the heavy bomber thrusts also aimed at the Italian ports of Fiume and Pola, the Yugoslav port of Zara, and an airfield near Graz in southern Austria.

The total of German fighters destroyed on the Regensburg mission and elsewhere yesterday was fixed at 95, setting a new record for the Mediterranean airforce. The previous high was 87 German planes knocked out in Tunisia last April.

Indian troops of the Eighth Army threw back three separate night attacks near Orsogna. Allied artillery then also broke up an enemy raid at another point in the Orsogna area and a patrol inflicted casualties on the Germans in a clash north of Ortelli, between Orsogna and the Adriatic coast.

Guns and supplies still were flowing into the beachhead area despite bad weather, continued Nazi shelling of the port of Anzio and a new attempt of the Germans to interrupt the process by making torpedo boat stabs at shipping off the harbor.

The Allied communique said an E-boat attack on the anchorage three nights ago was broken up by patrol craft.

Liberators bombing port and rail facilities at Fiume flew through thick heavy flak. Like the Regensburg raiders, they met heavy fighter opposition, with some of the enemy planes carrying rockets. The crews reported direct hits on the harbor and nearby installations.

President Takes Action Because Of Draft Quota Lag

Armed Forces Still Short Approximately 200,000 Trained Men

WASHINGTON—(AP)—President Roosevelt, estimating the armed forces were still short approximately 200,000 trained men, today ordered a review of all occupational deferments "with a view to speedily making available" the personnel required to carry on the war.

The President sent a memorandum to Paul V. McNutt, chairman of the War Manpower Commission, and Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service Director, saying Selective Service "has not delivered the quantity of men who were expected."

"The shortage which commenced to develop last September reached a total of 200,000 on Dec. 31," he added. "This means that today we are still short approximately 200,000 trained men although the actual personnel shortage in the Army has been reduced to 150,000."

Urging that agriculture and industry release younger men physically qualified for military service, the President said the Army will not reach its planned January strength until some time in April, or even later if Selective Service "continues to fall behind on its quotas."

FOOL LOW

The President said the nation's manpower pool has been "dangerously depleted by liberal deferments."

The shortage of men for the armed service was discussed yesterday by Hershey, who used the same 200,000 figure as the President. He said the armed forces need 1,200,000 men by July 1 to reach the planned

See FR ORDERS on Page 2

VITEBSK EVACUATED—Arrows on the above map indicate the points of Russian pressure against the Germans. Top, rail center of Dno, which has fallen to the Red Army. Center, Vitebsk, White Russian city which the Nazis announced evacuating. Below, Rogachev, another Russian bastion taken by the Russians. Shaded area is approximate German-held territory.

Huge Weight Of Allied Bombs Tells On Germany

Aircraft Industry Badly Mauled

LONDON — (AP — Germany's aircraft industry — target of the world's greatest aerial offensive during the past six days—has been bombed to the point where it is believed the factories will be unable to kep up with current German losses in fighter planes, a high-ranking U. S. Army Air Force spokesman said today.

Since January 1, Germany's twin-engine fighter production has been cut 80 per cent and single-engined fighter production has been reduced 60 per cent, the spokesman disclosed. He said these figures are based on latest reconnaissance but still are only preliminary.

GREATEST WEEK

The greatest damage probably has been done during the past week when, the spokesman said, the American Eight Air Force alone had dropped 7,335 tons of bombs on German soil, a greater amount than was dropped in the whole first year of operations by the American Air Force. With the tonnage dropped by the Fifteenth Air Force in Italy, the total rose to 9,620 tons.

He said U. S. headquarters believed that Germany had lost the last hope of maintaining a successful defense, adding that it has been the military decided loss that the Reich cannot prevent the strategic bombing of any target in Germany.

He promised that operations would increase as the year progressed.

The Eighth and 15th Air Forces were disclosed to have thrown a force of more than 1,200 heavy bombers and between 1,000 and 1,100 fighters yesterday against the German Air Force and the factories which keep Germany's planes in the air.

AUGSBURG BLASTED

Shortly before these staggering German defense losses were disclosed by the spokesman, who cannot be further identified, the British Air Ministry announced will another crushing attack on Augsburg last night by a massive fleet of RAF bombers. This raised the total tonnage of explosives raised

See RAIDS CRACK on Page 2

Japs Report Hot Guam Battle Raging

NEW YORK—(AP)—A Berlin broadcast of a Tokyo dispatch today said a violent battle of several days was in progress "for possession of the Pacific isle of Guam," with the Japanese garrison fighting to stave off attacks by an American naval formation.

"A simultaneous attempt this fighting is expected from Japanese Headquarters this Saturday," said the broadcast.

"This former United States property is situated nearest to the Japanese Isles," it added.

Earlier the British radio picked up a Japanese broadcast which said American naval forces were attacking the island.

The BBC noted that Allied accounts had told of an aerial attack on Guam but said "nothing is known about this latest Japanese claim."

Knox Says Jap Fleet Plays Waiting Game

WASHINGTON —(AP)—Navy Secretary Knox expresses the belief that the Japanese fleet possibly has withdrawn either to its home waters or to the Philippines.

Discussing a Pacific fleet announcement yesterday, the Secretary said also he could draw only two conclusions from the failure of the Japanese to make an appearance, one that it does not want to meet the American forces and two that they are "waiting until we are widely extended."

German General In North Russia Reported Jailed

LONDON—(AP)—Radio France at Algiers, quoting Bern sources, said today that Field Marshal Georg von Kreichler, German Army commander on the northern front in Russia, has been imprisoned in the German fortress of Koenigsberg charged with insubordination to Adolf Hitler. Von Kreichler, the report said, had orders to hold his northern front at all costs.

Finns Seen As Yielding

LONDON—(AP) — An early peace knowing out of current Finnish-Russian negotiations appeared in prospect today as London diplomats expressed belief that Helsinki would accept Soviet terms, possibly early next week.

With the Red Army in a strategic position to roll them back across the 40-mile-wide Karelian Isthmus, the Finns are unlikely to refuse a reported six-point Russian proposal, it was regarded here.

The fact that the Russians are holding up a ground campaign against the Finns although their position on the Leningrad front is favorable was seen here as an indication that Moscow is keeping the door open and expecting a quick reply.

Russian terms reported from neutral countries, circulating unofficially in London although both the British and American governments presumably were fully informed, leave one knotty problem for the Finns—the internment of 100,000 German troops in Northern Finland.

This probably will be the main point of discussion if the Finns accept the reported Russian invitation to send military and political delegations to Moscow.

PEOPLE PREPARED

The fact that reports of the purported Russian terms were permitted by censorship to be printed in the Finnish press seemed an indication that the government was preparing the people for an important step soon.

The Stockholm Aftonbladet's Helsinki correspondent said the Finnish peace Dilemma "is expected to be much clearer in the next few days. The government is expected to give a full report to parliament very soon."

It was recalled the winter peace of 1940 caught the Finns by surprise because the home front was under the impression Finland was winning the war.

7 Freighters Reported Sunk By German E-Boats

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Berlin radio said today that German U-boats had sunk seven freighters totalling 35,185 tons and eight sailing vessels recently in the Atlantic, Mediterranean and Indian Ocean.

There has been no Allied confirmation of this number of sinkings.

Nazi Anzio Losses High

By RELMAN MORIN

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, —(AP)— The Allied beachhead at Anzio has drawn into action German divisions from the enemy's anti-invasion forces in the west and has cost the enemy in the neighborhood of 15,000 casualties since the landings were made on Jan. 22, an Allied headquarters spokesman said today.

The losses included 2,816 prisoners.

German forces in Northern Italy and Yugoslavia were weakened through the necessity of forming a complete new army to combat the beachhead, and the enemy's stores of material and armament were depleted, the spokesman added.

BROUGHT FROM GERMANY

Three reinforced German infantry regiments were brought all the way from Germany proper to help swell this new army, the 14th, it was stated.

The commentator expressed the belief that Field Marshal Albert Kesselring, the German commander in Italy, had hoped for scoring a spectacular success for its effect on German morale when he began his terrific drive against the beachhead week before last.

The political importance of holding Rome as long as possible also was a major factor in the fierce German reaction to the Allied invasion, said the spokesman, whose name cannot be given.

With ten full divisions tied down at the beachhead front

See GERMAN on Page 2

WEATHER

Cloudy with showers tonight; Sunday, cloudy and cooler.

Today's Temperatures:
2:30 P. M., 46 ..... L., 47
Sunset Today 7:16
Sunrise Tomorrow 7:55

Russian Armies Press Westward

LONDON—(AP)—Russian armies massed along the 400-mile-long front between Pskov and Rogachev are pressing westward in White Russia toward Latvia and the northern part of Poland despite increased German resistance, a Moscow communique reported today.

German commanders threw fresh reinforcements into the Rogachev area yesterday in a futile attempt to seal the gap torn in their lines by Gen. Constantine Rokossovsky's first White Russian Army on Thursday.

ATTACKS REPELLED

No less than 14 fierce counter-attacks north of captured Rogachev were thrown back by the Soviets, the Russian communique said, and the Germans lost 2,500 men killed. Then Rokossovsky's men surged forward and captured several unidentified localities and seized 13 tanks, 40 guns and 8,000 mines, together with a large number of prisoners.

To date the battle around Rogachev has cost the Germans 6,000 men and enormous stores of war equipment, the Moscow bulletin added.

On the northern end of the front, Russian troops converging on Pskov, Baltic gateway stronghold below Lake Peipus, drove the Germans further west toward Latvia.

Gap Left By McNary

By JACK BELL

WASHINGTON —(AP) — The slender thread of co-operation between the legislative and executive branches of the Government—already worn fine by the revolt of Majority Leader Barkley, Kentucky, against President Roosevelt's tax bill veto—was drawn taut today by the death of Minority Leader Charles L. McNary, Oregon.

McNary, who compromised and maneuvered many legislative bills originated by the Administration into a form acceptable to the Republican minority and Anti-Roosevelt Democrats, died yesterday in an apartment at Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., where he had gone last December to recuperate from a brain tumor operation.

Mrs. McNary, who was at his bedside when he died, notified Senate officials she did not wish a state funeral in Washington. She said she wished to take the body directly to Salem, Ore., near where McNary operated a large fruit ranch.

A long-time personal friend, President Roosevelt probably will not be able to attend the funeral. The President has left Washington

See McNARY on page 2

Chaplin Makes Innocent Pleas

LOS ANGELES — (AP) — Charlie Chaplin, movie comedian, pleaded innocent today to two counts charging Mann Act violation.

His pleas, spoken in a loud, firm voice, followed a ruling by U. S. District Judge J. F. T. O'Connor, rejecting a demurrer by the actor's counsel to grand jury indictments and a motion to quash the charges.

Chaplin's trial was set to start at 9:30 A. M. Pacific War Time March 21.

U. S. Attorney Charles H. Carr said he would be ready to proceed with the trial in ten days, but Jerry Giesler, the actor's attorney, asked for a greater delay, stating he would need to bring a number of witnesses from outside the state and perhaps get the depositions of others.

The court ruling and Chaplin's plea followed continued arguments today on Giesler's attempt to set aside the indictments, charging that the actor transported 24-year-old Joan Berry, his former protege, from Los Angeles to New York and back for immoral purposes.

American Red Cross Girl Killed In Italy

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples — (AP) — The death of the first American Red Cross girl killed in action in this theater of war was announced today. She was Miss Esther Richards, a San Francisco hospital social worker, who was a victim of a German bombing of the Anzio beachhead Feb. 7.

Libby Holman Seeks Big Sum

BALTIMORE —(AP)— Mrs. Elizabeth H. (Libby Holman) Holmes has filed a petition in Orphans' Court asking nearly $500,000 from the estate of her son, Christopher Smith Reynolds, eleven-year-old tobacco fortune heir, with which to pay for a Connecticut home.

The petition was submitted through Christopher's guardian, the Safe Deposit & Trust Co.

The home was reported built some time ago at Stamford from funds other than those administered by the company.

Young Reynolds is the posthumous son of Zachary Smith Reynolds, of the North Carolina family which founded the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Co.

The petition listed Christopher's estate at more than five million dollars.

Takes Raw Courage To Attack Jap Isles

(Charles McMurtry, chief of bureau for the Associated Press in Honolulu, writes this graphic analysis of the U. S. Carrier attack on the Marianas with the background of personal experience. He was painfully burned aboard the carrier Hornet when she was so damaged by torpedo planes that the Navy had to destroy her.)

By CHARLES McMURTRY

U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor—(AP)—The men who bombed Saipan, Tinian and Guam wrote one of the most courageous stories of the war.

Imagine, if you can, stepping from the hell of a night-long nerve shattering torpedo and bombing attack into a cockpit and flying off a carrier before down to bombard strongly defended Japanese bases. And knowing that enemy fighters as well as anti-aircraft fire await you.

That's what American pilots—scores of them—did in the Feb. 22 attacks on the Marianas.

There were two attacks at Saipan and Tinian, meaning that the fliers had to return to their carriers to refuel and then take off again. That takes courage, determination and calmness which few men know they have until forced to prove themselves in battle.

The Japanese detected Rear Adm. Marc A. Mitscher's carrier force the afternoon preceding the Marianas raid. The ships then were still far out of carrier-plane range of the objective but well within striking distance of enemy land-based aircraft.

Mitscher knew the great risk involved in speeding on into the

See AIR ATTACKS on Page 2

Tokens Come Into Use As Ration Currency

WASHINGTON —(AP)—Ten-point ration stamps and red and blue tokens as change will ease into use throughout the country starting tomorrow.

The new ration currency for buying meats, dairy products and processed foods becomes valid then, but the Office of Price Administration expects light exchange the first day since most stores will be closed. But the new system will get a full-blown test Monday with resumption of heavier buying.

The stamps to be used under the new plan are all in ration book No. 4—blue for processed foods and red for meats and fats. Each stamp has a ten-point value regardless of the figure on the face.

The first red stamps valid for meat are A-8, B-8 and C-8. They may be used through May 20. Every two weeks, three new stamps will become valid.

Blue processed food stamps will be validated in sets of five on the start of each month, with the first series—A-8, B-8, C-8, D-8 and E-8—good through May 20.

As change for their ten-point stamps, housewives will get tokens—blue in processed food purchases and red for meats and dairy products—and these will be good indefinitely. In the meat department, may stamps be cashed outright for a full ten points in tokens. Thus nine tokens will be the most a housewife will get in any session.

Along with the new stamps, brown stamps Y and Z for canned and green stamps K, L and M for processed foods will be good until they expire. Stamps in Book 4, unlike the new stamps, they will have a date of expiration. Green stamps, as in the past, will be used for change representing less than one cent.

Return This Newspaper For Front Line Service

The paper on which this newspaper is printed today is literally worth its weight in gold to the war effort.

The need for paper for the boxing, packaging and wrapping of war supplies cannot be overstated.

It is truly crucial.

Newspapers are doing everything possible to save paper. It actually costs nearly all you pay for this newspaper, in paper and delivery expenditures, to give you the news from every corner of the world.

But, more important, the armed forces need it back—need it desperately.

SAVE A PAPER SOLDIER

Starting today, therefore, will readers of The News agree that this newspaper is simply loaned to them? It is a precious war commodity to be saved and turned back to be sent to the front.

Junior Commandos are working with The News and the Junior Chamber of Commerce collecting scrap paper to help in this crisis. Chief Hendrix Palmer and the Charlotte Fire Department are co-operating, too. All are doing a splendid job.

But whether you return this loaned copy of The News through the Junior Commandos, deliver it to the bins at the fire stations or through dealers direct, it must be returned.

It is destined for front line service.