THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

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ANZIO ARTILLERY DUELS RAGE

REDS NEAR PSKOV IN BALTIC DRIVE

Fliers In China Area Shunning Publicity

By CLYDE A. FARNSWORTH
(Substituting For Hal Boyle)

WITH THE 14TH AIR FORCE IN CHINA—(AP)—In the China war theater, which used to sparkle with the names of star performers of the American Air Force, a curtain of secrecy now has been dropped to keep their names separated from the news of their offensive exploits against the Japanese.

It is for their own good, Japanese psychology being what it is.

Gone are the glory days when the home folks could read plane by plane and ship by ship how their heroes were cutting into the foe. Now Major Gen. Claire L. Chennault's aces must wait until they are assigned elsewhere before they can be given any personal publicity.

There is also a rule that officers who have knowledge of tactical-strategical planning may not fly on offensive missions.

THE REASON

For a newcomer, not acquainted with Japanese ways, these rules are not easy to understand. The explanation, however, is simple.

The Americans have found out about Japan's code of soldier ethics. A captured American aviator becomes not a prisoner of war in the gentlemanly pattern of the Geneva convention but, it seems, a living trophy of war to be paraded about either for morale building at home in Japan or in China, Indo-China or Burma to show conquered people what fine warriors the Japanese must be to have taken such a prize.

There is a sickening story that has come back here from the Japanese-ridden towns along the Yangtze of an American Air Force sergeant whom the Japanese were hauling from town to town to be exhibited like a captured animal.

Those who make the policies in the Fourteenth do not like to speculate on the treatment that would be accorded to a flying ace who had been publicly credited with destruction of Japanese planes or ships. The rule to insure that officers intimately acquainted with the plans of the Fourteenth do not fall into Japanese hands is a possibility if they were also to fly against the enemy—is simply insurance against loss of tactical and strategical secrets through duress or torture.

CHINESE SUFFER

There have come tales of grim reprisals by the Japanese upon Chinese who helped or were suspected of helping hailed-out American airmen. Once a man has escaped this he can be in jeopardy to have knowledge which the Japanese would like to extort from him.

A Free China newspaper, a Yenan dispatch, has come to the point-of-view that it is tempting the Japanese and then searching out various phrases printed in Chinese character.

One such phrase is:

"I am an American airman helping China in its war of liberation and have been forced down here."

And another:

"If the enemy or traitor should come please help conceal me."

And still another:

"Please call the nearest guerrilla or Chinese troops that I am here."

Girl Dies A Fire Heroine

SEWARD, N. J.—A pretty stage door usherette lost her life rescuing her sister Mae, 12, and several others in an attic room of her parents' home in this village apartment after she had already passed her nephew to safety.

The heroine, Miss Jean Sedor, 20, had gone back into the burning apartment at the request of one of the lodgers left behind, she told her sister, Mae, who became the girl's sole dependent.

The story of the tragedy, which occurred last Sunday, was told by Mae Sedor, who came limping from a bed in City Hospital where she was in fair condition today with others being treated for burns and shock.

She would not say what caused the blaze, which was extensively damaged by the time firemen had reached the hallway. Mae was blinded by smoke. Mae took up the story from there.

"I don't know how we got down the stairs," she said.

"Well, here I'm right back," Mae told me. "I'm going back for dad."

Mr. Flynn had not been told that night that her daughter never returned to the burning building, but later was found in the bathroom where firemen said apparently he had been trying to dash water on the flames.

Report Puts Russians Within 10 Miles of City

MOSCOW, Feb. 28 (AP)—Red Army troops driving westward upon Pskov have outflanked and neutralized a powerful German line based on lakes and strongpoints that area dispatches from the second Baltic front declared today.

The British radio said Soviet forces were there, about seven miles from the western city limits of Pskov and that Hitler had ordered his troops to hold the city regardless of the cost.

Gen. Maxim Popov's forces after

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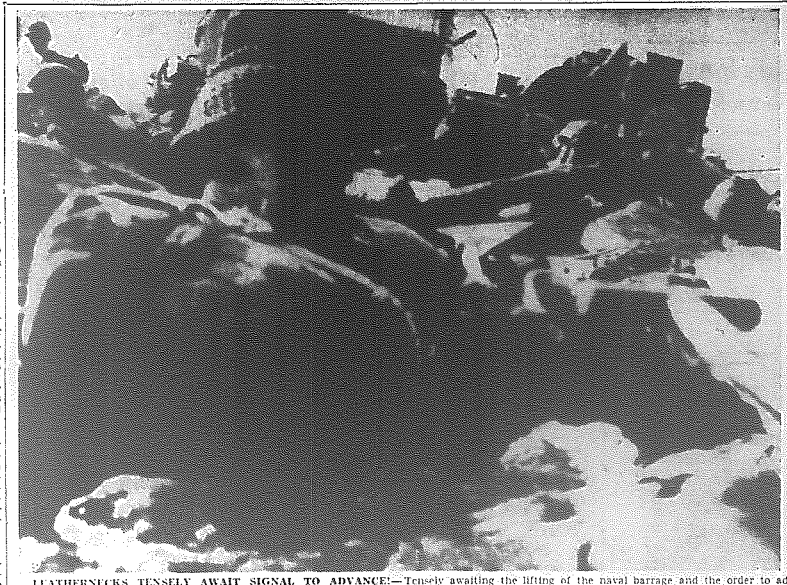

LEATHERNECKS TENSELY AWAIT SIGNAL TO ADVANCE!—Tensely awaiting the lifting of the naval barrage and the order to advance against the Japs on Eniwetok, in the Marshalls, these U. S. Marines hug the coral sands and watch the enemy positions.

Within 15 Miles Of Rail Center

Cut Down Nazi Reinforcements

LONDON — (AP) — The Russians announced today the Red Army had driven to points within fifteen miles of the rail hub of Pskov, gateway to the Baltics, in a scythe-like sweep which cut down fresh German reinforcements and liberated more than 210 towns and villages.

The station of Maslogotitsky, from where a railway runs south eighteen miles to Pskov, was among the strong points taken in the drive, while other Russian units reached tiny communities two and three miles near Pskov, a Soviet communique said.

Far to the south in the lower Dnieper River bend, the Russians announced they had broken through several lines of Nazi dugouts and trenches south of Apostolovo, and had stormed into Novotoroitsk, district center of the Nikolayevsk region, wiping out more than a battalion of Germans.

SMASH ON

Smashing on the Russians captured several more place, the communique stated, and more than 2000 more Germans were killed when they attempted unsuccessful counter-attacks.

Berlin broadcast said the Russians had thrown 100,000 troops into a Dnieper bend drive southwest of Nikopol, which would be in the vicinity of Novorotoitsk, and were also bearing down in White Russia in an attempt to break through toward Bobruisk.

The Germans rushed new troops into the battle to Pskov, but they were overwhelmed by Russian artillery and infantry and many of them were left dead in a single swath, the Soviet bulletin said.

Southeast of Pskov the Russians said they marched ahead westward over hearth-mined roads, crossing the town of Gdshatsk, 53 miles west of Kholm and seized the town of Sebezh and the Sebezh-Sebezh junction, a large south the fortified region of Pskov. On the railway west from Sebezh, the Russians said, they captured after the Germans were blasted out of positions, the communique declared.

The Russian advances helped up to make a pincer movement against communications in Southern with only Northwest of Pskov, more than 100 west of Kholm and more than 40 west and northwest of Sebezh, it said.

The Russians also announced they had a German counter-offensive against the Red Army on the Pskov-Gdov-Leningrad front, and northwest of Lake Peipus, succeeded in obtaining a considerable wedge but was finally crushed and the Red Army gained back ground.

Truk Losses Revised Up

By CHARLES McMURTRY

P. O. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor — (AP) — Japanese losses in the American attack on the enemy base at Truk were 24 ships sunk, six probably sunk and 11 damaged, a much heavier blow to the Nipponese than at first reported.

The new figures announced by Adm. Chester W. Nimitz, commander in chief of the United States Pacific fleet were compiled after inspection of reconnaissance photographs showing destruction in the Feb. 16-17 raid.

This added loss brought the total to 32 ships sunk in the enemy airport raided by Saipan Feb. 20. The additional craft were not classified. A seaplane tender on the list of 32 ships sunk in the Truk raid brought war net on the enemy.

The first report said seven warships were sunk. The new report said the cruiser was Sendai class and the destroyer was Yugumo class. Other warships were 14 cargo ships, one of which was described as a Nazi type, one a tanker, one of a type converted from a Nazi type, and one of a type converted from a Japanese type.

Nimitz' second announcement made no changes in the original tabulation of 50 enemy planes destroyed in the raid, but added 17 probably and 9 damaged against 17 United States planes lost and one pilot and one mechanic damaged.

NO CARRIER

The communique indicated that these were not Japanese carriers on the net list of enemy Truk losses. Carriers and battleships spotted in the lagoon on a Feb. 4 reconnaissance had moved out of the danger zone by the time the American airmen attacked the base.

New aerial bombardments of Japanese bases in the Marshall Islands and other Central Pacific islands also were reported by Nimitz.

These included a 30-plane bombing of Ponape, 475 miles east of Truk, by Liberators Feb. 25. Dodging the airstrome, a seaplane ramp and a cargo ship were hit by Army and Navy planes also bombed Kusaie and Nauru Islands, and four undentified islands in the Marshalls that same day.

Planes of both services hit three enemy-held Marshall atolls Feb. 26.

U. S. Destroyers Smash At Rabaul

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC—(AP)—American destroyers, after giving Kavieng its worst bombardment of the war, turned their guns on targets in Rabaul Friday in co-ordination with a devastating 132-ship aerial bombing.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur said today the once-formidable New Britain bastion offered only sporadic return fire which was quickly silenced by our steady salvo which left towering columns of smoke.

For the sixth straight day not a single enemy plane rose to intercept the large escorted flight of Liberators and Mitchells which blanketed their bomb loads effectively and without loss despite anti-aircraft fire.

It was the second drubbing of Rabaul from the sea in a week. On Feb. 18 a destroyer force caused heavy damage to the airdromes and waterfront area.

The bombardment followed by a few hours the third and heaviest shelling of Kavieng, on the northern tip of New Ireland, by destroyers which poured thousands of rounds of five-inch shells into the town, harbor, ammunition dumps and storage areas, and raised havoc with shipping.

Unlike Rabaul, Kavieng appeared freshly reconnoitered and returned accurate and consistent fire which caused minor damage to two ships and damaged seven buildings, Pvt. Peter Cupper, 1 Jr. Thomas Lambert of Spokane

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Major Burma Victory Won

LONDON—(AP)—British and Indian troops have scored a major victory over the Japanese for the first time on the Arakan front in Burma, the Supreme Allied Command for Southeast Asia announced today in an account distributed by the Ministry of Information.

A Japanese force on the front now has been largely destroyed, the statement said, with a conservative estimate putting their dead at over 1,000 and their casualties at 2,000 out of an original task force of approximately 8,000.

"Our casualties have been immeasurably lighter," the statement said. "For as killed air crews reported the advantage is probably three to one in our favor."

The Japanese had begun to isolate and then destroy the Seventh and Fifth Indian Divisions, it said, then make a sweeping advance into India, the statement continued. They succeeded in initial phases and became so sure of success that they announced it.

"The Japanese in their turn become defenders and encircled in turn. They were driven back, hammered to split and battered and killed. Most with their second-hand weapons fought to the death. Some battered and wounded escaped through the jungle to the south. A few surrendered."

Won't Lower Army Physical Standards

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28 (AP)—The manpower shortage for the armed services which President Roosevelt has called crisis must be made up from family men and others, a special medical committee reported to the White House today, and not by lowering physical standards.

The commission was created at the suggestion of Congress on the theory that a relaxation of indefinite requirements especially for married men and men in danger of fathers and others with dependents. But it insisted existing standards could not be lowered without sacrificing the efficiency of the armed services and no measured service reductions are needed.

The report will be sent to Congress tomorrow. It follows publication Saturday of a memorandum President Roosevelt sent to manpower officials saying the nation's manpower pool has been dangerously depleted by liberal deferments. He said the deficit should be made up from those with occupational deferments, especially in the younger classes. A review of this group was ordered last night.

There are nearly 8,500,000 men in the reserve, the commission and the President need be tapped—3,834,000 deferred for occupational reasons and 4,663,000 for dependency.

Maj. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Selective Service Director, listed these figures in today's report. He also placed total living registrants between eighteen and 38 on Dec. 1 at 22,138,000, with 6,540,000 inducted, 2,420,000 enlisted, 3,357,000 qualified after physical examination, 1,090,000 in process of classification, examination or induction, 1,57,000 deferred for other than occupation or dependency reasons and 90,000 "unclassified and unknown."

INCREASE QUALITY

The commission proposed some minor changes in existing physical standards, but Gen. Hershey commented the net effect would be to increase the quality rather than the quantity of inductees.

After saying the efficiency of the combat services would be impaired by lowering the requirements, it endorsed the commission proposal by the President's personal physician and surgeon general of the Navy, Vice Admiral Ross T. McIntire, made three four additional conclusions based on reports from the Army, Navy, Selective Service and Veterans Administration:

"1—The services have reached a situation for men inducted men for limited service since the need for men in this category will be fully met by men already in service who as a result of incidents of the service are no longer fit for general service.

"2—It is evident that the urgent and increasing need of the services today is for men for general service and that this need will progressively increase until the war is successfully concluded.

"3—It is apparent that these needs can not be met by lowering the physical requirements for admission to the armed forces or by increasing the induction of men for limited service.

"4—In view of the needs of the armed services for men qualified for general service, which needs can not be fully met from the pool of men now on hand in class 1-A plus the annual increment of men coming of military age, it is apparent that the manpower required for the prosecution of the war can not be obtained except by induction of men living with their families and recourse to all other available sources."

Officers on the commission besides Admiral McIntire were Major General Norman T. Kirk, Sur-

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Henry Kaiser Cited By La Salle College

PHILADELPHIA—(AP)—La Salle College Civic and Social Congress has cited Shipbuilder Henry J. Kaiser as "one of the greatest national treasures of our country."

Kaiser will receive the Congress annual de La Salle award here April 12, the college announced.

Fighting Along Moletta River Area Increases

British Troops In Sector Storm And Capture Two Buildings

By KENNETH L. DIXON

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples—(AP)—A sharp increase in fighting in the past two days along headwaters of the Moletta River southwest of Carroceto was announced today as artillery duelling rose in intensity along the Anzio battlefront.

Allied Headquarters said British troops in that sector had stormed and captured two buildings that the Germans had converted into strongpoints. Comparative quiet has existed heretofore along the Moletta, which empties into the sea eleven miles above Anzio and extends almost due east to within a mile of Via Anziate, the highway running from Anzio to Carroceto and Rome.

Simultaneously with the increase in artillery fire, an American cruiser, standing close to shore, poured shells into German gun positions yesterday.

Persistent German efforts to infiltrate through ravines south of Carroceto were frustrated by American artillery, a headquarters announcement said.

Although adverse weather hampered both ground and air operations yesterday, Allied patrols probed German lines on both the main Fifth Army and Eighth Army fronts and A-36's dive-bombed air fields in the Rome area and scored direct hits on the docks at Ladispoli, a little port north of the Tiber.

West of Castelforte beyond Garigliano on the lower Fifth Army front, a British patrol engaged a small enemy force, inflicting a number of casualties.

AIR ATTACKS

Dive-bombing and strafing attacks by A-36 Invaders on the Littorio and Guidonia Airdromes near Rome, in which a hangar was exploded, highlighted the Sunday air operations. Total flights during the day were reduced to about 400 by bad flying weather.

Simultaneously with new air attacks on enemy shipping off the Yugoslav coast, the British destroyers Tartar and Teazer shelled German batteries at Vela Luka, on the Island of Korcula. The enemy replied, but caused no damage or casualties.

Spitfires destroyed eleven motor vehicles and damaged others in an attack on enemy transportation in central Italy.

Other Spitfires shot up twenty railroad cars in Yugoslavia, in the region of Sibenik, Kittyhawks scored near misses on two vessels near Sibenik harbor on the Yugoslav coast, and coastal air force RAF Spitfires bombed Corfu Harbor installations.

The enemy flew approximately twenty sorties over the Anzio beachhead aiming at Allied ships and unloading area. One Focke-Wulf 190 was shot down there. Two Allied planes were missing.

Sunday's Allied communique said Fifth Army troops repulsed two light German attacks on the Cassino front.

One German broadcast said the Allies landed additional forces on the beachhead and had converted it into "the character of a fortress with fortified positions designed for a depth of seven and one-half miles."

Supplementing an announcement on Saturday that the Germans had

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Back Labor Board Rule

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The Supreme Court ruled today that an employer is required by the National Labor Relations Act to bargain collectively with a union, regardless of contracts reached with individual employees.

Justice Jackson delivered the 8-1 decision which upheld the main provisions of a Labor Board order directing the J. I. Case Co. of Rock Island, Ill., to bargain with the International Union, Automobile, Aircraft & Agricultural Implement workers of America (CIO). Justice Roberts favored reversal, but did not write a dissenting opinion.

The majority opinion said it was "the very purpose" of the NLRB law to supercede the terms of separate agreements with those which reflect the strength and bargaining power and serve the welfare of the group.

"Its benefits and advantages are open to every employee of the represented unit, whatever the type or terms of his pre-existing contract of employment," the opinion asserted.

"We are not called upon to say," the court added, "that under no circumstances can an individual enforce an agreement more advantageous than a collective agreement, but we find the mere possibility that such agreements might be made, no ground for holding generally that individual contracts may survive or surmount collective ones."

DECREE MODIFIED

The court ordered the decree of the 7th Circuit Court of Appeals to be modified so that the company "cease giving effect to individual contracts to forestall collective bargaining or deter self-organization."

Even though the individual contracts have expired, the NLRB had contended that there still was need of a ruling for the future. A majority of the employees designated the CIO union as their bargaining representative.

In a 6-2 decision by Justice Reed, the court also decided in effect in favor of milk producers who complained about an Agriculture Department order permitting milk cooperatives to charge them for their marketing services.

The High Court set aside a decision of the Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia which had dismissed the producers' challenge of the Department order. Justices Black and Frankfurter dissented.

The order in question applied to the Greater Boston marketing area. Delbert O. Stark and four other producers who are not members of cooperatives questioned its validity.

Hitler's Air Might Crippled By Attacks

LONDON — (AP) — Destruction of at least 644 German fighter planes in last week's aerial attacks on Nazi industry put Hitler's available aircraft almost to the point where he must soon depend chiefly on new output from his badly-battered production centers, it was estimated unofficially today.

But whether Hitler could expect much help there was a big question. The weight of at least 18,000 tons of bombs dropped in thirteen massive raids in this unprecedented offensive indicated that a large percentage of Nazi plane productive capacity was wiped out.

At least fifteen major German aircraft production centers were attacked in the week-long bombing drive.

A recapitulation of official communiques shows that the U. S. Eighth Air Force operations during the week accounted for 439 of the 644 German planes known destroyed.

The remaining 205 fell before the guns of the Italy-based 15th American Airforce in four thrusts across the Alps against Nazi industry, three of them co-ordinated with the Eighth's operations from Britain.

Over and above the 644 total are the German fighters that may have been downed by the RAF during four major night operations last week. Air Ministry communiques gave no figures.

The Allied Air Forces lost 387 heavy bombers and 37 fighters in the forays into Germany, incomplete statistics in the communiques show.

Dispatches from Allied Headquarters in Italy yesterday said that reconnaissance photographs revealed almost total destruction of the Prufening Aircraft factory at Regensburg from a co-ordinated attack by the Eighth and 15th Air Forces Feb. 25. The photographs also showed heavy damage to the Obertraubling Aircraft factory at Regensburg, hit by Liberators of the 15th on Feb. 22.

Thousands Turn Out For Very Small Fire

PHILADELPHIA —(AP)— Thousands of theatre-goers and commuters, 100 firemen and scores of pieces of fire apparatus turned out for a fire at 15th and Market Sts. in the center of The downtown district last night, paralyzing traffic for two hours on hour.

The fire burned a hole through a wooden door in a basement stairway—and that's all.

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 critical.

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 DOLLAR A WEEK — AMERICAN WAR SAVINGS SERVICE

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.

Army Gives Up Textile Mills

FALL RIVER, Mass.—(AP)—The Fall River textile mills which were taken over by the Army on presidential order Feb. 7 as a result of labor disturbances, were turned back to civilian management at noon today, Col. Curtis S. Field, War Department representative, announced.

WEATHER

Rain and cooler tonight and Tuesday.

Today's Temperatures
2:30 P. M. 61
Sunset Today 5:48
Sunrise Tomorrow 7:13

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 2.