Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

Final

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ALLIES BREAK INTO HITLER LINE

U. S. BOMBERS IN SMASH AT BERLIN

Seamen Talk Of Girls & U-Boats

By HAL BOYLE

LONDON—(AP)—In the old seafaring days sailors used to swap tall tales of girls, shipwrecks and sharks. Now it's girls and submarines.

The German U-boat menace has been largely brought under control, but many merchant seamen still suffer from the "torpedo jitters" as a result of the days when their service paid a higher price in lives than either the Army or the Navy.

BOYLE

It was a mixed crew which brought me here from the United States. Many who had been in sinkings disguised less fear than some who were making their first trip. They've been through it, and know what to do if it comes again.

The least worried man aboard was Benjo Al Dyhm, 26-year-old Glasgow-born welterweight boxer who has survived five submarine and plane attacks and believes he has achieved immunity.

"The worst worry was the bombing we got on the way to Murmansk," he said. "A German plane started to strafe us." Dyhm got bullets in his left arm, leg and hand and had to spend six months in a hospital.

This apparently ruined his boxing career, which had included Madison Square Garden bouts with Al Rother and Baby Arizmendi.

"After the war I'd like to go into politics back home," he said, smiling. "But I don't know whether I ought to mention it now or not. People might think I'm just punch drunk."

Another veteran of similar battle is Junior Engineer "Red" Dodge of New Orleans.

THEY DIDN'T GO

Once, off Trinidad, "they were

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North Italian Attacks Feared

BERN, Switzerland—(AP)—Fearing amphibious attack on the northern Italian coastline, Fascist authorities have ordered the evacuation of the Genoa Harbor area and other coastal towns by midnight Saturday, a Chiasso dispatch to the Neue Zurcher Zeitung said today.

The whole 30-mile coast line south of Genoa to Monaglia—north of Allied-held Cosatea—was included. Among the towns are Pieve Ligure, Porto Fino, Sestri Levante, Lavagna, Chiavari and Santa Margherita. Those failing to leave will be arrested, the dispatch said.

Border reports said Partisans in northern Italy had intensified attacks on the Germans and Fascists of Mussolini. A communique of the Committee of National Resistance recounted several hit and run fights in Piedmont one in which the Germans and Fascists were routed with 35 dead and 70 wounded.

See JUMP MADE on page 4

Merrill's Troops In Outskirts Of Myitkyina Town

Soldiers Pour In By Air Onto Captured Burma Airdrome

SOUTHEAST ASIA HEADQUARTERS, KANDY, Ceylon — (AP) — Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill's jungle-fighting American and Chinese infantry, with airborne reinforcements, have penetrated the outskirts of Myitkyina after capturing the town's airdrome, it was announced today.

The airdrome was seized two days ago in a surprise attack. It lies two miles south of the town.

While troops poured in to the field by air from other elements of Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's forces, another Merrill column occupied the village of Nawaw Sakan and threw a block across the Mogaung-Myitkyina Road.

An official announcement said other troops were thrusting toward Myitkyina from the north.

ON INDIA SIDE

Meanwhile on the India side of the Indo-Burma warfare, an Indian Army brigade in a sudden dashing attack for elbow-room has through the jungle threw a road block across the Tiddim Road south of Imphal to the south of the enemy's main position, Allied Headquarters announced.

This march through the roughest country around the enemy's eastern flank cut off the Japanese 33rd Division which had been attacking Imphal from the south.

The communique said many casualties were inflicted by the Ghurkas making up the brigade which repulsed Japanese counter attacks, and much equipment was captured.

South of Imphal at the one general roadblock remaining between that base and Kohima, Allied troops marched a series of fought attacks, it was stated.

Allies Make Jump To Seize Wadke

By ASABEL BUSH

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NEW GUINEA—(AP)—Another lightning stab in Gen. Douglas MacArthur's accelerated Philippines-bound offensive today gave the Allies virtual possession of strategic Wakde Island, a potential base for:

1. Throwing a fighter plane umbrella for bombers over all the rest of Japanese-held Northwestern New Guinea;

2. Battering Halmahera, enemy island guardian between MacArthur and the Philippines, to which he has avowed to return;

3. Pounding Palau, Japanese naval stronghold along the Carolines approaches to the Philippines;

4. Increasing bomber blows against the Netherlands East Indies.

MacArthur's latest leapfrogging tactics, covered by air and naval bombardment, gave him most of Wakde Island and a quickly widened beachhead on the adjacent Dutch New Guinea mainland within 36 hours, today's communique disclosed.

An American amphibious task force spewed hardened 6th Army troops, veterans of the Hollandia-Aitape landings less than a month ago, on the mainland beach near Toem, 110 miles westward of Hollandia, at dawn Wednesday.

FAN OUT

By nightfall, they had fanned out up and down the coast for eight miles and a small Japanese command Island, southernmost of the two comprising Wakde.

These landings were unopposed.

"The enemy was completely surprised and his defense negligible," the communique said.

Rocket guns and naval guns, bombers and fighters blasted the way for the Yanks coming out of the landing boats.

By noon Thursday, they had stormed ashore on Insoemear

See JUMP MADE on page 4

Japs Cut Off Loyang

By SPENCER MOOSA

CHUNGKING —(AP)— A Chinese Army spokesman conceded today that the defenders of the ancient city of Loyang in Honan Province were surrounded and completely cut off, but he said the Chinese still retained 60 to 80 per cent of the city and were "determined to hold out."

It was announced that the Japanese who cut the east-west Lunghai railway west of Loyang had joined forces with the invaders from Shansi province and in a further push had reached the railway town of Shanhsien. This town is 40 miles from Tungkwan the gateway to the northwest at the Yellow River elbow.

Meanwhile Japanese troops, thrusting westward south of the Lunghai rail line were declared to have advanced to a point 58 miles east-southeast of Tungkwan.

CHINESE DRIVE

The Chinese offensive in Yunnan Province, aimed at a junction with Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's forces in North Burma and reopening the Burma Road, is making further advances west of the Salween River, the spokesman said.

Supporting that Chinese drive, American planes attacked Tengchung and Lungling, principal Japanese bases in Yunnan.

Chinese troops were reported to have reached within two points of the western slopes of the formidable Knoll Range, running north and south between the Salween and Shweli Rivers.

One of these is near Mamien Pass 40 miles northeast of Tengchung and the other is in the vicinity of Pingse, 24 miles southeast of Lungling. The advance near Mamien Pass brought the Chinese into the Shweli River Val-

See JAPANESE on page 4

Taft Discusses Price Control

WASHINGTON— (AP)— Senator Taft, Republican, Ohio, expressed confidence today that legislation extending price control legislation beyond the June 30 deadline would be brought to the Senate floor for action no later than June 1.

A member of the banking subcommittee which has been considering various proposals affecting OPA's enforcement, price, procedure and other policies, Taft told reporters substantial progress is being made.

He called the Republican Steering Committee into conference today for a discussion of party attitude toward the legislation.

Offensive On Again After 5-Day Lull

Brunswick Also Hit By Yanks

LONDON —(AP)—American Fortresses and Liberators and fighter escorts described officially as a strong force and probably numbering up to 1,500 planes, resumed the Allied aerial offensive after a five-day lapse today and struck at targets in the Berlin and Brunswick areas.

The attack, coming less than 24 hours after Gen. Henry H. Arnold, chief of U. S. Army Air Forces, had declared Germany had not yet been the full weight of Allied air power, precipitated a running air battle right across Germany to the sky over the German capital, German broadcasts indicated.

The ensuing bombardment—the U. S. Strategic Air Force's 10th attack on the Nazi hub and the third on the capital this month—was so heavy that it disrupted German news broadcasts.

By the RAF and the USAAF Berlin has taken about 16,000 tons of bombs up to today

BIG PARADE

Channel observers said the parade of aircraft setting out for the continent today was the biggest seen during the war.

While the American "heavies" were smashing at Berlin and Brunswick, small formations of Allied expeditionary air force and RAF Mosquito, Typhoons and fighter-bombers attacked unspecified objectives in Northern France this morning, taking advantage of clear skies to press home the attack.

PROGRESS TRACED

Tracing the progress of the aerial invaders, the German broadcasts said the bombers swept over the German border, crossed the much-bombed Hannover and Brunswick areas to Brandenburg — in the Berlin area — and finally appeared over the German capital itself.

The American "heavies" last hit Berlin on May 7 and May 8. The RAF's Mosquitos worked the city over on Tuesday night.

As the high-altitude armada swept across Europe the Vichy radio called another air assault on Northern France and Belgium — a likely resumption of the attack on the enemy's anti-invasion railroads and airfields — was underway.

Paulette Goddard And Burgess Meredith To Wed

HOLLYWOOD—(AP)—Motion picture Actress Paulette Goddard and Air Forces Capt. Burgess Meredith, former stage and screen actor have announced they will be married in a private ceremony Sunday in nearby Beverly Hills.

"Probably the only time I'll get top billing," communicated Meredith yesterday when the couple obtained a marriage license at Santa Monica. Meredith recently returned from duty in England, and Miss Goddard is just back from a war camp tour in the China-India-Burma theater.

Miss Goddard formerly was wed to Edward James, Asheville, N. C., lumber company president, and to Comedian-Producer Charles Chaplin. Meredith also has been married twice, to Helen Berrian Derby and Margaret H. Preuitt.

British And Aussie War Writers Killed In Italy

LONDON —(AP)— Cyril Bewley, 40, war correspondent for the Kemsley newspapers in England, and Roderick MacDonald, 32, correspondent for the Sidney Morning Herald and the London News-Chronicle, have been killed at the Italian front, it was disclosed today.

Bewley walked into a minefield after leaving his jeep to take cover. The dispatch said, and his Australian colleague was killed at the same time.

The Kemsley group includes the Sunday Times, the Daily Graphic and a number of provincial newspapers.

A "Gift" Of $1,100

PHILADELPHIA —(AP)— A clerk at the Insurance Company of North America offices opened a plain envelope — without return address — and found inside $1,100 in bills —nothing else.

No one knows who sent it, or why.

WOUNDED SOLDIER WALKS FROM BATTLE—Two "medics" escort one of the walking American wounded from the fierce battle for Santa Maria to a field hospital. (Signal Corps radiotelephoto from Italy.)

Nazis Fear Red & Anglo-U. S. Blow

By JAMES M. LONG

LONDON —(AP)— Heavy new German bombings of communications and concentrations behind the Russian front indicated today the Nazis expect an immediate renewal of the Red Army's offensive—a mighty thrust which the enemy said would be co-ordinated with invasion from the west.

Hitler's command reported heavy bombing blows on the rail stations of Rowne, Sarny and Sdolbunovo, suggesting that the Germans expected the new drive to explode on the central Polish front. There the Russians have been massing at the nearest point to the heart of the Reich—as close to Berlin as the American and British invasion forces are in this island.

KEEP GUESSING

German propaganda kept up a scattergun guesswork of locating the potential invasion on virtually every beachhead from Norway to the Bay of Biscay. The Luftwaffe shifted its moonless night reconnaissance from south England to Scotland.

British motorists were warned that on D-Day and afterwards, they must expect all civilian traffic to be diverted from many main roads and that the highways generally in the invasion springboard area would be closed to all but military traffic.

A German broadcast heard in Turkey suggested that the final flooding of the Dutch defense system might be under way. The people of whole villages were being moved, many to parts of eastern France, the report said.

"It is quite possible that the Allied offensive in Southern Italy is an overture to the much-heralded drama of the Anzio-Saxon, full scale assault on Europe," Capt. Ludwig Serforius said over the Berlin radio. "Moreover, it is likely that the overture will soon merge into the first act."

The German have massed sliders and transport planes in concealed hangars along the European coast in numbers sufficient to stop at least one airborne division on Britain, the London Daily Mail said asserting its information came from "excellent sources."

The British do not rule out the possibility of such a German counter-invasion. The enemy troops might be assigned to knock out

See NAZIS FEAR on page 8

Flight Training Pioneer Retired

SPOKANE —(AP)— Col. Frank M. Kennedy, Amora, Ill., one of the first five men to volunteer for Army flight training disclosed yesterday he had received notice of his retirement from the Army effective Sept. 30 because of physical disability.

When Kennedy retires, Gen. H. H. Arnold, Army Air Forces commander, will be the only remaining active officer of the small group who volunteered at College Park, Md., in 1911.

Col. Kennedy, a native of Chicago, came here in January of 1942 to supervise construction of the Spokane air depot. Previously he was chief of the building and grounds division of the office of the chief of the Air Corps.

Red Smash May Come

LONDON—(AP)—Reports of heavy Nazi bombing of Russian communication lines in Eastern Poland reported mounting German anxiety today that the Red Army is massing strength to break a long lull in land fighting with a new smash on the Central Front along the shortest line to Berlin.

Earlier the Russians announced bursts of action on two sectors of the Eastern front as reports from both Moscow and Berlin continued to dwell on the theme that renewal of battle on a grand scale was close at hand.

HEIGHT TAKEN

The Russians announced capture of a "height of considerable importance" southeast of Stanislawow, in old Poland, and the slaying of 600 Germans who attempted a counter-attack in the Lower Dnestr region northwest of Tiraspol.

These actions were recounted in a Soviet communique, broadcast from Moscow and recorded by the Soviet monitor. The height, unidentified, apparently was in the Carpathian foothills.

Fighting also occurred southeast of Vitebsk, White Russian citadel, and in the unnamed sector where Red Army troops "beat off several attacks and wiped out two companies," the bulletin said. It declared however, there were no important changes on the front yesterday.

Moscow dispatches, meanwhile, talked unofficially of preparations for big mountain operations on the

See SOVIET SMASH on page 4

Allied Raids Upon Soerabaja Reported

NEW YORK —(AP)— The Tokyo radio said today that Soerabaja, one of Japan's key gates in the Netherlands East Indies, had been raided twice by Allied bombers on the mornings of May 17 and 18 and the Japanese account suggested that Allied naval and air task forces from India were carrying out another of their bold forays in conjunction with U. S. Pacific forces.

The broadcast, recorded by U. S. Government monitors said some 60 bombers and fighters, coming from the direction of the Indian Ocean, carried out the first attack.

It appears as though the enemy came as a portion of a task unit based on an aircraft carrier," it added.

The following morning, Tokyo added, a string of bombers shot over Soerabaja "one by one" and appeared to be consolidated bombers — such as operate from the Pacific.

A powerful task force, including an American aircraft carrier under the command of Admiral Sir James Somerville, commander-in-chief of the British Eastern Fleet at Ceylon, last was reported in action on April 19 when it attacked Sabang and Sumatra at the western end of the Dutch East Indies.

Soerabaja is the once powerful Dutch naval base on Java.

Tokyo said "some damage" was done installations in the first attack by carrier planes, but claimed that three of the attacking planes were shot down by ground defenses and two more were damaged in the second attack. No mention was made of any defense by aircraft.

An attack on Soerabaja serves a military as well as psychological purpose.

Through the long years of Dutch occupancy, Soerabaja had been

See ALLIED RAIDS on page 6

U.S. Tanks And French Troops Crack Center

Germans Proclaimed In "A Disorderly Retreat" Into New Defenses

By NOLAND NORGAARD

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NAPLES — (AP) — French troops and U. S. tanks broke into the Hitler Line at its very center today in a smash toward Sant' Oliva, a front dispatch declared, as the Allies hammered all along the front at this new mountain wall manned by the Germans after "a disorderly retreat."

Sant' Oliva—only four miles from Pico on the inland road supplying the Nazi front—is at the tip of a pie-shaped wedge driven into the mountains between Pontecorvo and French-captured Esperia.

A headquarters officer declared the Germans had made "a disorderly retreat instead of a mere withdrawal" between the Liri Valley and the sea when they fell back from their smashed Gustav defenses to the Hitler Line under combined American and French blows.

The Nazis suffered high losses in equipment, and their artillery strength particularly has diminished, he asserted.

YANKS NEAR ITRI

Even as the French supported by American tanks threatened Sant' Oliva, U. S. troops struck close to the key Appian way junction of Itri, menacing the German supply road from the coastal end. British and Polish troops were pushing westward from their victory at Cassino on the northern flank.

It appeared likely, that, any break through in the south to the outskirts of Itri would compel the Germans to pull out of the entire southwestern end of the Hitler Line and swing their front into the mountain range running southwestward from Pontecorvo through Sonli to Terracina on the coast.

But such a line would be vulnerable to flank attack from the Anzio beachhead, where strong Fifth Army forces are massed though quiet. It is believed the enemy has not had time to prepare fortifications on the Pontecorvo - Terracina route on a scale comparable with the Gustav or Hitler Lines.

From all reports it appeared the Fifth and Eighth Armies were off to an excellent start on the

See ALLIES DENT on page 4

Nazis Denying That Hitler Line Exists

NEW YORK—(AP)—A German broadcast assertion that there is no such thing as an Adolf Hitler Line in Italy was echoed today by the Soviet-controlled Reno radio.

The Office of War Information said Rome, following in the path outlined yesterday by the Berlin radio, last night declared:

"Enemy propaganda . statements that the Adolf Hitler Line has been reached and passed are pure imagination, since such a defense line has never existed anywhere on the Italian front.

"It is true, on the other hand, that during the fighting in the past few hours the Allies and their mercenaries have been unable to prevent German units from reaching in perfect order lines farther to the rear, which were prepared some time ago."

Craft Bill Is Voted

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The House voted to the Navy today authority to build another million tons of landing craft, with a vigilant command of some members that General Douglas MacArthur get much of them "so he can carry the fight into the heart of Japan."

There was no dissent on the bill but it provoked a sharp debate between Representative Fish, Republican, New York, and Majority Leader McCormack, Democrat, Massachusetts, over who was to blame for the Pearl Harbor disaster.

Fish called it "piecemeal legislation" for the Navy to seek the $1,800,000,000 worth of landing craft now, the third million tons to be asked, when, he said, all 3,000,000 tons might have been contracted for a year ago.

"It will take at least a year to build them," Fish said, "but when they are built I hope a large part of them will be sent to MacArthur so he can carry the fight into the heart of Japan."

Fish said "we are fooling around with island-hopping" while the Japanese have doubled airplane construction.

Shouts of "no" came from the Republican side as Rep. Gore, Democrat, Tennessee, accused the minority party of opposing adequate preparedness prior to the Japanese attack, and Fish shot back: "There's not a word of truth in that statement."

Fish challenged the administration to proceed with the court martials of General Short and Admiral Kimmel, "and let the people know who was responsible for Pearl Harbor."

Child Stricken With Leukemia Succumbs

LOS ANGELES—(AP)—Efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Sorensen to find help for their 2-year-old daughter, Alta Mira, stricken a month ago with leukemia, ended today with the child's death.

The parents appealed to Johns Hopkins University, the Rockefeller Foundation, Leland Stanford University and the Mayo Brothers Clinic, offering to permit doctors to experiment with their daughter in an effort to discover a remedy for the disease.

They were told, the father said today, that there was no known cure for the disease, which affects the white corpuscles of the blood.

Von Papen In Turkey After Berlin Visit

ANKARA, May 18—(Delayed)—(AP)— German Ambassador Franz Von Papen, recently returned from a visit to Berlin, conferred with President Ismet Inonu and Foreign Minister Numan Menemencioglu yesterday, presumably on German-Turkish trade relations, but there were no indications today of the outcome of the talks.

WEATHER

Scattered thundershowers and cooler tonight; fair to partly cloudy and cooler tomorrow.

Today's Temperatures
2:30 P. M., 86 ..... 9, 69
Sunset Today 8:07
Sunrise Tomorrow 5:27

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

47 RAF Officers Shot By Nazis After Break

LONDON —(AP)— Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, disclosed today 47 RAF officers had been shot in Germany after a mass escape from a war prison camp near Dresden on March 25.

Seventy-six officers participated in the break, Eden told the House of Commons. Fifteen were reported captured alive, and 14 still at large.

Some were shot resisting arrest and some in the course of a new escape attempt after they were captured, Eden said.

FIRST SUCH EPISODE

It was the first such episode of the war.

"The government is profoundly shocked by this news and I have urgently requested the protecting power (Switzerland, through which notifications of the deaths came to the relatives and the air ministry) to demand from the German government a full and immediate report of the circumstances in which these men met their deaths, and an explanation of its failure to report the facts at once to the protecting power," Eden said.

The men were members of the "RAF Dominion Allied" air forces, the customary terminology embracing the RCAF, RAAF, RNZAF and other national groups in the RAF like the Poles, the Dutch and the Norwegians.

As far as is known there were no Americans involved, although Eden did not say so specifically. The dead included several heroes of the Battle of Britain and other spectacular RAF operations.

The shooting was disclosed by German authorities to a representative of the protective power "in the case of a routine visit to the camp on April 17," Eden said.

"Names of the officers shot were furnished to the representative and the next of kin were informed.

"The House will wish me to express its deepest sympathy with the relatives and pay tribute to the

See RAF OFFICERS on page 4