Largest Newspaper In The Carolinas

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Final

ESTABLISHED 1888 — CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY, APRIL 10, 1944 — 14 Pages—Price Five Cents

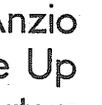
RUSSIANS CAPTURE ODESSA

Yanks Strike At Belgian And French Defenses

The Jehus Of Anzio Scare Up Reporters

By GEORGE TUCKER
(Substituting for Hal Boyle)

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY, April 6—(Delayed)—(AP)—The jeep drivers in our correspondents' camp who take us to the front every day have seen more war and probably know more about it than any comparable group here. They were all through Africa and Sicily, and many made the initial landings at Salerno and again at Anzio.



TUCKER

Sgt. Edward F. Berg of Albany, N. Y., was a regular driver in all the fighting between Algiers and Tunis, and was personally the first American to meet the Eighth Army near Gabes when the famous junction took place.

Berg's roommate, Cpl. William S. Hodges of Merced, Calif., was the first American to get to Sfax. Now he is master of the public relations motor pool, and his drivers are assigned to take correspondents to any part of the front they wish to go. The drivers have seen most of the newspapermen who have operated in the Mediterranean theater and have worked out their own sense of values.

In the enlisted men's quarters and at the mess where they eat their reactions receive the most searching analysis.

"I would almost rather get hit by something than let the driver know I was afraid," Edward Kenady said to me recently.

Pfc James A. Baum, Airport Rd., Pontiac, Mich., who drives correspondents all through the Italian operations before transferring his activities to the Anzio beachhead, has been to every section of the front with every correspondent who has been to the beachhead.

I took Mr. Dan De Luce of the Associated Press one day to

See REPORTER on page 4

F. R. South On Vacation

WASHINGTON —(AP)—President Roosevelt has gone South for a vacation and rest which will last about two weeks.

The trip was announced today by the White House. The time of the President's departure from Washington and the place where he has gone were not disclosed.

The White House statement said:

"The President has left Washington for the South and will be away approximately two weeks unless some unexpected emergency arises which would compel him to return at an earlier date.

"The President was accompanied by Admiral William D. Leahy, his personal chief of staff, Vice Adm. Ross T. McIntire, surgeon general of the Navy and physician to the President, Rear Adm. Wilson Brown, his naval aide, and Maj. Gen. Edwin M. Watson, military aid and secretary.

"Except for the work that is always carried on between the White House and the President regardless of his whereabouts or the distance he may be from Washington, he will devote himself exclusively to relaxation — out-of-doors, fresh air and sunshine.

"Correspondents for the Associated Press, the United Press Associations, and the International News Service re-mains assigned to cover the President also have left Washington. For reasons of security, however, the news reports of these correspondents will not be published until the President has returned to Washington."

SCREENLAND'S "JIMMY" HONORED—Major James M. Stewart of Indiana, Pa., "Jimmy" Stewart to millions of movie fans, is pictured at USAAF Liberator bomber base somewhere in England as Col. Paul Schwartz of Tampa, Fla. pins the Air Medal on his tunic. Major Stewart has been on ten missions, including bombings of Berlin, Brunswick, Frankfort and Kiel.

Japanese Besiege Plain Of Imphal

By CHARLES A. GRUMICH

NEW DELHI —(AP)— The Japanese besiegers of the plain of Imphal have cut small parties west of Imphal, encircled and one hill mile southeast of Imphal on the Tiddim Rd., where they have been in contact with Allied forces, and infiltrated to within one mile of the Imphal airfield, the Southeast Asia Command announced today.

The war the first time that Japanese had been reported west of the Tiddim-Imphal road, the main road Japanese attack drive swept around the Imphal defenses from the southwest.

WIPE OUT JAPS

British forces, south defending Kohima, northern Imphal plain strong point, have wiped out Japanese units which penetrated the Kohima defense line and killed at least 1 and taking other prisoners, the communique said.

Undeterred by losses, the Nipponese invaders continued their pressure in the whole Kohima area. Along the road from Tiddim to the south of Imphal the Japanese increased their pressure and were in contact with Allied defenders.

Fighting also was reported in the Jessami north of the plain where further losses were inflicted on the enemy.

Kohima is a key defense point 38 miles northeast of the Bengal-Assam railroad which supplies American and Chinese forces fighting in north Burma under Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell. It is 30 miles inside India and 60 miles north of Imphal the Allies major base in northeast India. Fifteen miles of the Kohima-Imphal road

See JAPS BESIEGE on page 5

People Trapped By Slide Saved

GEORGETOWN, Colo., (AP)—Reports from the Schuler home at the summit of Berthoud Pass early today indicated that all persons trapped when at least three cars were buried by a snowslide last night had been rescued. They were being taken to the shelter house to wait until snowplows clear the road. Reports were that none was seriously injured.

The avalanche occurred during one of the worst snow storms in years. Three feet of snow had fallen here the last of the night.

Sheriff Harold Brumbaugh of Grand County, Colo., said the slide carried one car down the mountain side.

Call Men Under 26

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The nation's 6,800 draft boards with the other principal instructions

Temporarily from the call began a rush today to get men under 26 into combat training to replace combat casualties.

Although the Army has reached its planned strength of 7,700,000, the "peak" will be exceeded in April to build up a reserve for the needed replacements.

It was reported that Manpower Chief Paul McNutt was ready to present to May Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, draft director, a list of thirteen activities in which some deferments are recommended for men under 26.

Meanwhile potential drafees of all ages were advised to consult their local boards if they are in any doubt as to their status and 4-F's who are not now in essential work were told to seek advice from the U. S. Employment Service as to available jobs in wartime industrial work.

Confusion continued in some localities over Saturday's order affecting men 26 and over. It was not being carried out with exactitude over the nation but draft officials here said such uniformity was not to be expected. The situation was this:

Telegraphic orders from Washington went to state directors only, instructing them to bring about postponement of action on men who had become 26 on or before March 24 and who are making a contribution to the war effort in their jobs.

PURPOSE OF ACTION

The main purpose was to allow the boards to drop temporarily their time-consuming work on older men and devote their attention to getting the young men into training. Another purpose was to gain information on how many men the 18-26 age group will yield, enabling Selective Service to determine how strictly to deal with older men.

State directors had the duty of interpreting the order for local boards, and some countries, as occupations and age groups are not uniform the directors were not all making the same interpretation. Local board members are doubtful on procedure, they are supposed to ask state directors for clarification, rather than Washington.

Some state directors entered immediate postponement for all men 26 and older, regardless of occupation. This was designed to give boards an interval in which to determine which men are making a war contribution.

It is up to the local boards to decide in each case whether a man's job is contributing to the war but in general they will be guided by the existing essential list compiled by the War Manpower Commission.

Draft officers here said men over 26 should be granted by interpretations from local boards rather than their own interpretation of Saturday's order from Washington.

U. S. Air Task Forces In Assault

Third Straight Day Of Raids

By AUSTIN BEALMEAR

LONDON —(AP)— American air task forces totaling 1,000 to 1,500 bombers and fighters struck at the Germans' anti-invasion air installations of Belgium and France today i ntheir third straight day of operations.

Drawing the enemy's coastal fighter defenses into action for the first time in weeks, Fortresses and Liberators bombed military objectives in the Pas-de-Calais area, the aircraft repair depot at Evere and Vilvorde and the airfield at Melsbroek near Brussels, Belgium, the aircraft factory at Bourges, 115 miles south of Paris, and the airfield at Orleans, 60 miles south of Paris.

SHIPS LOST

Three heavy bombers and four fighters were lost in the multiple assault, and seven of the enemy's planes were shot down in combat, a communique announced, in addition to about 40 which air base reports said were destroyed on the ground.

The American attack after heavy RAF night raids on rail centers at Lille and in the southern suburbs at Paris, in following up their deep Sunday plunge south of aircraft factories in Poland, East Prussia and northeast Germany. On Saturday they bombed Brunswick aircraft plants and airdromes near Frankfort, wrecking 148 Nazi planes in battle.

The daylight fleet took off soon after the RAF heavy bombers returned from raiding Villeneuve-St. Georges, a junction on the main rail lines from southern and western France just twelve miles south of the center of Paris, and Lille, important junction on northern French rail lines.

Mosquito bombers, Air Marshal Bottomley and other unprefixed objectives and extensive nuisance-flying operations were carried out at four zones, all at a night cost of eleven planes, the Air Ministry said. It was the first major British assault in a week.

The RAF's night operations came as a swift follow-up to long-range daylight assaults yesterday by large forces of U. S. heavy bombers against Kiel Nazi aircraft factories in Poland, East Prussia and northeast Germany.

Although the Paris area had been hit by American daylight raiders during the past year, the former French capital received its first heavy night blow from the RAF on May 30, 1942.

The Germans indicated last night RAF attacks were on a large scale.

Berlin broadcasts declared the attackers scattered bombs over a vast area and some ten localities were severely hit. Simultaneously other formations attacked a town in northern France, where damage was serious.

The RAF lost 94 planes in its last sizable operation, an attack on Nuremberg March 30. British Lancasters have been out only once this month blasting aircraft repair plants in Toulouse, France.

See AMERICANS on page 5

Allow Rum To Come In

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The War Production Board has decided to permit unlimited importation of Bermuda rum, three years and more old a WPB official said today.

The decision would amend the recently announced restrictions on importation of Bermuda rum, designed to hold imports of such spirits to approximately the 1943 total.

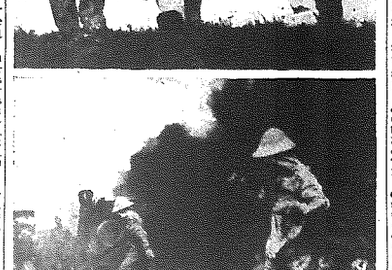
An official announcement on the three-year-old rum is expected shortly.

The contemplated action would affect all countries importing rum to the United States except the French West Indies, with which negotiations are not complete.

The relaxation of rum importations was agreed upon as officials worked out the final details of the rather involved order which will be issued later. Officials said it is intended to prevent the diversion of molasses into beverages and to channel it into industrial alcohol. It was decided it would be unfair to prevent the entry of rum purchased three years ago.

It was estimated the new policy might permit the entry of 2,000,000 additional gallons of rum, although officials do not yet have exact data on how much spirit of this sort are in the stocks of the various Caribbean and Latin-American countries.

NAVY FIREMEN SHOW HOW—Cadets training at the Naval Air station in Atlanta to be assistant operations officers witness demonstrations of the Navy's newest firefighting methods. The grotesque figures in the top photo are Navy firefighters, garbed in asbestos suits. In the bottom picture, cadets watch as the firemen walk through blazing gasoline.



Hull Asks Unity On Foreign Issues

By JOHN M. HIGHTOWER

WASHINGTON — (AP) — A broadcast explanation of American foreign policy coupled with a plea for home front unity on international issues launched Secretary of State Hull today on a planned campaign to keep the principles of the Nation's foreign policy out of election year controversies.

"We are moving closer and closer to the hour of decision' in which the United Nations will determine whether the world will be ravaged by war again in 25 years, Hull said, and disunity in this country can render it ineffective in carrying out its responsibility.

The key to Hull's plans for keeping foreign policy decisions out of politics apparently lies in his announced intention to work with a bipartisan committee of Congress in shaping these plans in the first place. He announced last night in his unprecedentedly detailed summation of foreign policy developments that he had requested Chairman Connally, Democrat, Texas, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to designate the bipartisan group to work with him on planning post-war world organization, and said similar arrangements would be made with the House.

Beyond this Hull may be expected to try to keep projected

See HULL ASKS on Page 5

Down Under Men Attack

By LYNN HEINZERLING

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples,—(AP)—New Zealand troops have inflicted casualties on the Germans in rubble attacks against two strongpoints at Sant' Angelo three miles south of Cassino, headquarters announced today, while Allied troops in ruined Cassino itself were subjected to renewed violent mortarmine and shelling.

The New Zealanders partially destroyed one of the enemy positions.

The shelling of Cassino followed six consecutive nights of intensified bombardment. The massive German artillery also intensified dropping of propaganda leaflets three miles north of the town and heavy shelling in the upper Liquido valley northeast of Sant' Elia.

The Germans, meanwhile, seemed to be on the move in the lower Garigliano sector of the main front. A great deal of transport movement was observed and in the Ausente Valley 21 tanks or self-propelled guns were seen about 12 1-2 miles northeast of Minturno. Five of them were believed knocked out by artillery fire and the Nazis subsequently got out smoke pots to conceal their movements.

The Germans, who can control the volume of the Garigliano River flow by manipulating the dam floodgates on the Liri River, have permitted the Garigliano to close its bed.

On the beachhead below Rome German artillery fire slackened somewhat, but their patrols were exceedingly active and were driven off all around the beachhead perimeter. Another "Goliath" remote-control tank was knocked out on the right flank north of Sessano.

Poor weather reduced Allied air force activity, but fighter-bombers attacked rail communications in the Rome area and shooting off the Yugoslav coast Warhawks scored hits on the railroad running north from Rome to Lake Bracciano, motor transport near the Fiumicino, and the Cassino front.

"We are moving closer and closer to the hour of decision' in which the United Nations will determine whether the world will be ravaged by war again in 25 years, Hull said, and disunity in this country can render it ineffective in carrying out its responsibility.

The key to Hull's plans for keeping foreign policy decisions out of politics apparently lies in his announced intention to work with a bipartisan committee of Congress in shaping these plans in the first place. He announced last night in his unprecedentedly detailed summation of foreign policy developments that he had requested Chairman Connally, Democrat, Texas, of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to designate the bipartisan group to work with him on planning post-war world organization, and said similar arrangements would be made with the House.

Beyond this Hull may be expected to try to keep projected

See HULL ASKS on Page 5

Falls 19,000 Feet In Fort's Tail And Lives

By JOSEPH MORTON

U. S. 12th AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS Italy —(AP)— Sergeant Robert Fort, farm hand from Simpson, Ohio, lived to tell the tale of falling 19,000 feet in the nose-heavy tail of a British Fairey which landed in a tree-covered hillside. He was shot.

Air Force Sergeant Joel Sartorius, of Hemet, Calif., lived to tell how he bailed out of his P-47 Thunderbolt for a second time after being caught for a second time behind Jerry lines. This is the story of the second time, in which he landed in a field in Italy.

OK 13th MISSION

It happened on his 13th mission. I thought I could get it done—about the time I was telling myself in another few minutes I'd be dead.

A lot of the details I can't talk about, but I can say it was a long way from home. I was well in the tail gun, looking out the navigator had just called on the altitude 19,000 feet. He was going into a log back. That is what came.

"There was a hell of a jolt. The plane seemed to stop. It shook all over with a terrific tearing sound and I found myself on my face. The ammunition case and a lot of broken parts were piling me down. I thought it was all over because there was no chance to get out.

"Looking back I am a 0-17 going down with the wings in flame. It occurred to me that we had collided with it. I couldn't see too well because of the smoke in a closed compartment, but I knew we were spinning around because patches of blue green and brown kept whizzing past.

"All I was able to do was blink my eyes but I realized we were going down at a terrific rate of speed and that in a few minutes I would be dead.

PRAYING TOO

"I thought the whole ship was intact so the way it was tailing around and the time it was taking to get down I was praying too.

"The impact when we struck the ground was cushioned, and there was a slushing sound. I knew we had hit a tree. I

see FALLS 19,000 on page 5

Black Sea City Evacuated By German Army

Reds Apparently Striking Out In Big Drive To Clear Crimea

LONDON —(AP)— Marshal Joseph Stalin announced in an order of the day the capture of Odessa, Russia's greatest Black Sea port.

Capture of the once-gay port, ruined in a two-months siege by the Germans and by 905 days of rigid occupation, was announced after the German High Command had acknowledged its evacuation in one of Adolf Hitler's most humiliating defeats.

Stalin said the capture of the city, to which many had expected the Germans would cling stubbornly as a thorn in the side of the Red Army's Balkan advance, had cleared away a major obstacle in the central regions of Rumania.

NEW STAND

Putting the best possible light on a defeat which seemed to signal the German abandonment of the last mile of southern Russian territory and the opening of a crucial new Nazi stand in the Galati Gap of Rumania between the Danube and Carpathians, the Germans said they stole away at night after blowing up all military installations and removing all ships and vehicle transport— a statement which seemed to indicate they had fled by sea in part.

Stalin said the city had been taken by outflanking maneuvers by tanks, infantry and cavalry and frontal assault which caved in German defenses and had threatened to cut off the Nazi garrison.

He ordered another great artillery display in Moscow to thunder out the word of the feat of Russian arms—24 salvoes from 324 guns—and a supplementary salute by 120 guns of the Black Sea Fleet which had thus regained a vital base in the western Black Sea for future operations.

CRIMEA ACTION

Berlin told of a broad new Russian offensive in the Crimea which apparently was aimed at cleaning the enemy out of its one remaining important Black Sea outpost. The Germans said the Russians were smashing at their lines at Sivash and Perekop on the Northern side of the isthmus. Russian war bulletins were silent on any new operations in this sector.

Cut off from all but sea communications, in the same way that the Odessa force was almost isolated, it seemed that the Germans and Rumanians in the Crimea might be forced to yield the last of the strong Black Sea outposts guarding the Rumanian sea flank.

The evacuation of Odessa—carried out, the Germans said,

See PORT OF on page 5

De Gaulle Challenged

ALGIERS—(AP)—Gen. Charles de Gaulle was confronted with a direct challenge to his authority as president of the French Committee of National Liberation today as Gen. Henri Giraud stood firm on his refusal to accept dismissal as commander - in - chief of the French armed forces.

Giraud's stand apparently left the next move in the contest between the two generals squarely up to de Gaulle, but there was no indication of the latter's probable course of action. The situation was further confused by the assertion of some of Giraud's followers that several members of the Liberation Committee had threatened to resign in an expression of sympathy with him.

The Giraudists declared that among these committee members were Commissioner Rene Jacquinot and Air Commissioner Fernand Grenier who, they said, had not signed the decree which yesterday abolished Giraud's post as commander and at the same time named him "inspector general" of the armed forces. A committee spokesman, however, said all the committeemen had signed.

The 65-year-old Giraud, who escaped from France in 1941 to take over leadership of French armed forces, sent a sharp formal letter to de Gaulle declaring that the action violated French republican law as well as French National Committee ordinances determining a separation of civil and military powers and organization of a high command.

"I am not resigning," Giraud said. "I accept neither the principle of suppression of the post of commander-in-chief of the French armed forces in the middle of war, nor the honorary post which you have designed for me."

Giraud also took issue with de Gaulle's statement that the post of commander-in-chief was superfluous because a Frenchman would not get a large Allied command. He said "There is no proof that another theater of operations won't be opened where a Frenchman will have the honor of command. I believe myself still capable of exercising this command."

Giraud, who once shared the committee presidency with de Gaulle, had refused the appointment in a session with de Gaulle Saturday, but de Gaulle had held out the hope until the very last that he would reconsider. De Gaulle's decree apparently was published without the knowledge of Giraud and while negotiations between the two still were in progress.

De Gaulle's action, in effect, was regarded as a reassertion of his determination to force the Allies to deal with the National Committee as the sole provisional government for liberated France. The step gave him complete military and civil control of the committee, which recently named him chief of the armies.

The decree named Giraud inspector-general, military advisor to the committee and a member of the Committee for National Defense. It stated that it would be "obligatory" that Giraud be consulted on questions of organization, armament, employment of land, sea and air forces, promotions and appointments.

Some Return To Shipyard Work

PASCAGOULA, Miss. —(AP)— Ingalls Shipbuilding Corporation officials announced today that 250 players who were on sit-down strikes engaged in a walkout at the plant over the week-end had returned to work, leaving approximately 750 workers still out.

Others still engaged in the work stoppage, plant officials said, included carpenters, joiners and painters who were protesting the policy of the company in employing non-union workers.

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, its 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.

Starting today, therefore, all readers of The News agree that the newspaper's sample bound to them? It is a precious war commodity to be saved and turned back to be sent to the front.

There are several ways in which you may return this paper to service. Junior Commandos are working with The News and the Junior Chamber of Commerce in collecting waste paper. Chief Hendrix Polmo and the Charlotte Fire Department are cooperating, bins being placed at each fire station in which paper can be placed. Supt. John Barber and the City Sanitary Dept. are helping, too. Paper will be collected by the sanitary trucks if bundled and placed alongside the garbage containers. All these agencies are doing a splendid job.

But whether you return this bound copy of The News through the Junior Commandos, deliver it to the nearest fire station, leave it for collection by the Sanitary Dept. or deliver it to dealers direct, it must be returned.

It is destined for front line service.

WEATHER

Forecast: Widely scattered showers and continued warm tonight and Tuesday.

Today's Temperatures:
2:30 P. M. 81 ..... 6:45 P. M. 69
Sunset Today 7:16
Sunrise Tomorrow 5:26

Additional U. S. Weather Bureau data will be found on page 5.