

The War Has Been Long for Our Men

NOTE—This column and several appearing in this issue were written prior to Mr. Clapper's untimely death in the Pacific war zone.

By Raymond Clapper

MUNDA, SOLOMON ISLANDS.
It is almost a long, hard war for most of the men out here. Some of the outfits that were among the first to hit the beach at Guadalcanal are now over here. The first of the men who went through two hard campaigns. And the men are still at it in the rain, mud, jungle and rugged living where there are no hospitals, no doctors, no men go around naked.

CLAPPER
I have just spent an evening in barracks with the men of the first Marine Corps, and the first squadron on Henderson Field at Guadalcanal, where it brought down fifteen Jap planes in the first ten days.

Listen to some of their stories and you know it not only will be a long, hard war but it has already been one, so far as they are concerned.

One skinny little guy over in the corner had not said anything, but after an hour somebody said "Did you hear what happened to him?" The finger was pointed at Lt. G. B. Thomas of Dallas, Texas, who brought in his torpedo bomber a few days ago with a live bomb stuck in the bomb bay and ready to go off at the slightest jolt.

Thomas, who is 24, ordered his five gunners to jump, and they parachuted into coconut trees without a scratch. Thomas was tried for his part in the attack, but he was cleared.

I asked him what he thought of the war through fifteen miles of landing preparation, suspended between the ground and enemy fire.

"I kept thinking I would land easy or else," he said.

At that point Lt. G. B. Thomas, also of Dallas, interrupted to say: "You should have seen G. B. next day. His hair was still standing so hard he rattled a sack of lemons he was carrying."

Anyway, Thomas finally got his wheels down and came in to a landing. And then to his horror a slight tremor began, but fortunately the plane was steady.

See LIFE on page 4

Delay Vote Issue Action
WASHINGTON—(AP)—Lack of a quorum forced the Senate into recess today and postponed until next week a showdown on service war legislation.

Only 49 Senators answered the roll for the important Saturday session. It takes 60 to convene.

After a call of the absentees failed to bring the necessary 60, Majority Leader Barkley moved to quit until next Monday.

This was the situation on the battle vote question.

Thursday night the House passed a successful war tax bill, measure which will allow the states to provide absentee ballots for service members and direct the distribution and collection of ballots.

The Senate now has this measure before it, a measure which President Roosevelt criticized as a "trick" and the Senate is expected to pass it.

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WAR NEWS

Yanks Expand Marshall Hold
By WILLIAM HIPPLE
U. S. PACIFIC FLEET HEADQUARTERS, Pearl Harbor—(AP)—Invading three more islands in big Kwajalein Atoll, United States forces have overwhelmed the Japanese on two, pushed the resisting enemy back on a third which has airplane bases, and brought two additional fortified bases under warship and plane attack.

Other important developments, as ascertained from latest dispatches of Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, include:

American leaders of the Mid-Pacific offensive, following capture of all the scheduled Marshalls, have proclaimed a military government to supplant the 25-year-old power of Emperor Hirohito in the areas as each is occupied.

Japs WARY
There is no indication the huge American Navy supporting the six-day-old invasion has been challenged or suffered losses.

The dominating air force has kept all Japanese planes out of the Marshalls skies for four successive days.

This picture was in sharp contrast with that presented yesterday in a Japanese Imperial Headquarters communiqué and broadcast from Tokyo, in which the Japanese claimed to have shot down 150 B-29 Superfortresses.

Twelve parkways were destroyed.

It was during this raid that American fighters encountered enemy fighters and shot down several.

A perfectly timed strike by Mitchell medium bombers in force forced the Japanese to evacuate an hour later, retreating on foot and by boat.

Japan's air force has even been forced to evacuate American planes from the island.

It was a perfect picture from start to finish," said Capt. Meritt, who led the raid.

Weather
Partly cloudy, warmer to night. Sunday, cloudy and colder in the afternoon.

2:30 P. M. 59
Sunset 7:04
Sunrise 6:56

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 3.

Vichy Radio Says Paris Area Target

Airfields Under Attack

By AUSTIN BEALBEAR
LONDON—(AP)—Diapers of American heavy bombers thundered over Central France today and the Vichy radio said the southwestern district of Paris was one of the targets.

A headquarters announcement said that six French airfields had been attacked, and listed them as Villacoublay, Tours, Saint-Amand, Chateaubriant, Orleans-Bricy and Chateaufort-La-Martiniere.

Laplace, Marauder and RAP fighter-bombers also hit secret German defense emplacements along the invasion coast of France.

The Allied announcement of the day's operations, the eighth in nine days, said only that they attacked German airfields in central France.

The first bomber sweep to return said they encountered few enemy fighters and only moderate gunfire.

LAPLACE RAID
The American raid hit Paris on Dec. 31 when Fortresses and Liberators combined in a bombing of ballbearing plants in the industrial outskirts for the sixth American attack of the war on the French metropolis.

Paris had been touched by bombs on Jan. 14 when Typhoons swept the city.

The assault carried the greatest sustained Allied aerial offensive of the war in its fourth day, and night bombing at Germany and occupied territories which was kept rolling on around the clock by RAP Mosquito blows at Western Germany.

ON GREAT SCALE
This fourth straight daylight assault by the American giant bombers, appeared to be an even greater scale than those which left great fire trails in Nazi U-boat bases and were a week and a half ago.

Yesterday's blow at industrial Frankfurt was dealt by hundreds of bombers flying Fortresses and Liberators at a cost of 21 bombers and four fighters.

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British Troops Beat Off New Nazi Assault

Desperate Fighting Continues In Streets of Vital Cassino

By RICHARD G. MASSOCK
ALLIED HEADQUARTERS IN ITALY—(AP)—The Germans have launched a new attack in their determined offensive to smash the Allied beachhead, this time striking at British troops in the area north of Cassino, twenty miles southeast of Rome, but have been repulsed with heavy losses, it was announced today.

On the main Fifth Army front desperate fighting raged unabated in the streets of Cassino and in the mountains north of the town, with the Germans holding on despite sledgehammer attacks of American infantry, artillery and armor.

The Germans were still in possession of the main part of Cassino and were holding the Americans to the outskirts. Positions held by the Germans in the area north of Cassino were more than 200 yards from the beachhead, but the Germans were determined to get more six-barreled mortars, tanks and big self-propelled guns into Cassino for their desperate and almost suicidal defense of the city.

Every house into a fortress from which they fired on the attackers. The Germans had to tunnel, however, American troops pushed further west, dislodging the Germans from most of the beachhead, but the Germans were determined to get more six-barreled mortars, tanks and big self-propelled guns into Cassino for their desperate and almost suicidal defense of the city.

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Reds Near Point Of Invasion Start

London—(AP)—Marshal Joseph Stalin in an order of the day announced today the capture of Lutsk and Rovno in an advance which placed the Red Army within 50 miles of the jumping off point where Adolf Hitler attacked the Soviet Union in 1941.

The capture of Lutsk, which the Germans announced last Thursday they had evacuated, places the advance of the Red Army within 50 miles of the jumping off point where Adolf Hitler attacked the Soviet Union in 1941.

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Fast Changes At Cassino

London—(AP)—The Berlin radio said today that "in the course of the past few days Cassino has changed hands already twice."

Previously the broadcast German Command's communiqué stated that the Allies had penetrated the beachhead in the area north of Cassino, but had been dislodged.

The Allies have not claimed the capture of Cassino, but have revealed two penetrations into the beachhead in the area north of Cassino, but had been dislodged.

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Balkan, Polish & Baltic Folk Head To Reich

STOCKHOLM—(AP)—Panic-stricken residents of the Balkans, Eastern Poland and the Baltic states, numbering possibly 1,000,000 persons, are moving toward Germany in the face of the Russian advance, the AF-confirmed today.

The Nazis were said to be making hasty preparations to care for the refugees, many of whom are German and to colonize the eastern conquered territories in the early stages of the war.

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French Warship Reported Hit

LONDON—(AP)—The German-controlled Vichy radio said today that the French battleship Dunkerque was hit during the bombing of Toulon yesterday and is still burning.

The Dunkerque, a 26,000-ton battleship launched in 1929, was destroyed by the French Navy when the Germans occupied Toulon in November, 1942, and was reported to have been dismantled by the Germans.

Toulon, naval base on the southern coast of France, was attacked yesterday by Allied Mediterranean-based heavy bombers.

18 Believed Killed In North England Blast

LONDON—(AP)—Eighteen persons were believed killed and twenty hurt by an explosion of an ammunition dump near a northern railway station yesterday.

Cause of the blast, which wrecked the station and scattered debris for miles, was not determined, but it was reported that the explosion was caused by a train carrying munitions just before the explosion.

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Little Scotch Doctor Sticks To Work In War-Torn Italian Town

By HAL BOYLE
ON THE FIFTH ARMY FRONT, Jan. 26—(Delayed)—He looked like an ordinary Italian civilian as he walked the ruined streets of Cervaro with a Red Cross band on his arm, but when he spoke it was like a page out of Robert Burns.

Dr. Luigi Canale, 41, was born in Brevie, Scotland, and was attending children's diseases in Naples when he was called to the Italian front in 1941.

He had been in the front since then when he was practicing in a little town he has practiced in.