Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Finest

ESTABLISHED 1888 — CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1943 — 18 Pages—Price Five Cents

NEW HEIGHTS FAIL TO 5TH RED BALTIC ARMY SURGES FORWARD

Soldiers Ride Jeep From Syria To Algiers

By SAL BOYLE

SOMEWHERE IN ITALY, Dec. 18—(Delayed) — (AP) — After every war there is an outburst of marble memorials created by sculptors who thereupon lapse into occupational unemployment until the next international squaring off.

These memorials usually consist of heroic soldiers who look much more rugged than the average doughboy ever feels in battle or else they depict stern face amazons symbolizing peace or victory. These stone damsels for some reason wear very few clothes.

There's a mild movement under way in some quarters for more realism in statues after this war. One thing that surely deserves artistic commemoration is the longest flight made in a jeep. My own suggestion is that the memorial be a huge granite stone chiseled in the shape of a bent human kidney.

Two soldiers, members of the staff of Yank, the Army magazine, drove "Sally," the sweetest tempered little jeep that ever balked in a sandstorm, 3,400 miles from Aleppo, Syria, to Algiers.

"If anyone else ever drove an Army jeep farther than that we never heard of it," said Sgt. Burgess Scott, 30, a former reporter of the Paducah, Ky., Sun-Democrat. He and his partner, Sgt. George A. Aarons, 27, a photographer from Nashua, N. H., made the long trip back after going to Aleppo from Cairo to cover the execution of two Nazi spies by French firing squads.

FALL FAST

"The stuff in the movies of guys falling slowly forward when they are shot is the horse laugh," said Scottie. "Boy, when that French

BOYLE

See REPORTER'S on page 8

Pacific Battle Line Tense After Marshall Visit

ARMY HEADQUARTERS, CENTRAL PACIFIC — (AP)—The long Pacific battle line was tense with expectancy today after a dramatic visit from Gen. George C. Marshall, United States Army Chief of Staff, and under indications of resurgent Japanese air activity.

Marshall, participant in recent Allied military councils held at Cairo and Teheran, flew along the entire line from the Southwest Pacific to the Central Pacific, but only the generals and admirals, American and Australian, knew what he had said.

Marshall was present at Cairo when President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Winston Churchill and Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek pledged to hammer Japan into unconditional surrender and to strip it of all war-gotten gains.

With the Chief of Staff safely back in the United States after his 38,000-mile global trip, Gen. Douglas MacArthur announced today that Marshall had been at advanced Allied headquarters in New Guinea Dec. 18 when the American Sixth Army units invaded New Britain, at Arawe.

JAPS WORRIED

This invasion prompted Tokyo radio to comment that "Japanese quarters do not deny the seriousness of the situation," and that "Rabaul (Japan's most important Southwest Pacific base on New

See MARSHALL on page 7

Nears Nazi Stronghold Of Vitebsk

German Baltic Line Menaced

LONDON — (AP) — The Russian Baltic Army, surging forward unchecked, has advanced another five miles and now stands only fifteen miles from the Nazi fortress city of Vitebsk, Reuters reported today from Moscow.

Encirclement of this enemy stronghold thus became hourly more imminent.

Thus thrust and a companion drive toward the important rail junction of Polotsk, 60 miles to the west, threatened the stability of the entire German line defending the Baltic states.

A Russian communique earlier had reported the forces of Gen. Ivan C. Bagramian within 20 miles of Vitebsk from the north through capture of Gribali and less than 25 miles away to the east.

BLASTS THROUGH GAP

His troops, storming down from Nevel yesterday, blasted their way through a 50-mile gap in deep German defenses, capturing more than 100 villages and leaving 1,600 German dead in their wake.

Other columns, swinging east to the west, were within 35 miles of Polotsk, fall of which would seriously weaken communications between the German northern and central armies and possibly force withdrawal of the Nazis' left flank along the shores of the Gulf of Finland from the Leningrad area.

At the extreme southern end of the 600-mile long battlefront, meanwhile, Russian Armies liquidated the Nazi bridgehead on the south bank of the Dnieper opposite Kherson, near the river's mouth, and dispatches said a full-scale attack against the city itself was expected momentarily.

NAZIS ATTACK

In the center of the line, the Germans were said to be counterattacking in three key sectors. The Moscow war bulletin said the Nazis struck in the area between Zhlobin and the Berezina River in White Russia, south of Kormatin in the Kiev bulge, and in the Khrovograd sector in the Dnieper River bend.

All attacks were repulsed with heavy losses, Moscow reported.

During liquidation of the Kherson bridgehead, more than 2,000 Germans were killed in a three-day battle, Moscow said, and 21 enemy tanks, 78 field guns and enormous stocks of war gear were destroyed. Prison cages were filled to capacity, the communique added.

Kherson's capture would render untenable the German position in Nikopol, manganese center in the Dnieper Bend, Krivoi Rog, and Nikolaev, northwest of Kherson on the Bug River together with large German forces would be threatened throughout the area. Freezing of the Dnieper along the southern front was expected to facilitate the Russian advances, advices said.

Some of the heaviest tank fighting of the war was reported raging as the Germans vainly tried to regain the initiative in central sectors. The Nazis were said to be using as many as 2,000 tanks in some areas. Moscow announced that 112 tanks were destroyed in Monday's fighting alone. Berlin said 412 Soviet tanks were knocked out Sunday and Monday.

COAST GUARDSMAN INSPECTS JAP 'GUN'—Fireman First Class John S. Trembowicz, a coast guardsman from Philadelphia, casually inspects a Jap coastal defense "gun" on Makin Island. The "gun" was made from the trunk of a coconut palm and a number of similar dummies were found on the island. (Official U. S. Coast Guard photo.)

San Vittore Outskirts Reached By Americans

8th Battles In Ortona Streets

By JOSEPH DYNAN

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS — (AP)— American Fifth Army forces, bolstered by heavy artillery and mortar fire, captured several new heights and reached the outskirts of San Vittore on the road to Rome today, while the British Eighth Army battled the Germans with tanks and infantry in the streets of Ortona.

American and French troops along the northern mountainous sector of the Fifth Army front were reported attacking the villages of Acquatondata, five miles west of Filignano, and Caverna, four miles north of Acquatondata, after occupying a high point in the Mt. Casale region in the push westward from Venafro.

LOCATION OF FRENCH

The announcement that the French Army under Gen. Alphonse Juin were participating with the Fifth's attack in this sector was the first disclosure of the presence of French troops on Italian soil was announced last week.

The French, who have been struggling for the past three days for the Mt. Lesole, a vital mountain pass, were reported to have taken the southern half. Other short gains in the area were reported.

In their assault of San Vittore, the Americans were methodically wiping out the numerous pockets the Germans had built around the town, using every house and natural obstacle to slow the Allied advance.

SLUG IT OUT

Gen. Sir Bernard L. Montgomery's Eighth Army tanks, meanwhile, slugged it out with Germans in the streets of Ortona, tiny port town between Termoli and Pescara on the Adriatic coast, which has been the main anchor of the Nazi line.

Fierce engagements were fought in the running street battle.

(The United Nations radio in Algiers said the Eighth Army had closed the sector of Ortona-Orsogna highway. The Germans counter-attacked in force of New Zealanders and the Eighth, the broadcast added, leading off the operation early this morning with a barrage of flame-throwers and tanks in an attempt to dislodge the New Zealanders from the vital highway.)

Southwest of Ortona, British troops made slight advances after repulsing two desperate Nazi counter-attacks.

The British assault on Ortona spearheaded by Canadian troops was preceded by a heavy artillery bombardment.

Meanwhile, it was disclosed that Flying Fortress gunners who shot down 24 enemy planes over Sunday's aerial battle over Innsbruck, Austria, included:

Sgts. William H. Rogers, 3 Bedford St., Lynn, Mass.; Sgt. Joseph F. James, 186 S. Finchers St., Houston, S. C., Charles A. Ainsworth, 203 East St., Kannapolis, N. C., and Kenneth R. Gregory, 1 Boston St., High Point, N. C.

U. S. Eyes On Bolivia

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The United States Government, confronted with the question of recognition of the new Government of Bolivia, wants to know if any outside influence unfriendly to the Allied cause" had any part in the coup which overthrew the regime of President Enrique Peñaranda.

This was made plain today by Secretary of State Hull.

Asked at his press conference to define his attitude toward recognition of the new Government at La Paz headed by Major Gualberto Villarroel, Hull stated:

"Considerations of the security of the Hemisphere and of the war effort of the United Nations must have first importance in our matter of this or similar character.

"Included in the relevant considerations is the question whether outside influence unfriendly to the Allied cause, played any part.

"It must never be forgotten that the Hemisphere is at present under sinister and subversive attack by the Axis, assisted by some elements from within the Hemisphere itself."

F. R. Working On Address

WASHINGTON—(AP)—President Roosevelt left most of his time open today so he could work on the address he will deliver Christmas eve to the nation and to the armed services abroad.

Presidential Secretary Stephen Early said a rough draft of the broadcast had been worked out, but that he had no details on what it contained.

Mr. Roosevelt already has said it would be directed primarily toward the armed forces and that he would incorporate in it some information on his recent war conferences in the Middle East, leaving other matter on the conferences for his annual message to Congress next month.

Japs Retire Before Defeat Is Certain

By HAROLD STREETER
Associated Press War Writer

The back-pedaling Japanese in the Solomons, completing a swing from military fanaticism to realism, now are in the process of doing something they never have done before in the strange war among the Pacific's islands—get out of a strong position before it actually is untenable.

On Guadalcanal at the bottom of the Solomons ladder, where the American campaign opened in August, 1942, Japanese resistance bordered on the fanatical. After the Central Solomons drive started on New Georgia in June of this year, Nippon's warriors yielded more and more to the dictates of military expediency but, even so, the positions they abandoned were belated and hopeless long before they quit them.

BOUGAINVILLE RETREAT

Today on Bougainville, at the top of the Solomons, the Japanese have begun their retreat ahead of schedule. The interesting situation there is this:

The island is 150 miles long, north and south, and 40 miles wide at the widest point; its East and West coasts are separated by mountains ranging to 10,000 feet in height, and most of it is jungle.

On the West coast, Japanese land and sea communication North and South has been severed by a beachhead which United States Marines won at Empress Augusta Bay Nov. 1 and which has been slowly widened until it runs eight miles along the shore and five miles or more into the jungle.

The East coast, linking strong Japanese positions North and South, is entirely in enemy hands. There are foot trails along that coast over which soldiers could pick their way South—but soldiers now are on a slow trek North. Barges can sail down that coast from Buka with supplies, at the constant risk of being sunk by American planes, but at a risk far greater than in moving evacuated troops the other way. Today the big barge traffic is Northbound.

RABAUL, NORTHWEST

Just northwest of Bougainville is the big air and naval base of Rabaul. The Japanese, who were bypassed on Kolombangara in the Central Solomons and at Kiska in the Aleutians, had nothing comparable to Rabaul so near at hand, yet they stuck it out until long after it was apparent their position was hopeless.

On Bougainville's south coast, the Japanese were entrenched at Buin, prepared to spread death among invaders making a frontal

See JAPS RETIRE on page 7

Vet Sums Paid Out

WASHINGTON—(AP)—The Veterans' Administration said today it already has paid out nearly $17,000,000 to World War II veterans or their dependents and has adjudicated more than 160,000 cases of disability claims.

The figures, contained in a letter from Veterans' Administrator Frank T. Hines, were made public by Representative Green, Democrat, Florida, in the wake of Congressional criticisms of "confusion and delay" in settling claims.

Representative Rogers, Republican, Massachusetts, said in a statement "The claims have not been handled properly" and criticized the rate of their disposition. Commenting on the figures in Hines' letter, she said:

"It is still very belated action and I only hope it means the program is really getting underway so the boys will get their money when they should instead of having to wait around for months."

Hines' letter said that on Dec. 1 a total of 162,444 cases had been adjudicated, with 33,742 of them allowed. Mrs. Rogers noted that this means 70,000 cases have been disallowed and said this matter should be studied.

Hines added that on Dec. 1 disability pensions were being paid to 23,057 living veterans of World War II, of whom 20,415 were injured on or after Dec. 7, 1941, the first day of the war.

Griffin Appointed As New Archbishop

LONDON.—(AP)—Pope Pius XII has appointed Rt. Rev. Bernard Griffin, 54, as Archbishop of Westminster, the Apostolic delegation in London announced today.

The prelate served in the last War in the Navy and air force and since 1939 has been auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, succeeds Cardinal Hinsley who died last March

Plan To Submit New Rail Basis

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Leaders of five railroad operating brotherhoods today completed the draft of a counter-proposal for settling their wage dispute and averting a strike called for Dec. 30.

These brotherhoods, which originally asked a minimum increase of 21 a day (equal this to 24 cents an eight cents an hour) in the counter-proposal, but added demands for paid vacations, overtime after 40 hours for yardmen, and away-from-home expenses for roadman.

The overtime plan would add $3.91 a week to the top brackets yardmen. Roadmen estimate their away-from-home expenses average as high as $25 a month.

Plans were made to submit the new proposed basis for settlement to President Roosevelt, as mediator of the dispute, as soon as the White House would receive a delegation.

NO INTERVENTION

Fifteen other brotherhoods representing more than a million non-operating rail employees have joined the operating unions in calling a strike for Dec. 30, but up until early this afternoon there had been no Government intervention in the "non-op" case.

Mayor Fiorella La Guardia of New York conferred here during the day with leaders of both the operating and non-operating unions to survey the possibility of maintaining supplies of essential food and fuel for his city in the event the threatened rail strike materializes.

The "non-op" strike call went out yesterday as the White House attempted to avert a rail transportation tie-up.

As conferences went forward to keep 350,000 operating employees on the job, the leaders of an even larger segment of rail workers—the 1,100,000 who perform the office, shop and track work—set Dec. 30 as the deadline for meeting their wage demands.

REJECT PLAN

The operating groups last night rejected a plan but forward by President Roosevelt which would have given them a 4-cent hourly increase in the form of overtime pay or expenses, in addition to the straight 4-cent rate increase recommended by an emergency board.

The operating Brotherhoods would settle for the supplementary 4 cents (a total of 8 cents) as a straight rate increase, one official said, but to

See STRIKE AGAIN on page 7

Strike Again At Germany

LONDON—(AP)—For the fifth time in two weeks American heavy bombers supported by fighters ranged into northwestern Germany in daylight today while a constant stream of medium and light bombers poured across the channel for the third straight day headed for mysterious targets in northern France.

The big bombers of the 8th U. S. Air Force, after a one-day layoff, headed right back for the same section where on Monday 500 bombers attacked Bremen, submarine and shipbuilding center. It appeared new evidence of the intention to neutralize the effectiveness of this region to the Nazi war effort.

OFFENSIVE ROLLS ON

It was the seventh heavy operation of the month for the Americans and kept rolling the great day and night offensive which opened Monday.

In addition, wave on wave of Allied bombers swept out in what looked like one of the greatest sustained cross-channel assaults of the year toward the Pas De Calais region, presumably to attack the same targets which have been hit successive blows in the two preceding days and which have been described only as military installations. Neutral reports have suggested that the Germans may have extensive rocket gun emplacements in that French area.

All morning and during most of the afternoon big formations of medium and light bombers, escorted by masses of fighters, winged through the brilliant sunshine across Dover Strait, returning on average 30 minutes later.

Today's activity followed a series of blows by RAF Mosquito bombers against unspecified targets in western Germany last night.

The latest Mosquito blow was

See PLAN TO OFFER on page 7

Partisans Attacking

LONDON — (AP) — Marshal Josip Broz (Tito) Partisan Army of liberation, battling German and collaborationist forces twice its size, has taken to the offensive on every sector of Yugoslavia's irregular battle front, a communique from the Yugoslav Army of Liberation announced today.

The German forces, spearheaded by the German 373rd Division, struck back with large-scale assaults in Croatia, in an effort to regain the initiative, the war bulletin disclosed, but Tito's 7th Patriot Division decisively thwarted the enemy thrusts.

HITLER LOSSES

With Yugoslavia developing into a battlefront of broadening scope, a recapitulation of Hitler's losses in his efforts to clear his Balkan flank shows that he had 40,000 casualties in October and November alone. These figures were given in a Moscow broadcast, which said the casualties included 16,000 killed and 11,000 prisoners.

German broadcasts heard in Cairo claimed the capture last Sunday of the Bosnian town of Jajce, described as Tito's headquarters. The report said Tito and his Government were in flight. There was no confirmation of this enemy report.

A transocean dispatch, also broadcast by Berlin, took cognizance of the considerable amount of war material being ferried across the Adriatic from Italy to the Partisans when it reported that Hitler's puppet forces in eastern Bosnia had captured 27 tanks and two anti-tank guns from Tito's forces.

The dispatch listed Tito's losses since the opening of the present Bosnian campaign as 2,238 killed, 4,000 wounded and 2,600 captured. Croat (Nazi) units in the same period lost 105 killed, 2,335 wounded and seven missing, the dispatch added.

Japs Make Claim of Allied Ship Sinkings

LONDON—(AP)—The Tokyo radio broadcast an Imperial Headquarters communique today asserting that Japanese aircraft had sunk nine Allied transports and two cruisers in an attack yesterday on a convoy off Cape Merkus, New Britain.

The broadcast, recorded here by the Associated Press, was not confirmed by Allied quarters.

Auto License Penalty Goes On After Jan. 31

RALEIGH.—(AP)— Automobile license plates for 1944 may be purchased through Jan. 31 without penalty, T. Bedford Wall, motor vehicles commissioner, said today in referring to an act of the General Assembly which imposes for 30 days the penalty for using current plates.

Threats Of Injury To Allied War Prisoners Come Out Of Germany

By W. W. HERCHER

LONDON—(AP)—Dark threats of reprisal against Allied war prisoners came flying out of Germany today as Nazi propagandists worked up indignation against the Kharkov trials and Paul Joseph Goebbels called British and American aviators "huns of the air."

DNB, the official German news agency, said in a broadcast statement on the Soviet trials that Nazi military courts would "soon deal with those British and American prisoners who are guilty of a serious breach of international law."

Goebbels told Berlin police and air raid protection officials that further attacks on the German capital must be expected but that "this day our overcrowding anti-aircraft defenses and future retaliation will make an end to the activities of the huns of the air."

Ugly hints of measures to be taken against captured airmen were closely connected with a German press campaign against American fliers imprisoned after the Nov. 26 raid on Bremen and accused of having "Murder Inc." written on their uniforms.

A Berlin dispatch to the Swiss newspaper Neue Zuricher Zeitung claimed that the planes of an entire squadron were so lettered and that another squadron called itself "Home Blockusters."

This referred to the practice of American airmen giving their bombers names often facetious, such as "Suzy Q", "Whodat" and "Wabbit Twacks."

"GANGSTER" CHARGE

The bombed and battered Nazis are screeching that the names of some of the planes prove that gangsters control the American Air Force.

In selling on the Kharkov trials for further justification of German Brutality, a Nazi Foreign Office spokesman claimed the trials were agreed upon in principle at the Teheran conference, so the "British and Americans share the responsibility," Swedish press reports said.

DNB's official statement specifically accused President Roosevelt and Prime Mitister Churchill of

See THREATEN on page 7

The News Will Publish On Christmas Day

The Charlotte News, as has been its custom since Pearl Harbor, will publish on Saturday, Dec. 25. In peacetime it was the custom of The News to suspend publication on Christmas Day but under wartime circumstances editions are issued every week day in the year. A small staff will handle the Christmas Day editions and a special effort is being made to enable all employees with small children to have the day off. Those who work on Christmas Day will have a holiday on New Year's Day.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and colder tonight, lowest temperature about 28; Thursday, partly cloudy and continued cold.

Today's Temperatures:

3:30 P. M., 39	L. 36
Sunset Today	5:16
Sunrise Tomorrow	6:35

Eisenhower Considered No. One Choice To Lead The Invasion

By WILLIAM SMITH WHITE

LONDON—(AP)—Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower under present circumstances—always subject to change—is now believed leading the field for the job of Allied commander-in-chief for the western invasion. This would leave the developing campaign for the Mediterranean theater generally in British hands.

The victor of North Africa and Sicily has come to the forefront despite earlier and unquestionably accurate reports that Gen. George C. Marshall had initially been picked for the great command.

The impression here is that both had been found acceptable by supreme Allied leaders at the Teheran conference, but that since then American considerations have raised Eisenhower to the No. 1 choice.

It now appears Prime Minister Churchill's illness may be delaying the final agreement on the selection.

In the beginning Eisenhower's prospects seemed to suffer from some fear that his appointment would create an impression—however false—that the Italian and Mediterranean war would be wholly subordinated.

Against this objection these considerations now are offered:

HAROLD ALEXANDER

1. Some British general such as Sir Bernard L. Montgomery, veteran of years of action in that theater and always closely associated with Eisenhower and his methods, could take over with a minimum disruption of plans.

2. In Italy and in the Mediterranean generally the preponderance of Allied forces—both aground and at sea—is British.

3. It has been widely said here that after the first shock of the Allied western landings the armies on the west front are going to be predominantly American.

4. The Mediterranean, in the long view, with the preoccupation of British those of American and by a variety of circumstances is likely to become more and more a British show as Soviet power grows.