THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Final

ESTABLISHED 1888 — CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1944 — 26 Pages—Price Five Cents

RAF BLASTS NAZI AIR CENTER

REDS PURSUE DISORGANIZED NAZIS

MacArthur May Want To Become President

By Raymond Clapper

SOMEWHERE IN AUSTRALIA — General Douglas MacArthur is a cameraman's delight, but he would be better off if he never faced a lens again. In public life there are two kinds of men who suffer from news photography. There are the non-photogenic, like Alf Landon, who are always caught with silly grins. And there are the superphotogenic like General MacArthur, who can't help showing up like a collar ad.

CLAPPER

Some of MacArthur's intimates think the glamour that has been associated with him is in good part a figment of the imagination, conjured up by the accident of a super-duper camera profile. Actually the General lives a quiet family life here. He is seldom seen in public, and never seen at cocktail parties. He does very little entertaining. He is a sedate, serious, intent worker. He is by far the most colorful figure of the war in the popular mind, but those around him consider him much less of a showman than most of us in the States do.

General MacArthur spends part of the time at his rear headquarters in Australia, and part at forward headquarters in New Guinea, where he goes when action is under way. Then he returns to the rear base to plan the next operation. His office here is on the top floor of a modern office building, something like the Munsey Building in Washington. His staff occupies most of the building, with two floors assigned to a naval staff under Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kinkaid.

Civilians have an erroneous idea of a modern military headquarters, which is usually not in tents but in vast offices in a big city. It is like the headquarters of a steel corporation in New York, with planta out in the field. In Africa Gen. Eisenhower had offices and staff headquarters in a large hotel, others of his staff using a big office building. In London, headquarters of the European Theater of Operations are in a big modern apartment building remodeled for offices. Gen. MacArthur's office here is about like that of a corporation president. It has standard mahogany office furniture, several easy chairs, a leather divan.

The only decorations are two engravings of George Washington and one of Lincoln. There is no military atmosphere. There are no trophies, flags, decorations or gadgets. MacArthur's uniform is the

See THE GENERAL on page 4

French Push Two More Miles In Drive On Cassino

Village of Acquafondata Captured—Position of Americans Strengthened

By EDWARD KENNEDY

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS — (AP) — French troops, staving off five German counter-attacks in fierce fighting on the right wing of the Fifth Army front in Italy, have pushed forward two more miles toward Cassino, it was announced today, capturing the village of Acquafondata and three important heights in its vicinity.

Pressure by the French forces under Gen. Alphonse Juin was applied over a considerable length along their mountain line in the general area northwest of Cassino and greatly strengthened the flank of the Americans driving toward that stronghold 70 miles from Rome.

The advance of the French put the Allies in a commanding position on heights entirely surrounding the village of Villecuso, which now apparently was in Allied control.

(The Berlin radio announced yesterday that the Germans had evacuated Acquafondata, which is approximately seven miles northeast of Cassino.)

All the heights taken by the French were over 2,000 feet.

Mt. Ferro, the most advanced of the three, is two miles northwest of Acquafondata and directly overlooking the village of Villecuso, which is about six miles north and slightly east of Cassino.

They also took Mt. Pocano, two miles—southwest—of Acquafondata and Mt. Pile, two miles northwest of Villecuso.

NAZI COUNTER-BLOW

The fiercest of the German coun-

See FRENCH on page 9

Push Within 70 Miles Of Kovel Base

Other Red Forces Head For Pinsk

By HENRY C. CASSIDY

MOSCOW — (AP) — Russian troops pursuing a badly-disorganized Germany army over a large sector west of the Horyn River beyond Sarny have driven within 70 miles of the big communications base of Kovel (in old Poland), front dispatches declared today.

To the north, a White Russian Army offensive battering into the Pripet Marshes toward Pinsk 115 miles away has smashed the backbone of Nazi defenses, Red Star asserted, and Gen. Konstantin Rokossovsky's troops are pouring through the broken enemy line.

VAST ORDER

The army newspaper said the German High Command vainly had ordered a line held between the Sluch and Horyn Rivers, but Ken. Nikolai Vatutin's Ukrainian forces battered through and the Germans probably will attempt another stand in the Styr River running 35 to 35 miles west of the Horyn, or between the Styr and Stochod River, only twenty miles east of Kovel.

Moscow radio said the Nazis did not even have time to blow up or mine bridges.

Soviet units that seized Stepan eighteen miles southwest of Sarny were driving down behind Rovno, 35 miles south, which was reported becoming badly outflanked.

Rokossovsky's five-day-old offensive hammered into the Pripet marshes on a 30-mile front beyond fallen Mosyr and Kalinkovichi with extraordinary artillery support after breaking one of the strongest lines the enemy has yet established.

In one seven-mile sector the Germans had built in depth defenses of four trenches, 27 artillery points, 37 heavy machine-gun nests, and many mortars and mines.

Red Star said Soviet troops had crossed the Ipps River thirteen miles west of Kalinkovichi, and "Ki troops and cavalry dashed after the Germans and tabled real areas. Swift cavalry strokes through the swamps surprised Nazi positions, it said, and Red Army soldiers hopped out windows to fight underwear.

MANY RUMANIANS DIE

Moscow radio said the Germans appeared bewildered by the stunning Red Army blows in the Pripet area Rumanians were dying in great numbers, it said.

The Moscow broadcast also had reached Shirjaev, twenty miles beyond Mosyr and 115 miles from Pinsk, the industrial river city.

Report North Russia Drive

LONDON — (AP) — The German High Command announced today that Russian forces had launched a new offensive "north of Lake Ilmen."

Lake Ilmen is about 150 miles south of Leningrad on the long-dormant northern front.

The announcement came as not confirmed by the Russians.

The German communique said that the Russians were attacking also with "major forces" in the Oranienbaum sector, which is on the Gulf of Finland about twenty miles due west of Leningrad, and northwest and north of Nevel as well as north of Lake Ilmen.

Nevel lies almost 300 miles below Leningrad, indicating that Russian forces may have gone over to the offensive at several points along 300 miles of the far northern front.

Admiral Halsey's Victory Formula

GREENVILLE, Del. — (AP) — Admiral William F. Halsey has a formula for victory.

"First polish off the Huns, then we'll get the equipment we need to polish off the yellow monkeys," the South Pacific commander, back on leave, said at a press conference at the home of his sister, Mrs. Preston Lea Sprnance.

A reporter asked whether the Japs are "tough" and Halsey replied:

"When they're well-fed and well-armed, they're tough like any other rat. When they're not well-fed and well-kicked me out when they learned the Army had washed me out."

TO CANADA

He spent a little time in the Canadian Air Force, but bounced back across the border as soon as the United States got into the war. He went to a radio school at Scott Field, Ill., as an enlisted man. After becoming an officer he piloted for four months in Hollywood, then asked for overseas duty "because I felt that I needed a rest and that was the only way I could get it."

His real reason was that he was tired of being an admiral. So now, after thirteen months overseas, what is he?

"I'm an adjutant again," he said, "but I'm reconciled now."

He is also supply officer and director of photography for the combat camera unit. He has been on four raids himself.

Clark remains an unreconstructed rebel. He describes any raiding

BOMBARDIER—Veteran of nineteen raids over enemy-occupied Europe, Lt. Arnold C. Swain of Asheville, N. C., sits in his B-26 bombardier compartment ready for the take-off on still another Marauder attack on German military objectives.

Total Evacuation Of Sofia Ordered

LONDON — (AP) — The Bulgarian Government has ordered immediate total evacuation of Sofia's 300,000 citizens as a result of the heavy Allied air blows against the capital, the German radio announced last night.

Dispatches from Istanbul quoted travelers as saying the center of the city was almost knocked out by the American-British day and night attacks this week. The German Marine Headquarters and the Hotel Slavianska Besseda, housing most of the German staff, were reported destroyed.

The German broadcast said most of the evacuees would be accommodated in the provinces and added that other large towns in Bulgaria also were to be evacuated.

The Bulgarian home radio broadcast an order of the day by Interior Minister Docho Christoff which threatened the perpetrators of Sofia's bombing with prosecution if they did not report for duty in the capital within 24 hours. The broadcast revealed U. S. Government munitions, said the city's bank and motor repair shops were also ordered to reopen immediately.

DEATH AFTER LOOTING

The death penalty has been ordered for looting and a curfew

See ORDER SOFIA on page 9

Jap Bases Pounded

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea—(AP)—Japanese tropical faland bases in an almost unbroken chain of 3,000 miles from Borneo to Bougainville were llated today as having felt the wrath of bombs and bullets from far-ranging Allied planes.

Bomber formations, night patrols and reconnaissance units helped chart one of the most extensive operations reported in several weeks.

From end to end of the long line, Gen MacArthur's communique told of fires and explosions among such enemy warning facilities as a big oil refinery, a 7,000-ton cargo ship, plates, airdromes, barges, sup-

See NIPPON BASES on page 9

Peru Nips Plot; Japs And Germans Held

LIMA, Peru—(AP)—The Peruvian Government announced today that a number of conspirators including Germans and Japanese plotting a New Year's Pro-Nazi Coup had been detained and would be deported, while others had been notified to leave the country.

The Government charged that the conspirators had staged anti-Jewish outbreaks on the day before New Year's, planning to cloak their subversive activities in the subsequent disorder.

This apparently explained reports, which never were confirmed, that disturbances had also occurred in Southern Peru. These reports evidently had been started by the conspirators.

The Government said it had taken police measures and quelled all "disorderly inititative."

A Government statement said that aliens in the country had gone "so far as to fix and join called committees to establish anti-democratic regimes in certain American countries."

The statement added that "confidential data received from abroad which was spontaneously made known to us" indicated "quite a concrete, detailed plan was prepared for disturbances that would break out on the afternoon of Dec. 31, 1943, following the well-known Nazi system of simultaneous popular outbreaks and attacks on shops owned by Jews."

The Government added that subversive elements had "tried to start disorders in Lima and other provincial capitals and therefore their followers launched the rumor that dis-orders had occurred in Southern Peru."

Unleashes Big Bomb Assault On Brunswick

Aerial Offensive Swung Into Round-The-Clock Attack Again

LONDON—(AP)—RAF heavy bombers blasted Brunswick, airplane manufacturing city in central Germany, with 2,000 long tons of bombs last night in 23 minutes, setting a new record for bomb concentration of 87 tons per minute.

This heavy follow-up to last Tuesday's daylight onslaught by American heavyweights was delivered as Mosquito bombers returned again to assault Berlin and other planes hit the industrial city of Magdeburg to the southwest and targets in northern France. Thirty-eight planes were lost in the operations.

The concentration on Brunswick exceeded the previous record of 83 1/3 tons per minute attained in the 2,500-ton raid on Hannover Sept. 22.

Great fires were left raging in Brunswick.

The overnight blow at Nazi defense fighters swung the Allied aerial offensive into a round-the-clock attack again, following by only a few hours a day-long assault on military targets in Northern France by strong formations of American Liberators and Flying Fortresses, medium Marauders, and Allied medium and light bombers, fighter-bombers and swarms of fighters.

ALLIED LOSSES

Nine enemy craft were destroyed in the daylight raid by the American heavy bombers, and eighteen more by their fighter escorts, and by Allied medium and light bombers and their escorts. Allied losses in yesterday's daylight operations were sixteen planes, three of them heavies.

Yesterday's daylight attacks against the so-called "rocket-gun coast" called last action in the neighborhood of 1,600 Allied planes. Last night's twin blows by the heavy bombers and the Mosquitos made the fourth notable United Nations air assault against the Germans within 24 hours.

RUSSIANS HIT CONVOY

One hundred of Russian bombers entered the assault yesterday, attacking a German Black Sea convoy, and far-ranging RAF planes swooped down on more Nazi shipping off Norway, torpedoing two vessels.

Brunswick, a city of 200,000 population which lies 100 miles east of Berlin, was last hit by the RAF's night raiders on Sept. 27. Its airplane works and plants turning out artillery, motorcycles, tractors and railway equipment were targets of the powerful Tuesday assault by American bombers which also carried the heavy craft over Oschersleben, Halberstadt, Bielefeld and Meppen.

LIMITED CITY

RAF and Canadian fliers returning from another of their miracle cloudbombing jobs said Brunswick resembled a "city that wasn't blacked out," because of the many fires left raging.

"It was just like daylight," one of the fliers said. "Fires on the ground lit up the clouds and in turn the clouds lit up the skies. You could see the big bombs going off."

Magdeburg, Elbe River city about 80 miles southwest of Berlin which the RAF's Mosquitos went on to blast last night, is an important chemical and war manufacturing city.

Nazi Secret Plane Used

STOCKHOLM—(AP)—Last night's heavy RAF assault on Brunswick forced the Nazis again to put up their secret rocket-propelled fighter planes which they uncovered for the first time in Tuesday's historic American assault, the Berlin correspondent of the newspaper Aftonbladet said today.

The Nazi rocket-propelled type is similar to the mysterious plane which flew over Sweden and the rear by swiping four planes of from air sucked in from the front and then superheated and super-compressed almost to the explosive point as in the Allied type.

CLIMBS VERY FAST

The rocket power was said by the correspondent to enable the new Nazi fighter to climb four and a half miles in two minutes instead of the usual fifteen minutes.

However, only top-notch pilots were said to be able to withstand the sudden change of pressure experienced in the climb, which was described as more terrific than that undergone by dive-bomber pilots.

It was reported also that the Nazis are building a new type of automatic machine-gun which continues to fire on the target after the gunner is killed or wounded. It was described as having a rate of fire much faster than anything now used.

A traveller from Halberstadt, one of the targets hit in the Tuesday American raid on central Germany, said the city was under attack for 45 minutes, when between 60 and 70 per cent of the factory producing Nazi fighters and planes was wrecked and other manufacturing machine-guns for the fighters were badly damaged.

Say U. S. Reports Of Nazi Losses Much Exaggerated

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

The German High Command asserted today that the U. S. Air Force was "continuously publishing greatly exaggerated figures" on the number of German fighters shot down during the American raids on the Reich.

In a supplement to the German communique broadcast from Berlin and recorded by the Associated Press, the Nazis declared that despite American claims to have shot down a total of 384 German fighters in the Schweinfurt raid Oct. 14; the Emden attack of Dec. 12, and the Jan. 11 forays on aviation plants in central Germany, only 98 Nazi fighters were in reality lost and "more than one-third of the crews" of these were saved.

In order to minimize before the United States people the heavy losses North American terror airmen are making in their attacks on the German population," the High Command said, "the United States Air Force is continuously publishing greatly exaggerated figures on German fighters shot down."

USAAF Headquarters in London had announced that 198 German fighters were destroyed in the Schweinfurt, 138 at Emden and 152 last Tuesday over central Germany.

Earthquake Bursts Dam At Lake In Sweden

LONDON—(AP)—A German broadcast heard today by the Associated Press said an earthquake had burst a dam at a lake near Filipstad in south-western Sweden. No casualties were mentioned.

Mid-Pacific Raids Harass Nipponese

By WILLIAM L. WORDEN

HICKAM FIELD, HAWAII, Jan. 14—(Delayed)—(AP)—Maj. Gen. Willis H. Hale told today of widespread damage among Japanese island airfields in the central Pacific in cumulative raids carried out by the Seventh U. S. Army Air Force.

Of nine enemy bases apparently singled out for attack two suffered 50 per cent destruction of their airfields. Sixty per cent destruction was achieved on a third airbase. Lesser damage was ranged among the others, in addition to two fields subsequently captured by land forces in the Gilberts campaign last November.

Gen. Hale, commander of the Seventh AAF, referred to the destruction as "neutralization", by which he said he meant the smashing of principal airdrome installations. He added that it didn't mean they couldn't still be used as staging bases temporarily.

FLY MANY MILES

In an interview, he said his bombers had flown 1,300,000 miles in hitting bases at Tarawa and Makin in the Gilberts, now in American hands; Jaluit, Kwajalein, Wotje, Eniwetok, Maloelap and Mili, all in the Marshalls, and Ponna 500 miles west of the Gilberts. Fighters went an additional 152,000 miles smashing at nearer bases.

Bombers on 59 missions met 418 enemy planes and destroyed 119 of them in the air and on the ground, with 76 more listed as probables. Their flights averaged 2,431 statute miles, including stopoffs for refueling at intermediate bases. Fighters averaged between 450 and 500 miles on their missions.

Gen. Hale said the Air Force destruction had been so complete on some islands, notably Mili, that the Japanese stopped trying to defend it with Zeros, although the raiders still met anti-aircraft fire.

He expressed belief that the

See MID-PACIFIC on page 9

Pole Reply Is Hailed

LONDON — (AP) — British official quarters and the London press today hailed the Polish Government-in-exile's reply to Russia's boundary offer as heightening the chances for settlement of this sorest of United Nations' problems.

The Poles, in an official statement early today neither accepted nor rejected the Soviet Union's offer of the "Curzon Line" as a possible Russian - Polish frontier but called upon the United States and Britain to bring them and the Russians together to discuss all outstanding questions.

BRITISH WILLING

The British Government was reported as now more willing to lend aid as an intermediary, especially to restore Soviet-Polish relations to co-ordinate the Polish underground with the Red Army's drive.

(The U. S. State Department announced in Washington that it had received and was giving immediate attention to the Polish request.)

The diplomatic correspondent of the London Times said that Britain as well as Russia had accepted the Poles their borders would be extended westward as compensation for the Soviets' Curzon Line proposal, which would leave Russia with the bulk of the Ukrainian and White Russian territory incorporated into the Soviet Union in 1939.

Nazis Near Sarajevo

LONDON — (AP) — German troops have smashed down the Vrbas River Valley from Banja Luka to within 45 miles of Sarajevo, capital of Bosnia in Yugoslavia, but have suffered heavy losses in Eastern Bosnia, Marshal Josip Broz (Tito) reported today.

Nazi columns captured the Vrbas River towns of Bugojno and Gornji Vakuf, the latter 54 miles west of the Bosnian capital, despite continuing hard fighting, the Yugoslav Partisans, Tito's communique, broadcast by the free Yugoslav radio said.

Sarajevo is 87 miles southeast of Banja Luka, rail junction from which the Germans began their drive through Central Bosnia.

Other German columns captured the town of Prijavor, twelve miles south of Banja Luka. They are meeting bitter resistance, however, near the town of Kotor Varos, ten miles farther south, where the Partisans are constantly attacking their lines of communication. A German column was reported between Banja Luka and the town of Cadjavich.

PARTISAN DRIVE

Partisans were on the offensive in Eastern Bosnia according to Tito's bulletin, and captured the

See NAZIS CLOSER on page 9

Hefty Combat Cameraman Has Yen To Be Alabama Governor

By HAL BOYLE

AN AMERICAN AIR BASE IN ITALY, Jan. 6—(Delayed)—(AP)—Captain Victor E. Clark Jr., of Selma, Ala., was just a growing boy back in 1937 when he won the 4-H Club national health championship in Chicago. He was an all-state high school football tackle and he tipped the beam at 160 pounds.

BOYLE

The Captain is still just as husky—he only checked a bit now he weighs almost half as much as one of the 500 pound bombs he straddles during raids while taking pictures as a combat cameraman.

Life overseas has added a full 80-pounds to the girth of the native Alabamian, but it hasn't interfered with his ambition to become Alabama's youngest Governor.

"I'm already getting my political machine organized back home and I'm going to run the race on as soon as the war's over," he said. "Clark Gable is going to come over from Hollywood and be my campaign manager."

Clark helped Gable learn the ropes when the movie star was in officers candidate school at Miami Beach, Fla.

"He was a wonderful guy to work with," the Captain recalled, "but he had a movie mind—learn it easy and forget it. It took him some time to get accustomed to learning something and then remembering it."

Alabama's Governor-to-be has had an involved military career. He washed out of an Army navigators' school because he lacked the necessary mathematics.

"Kids" Man Nip Planes

Sharp Rise In Jap Air Losses Underlines Halsey, Tojo Words

By RALPH H. HEPPE

Associated Press War Editor

Japan, through her Premier and the record of her air force, confirms the comment of Admiral William F. Halsey that pre-war Japanese pilots are "kids who don't know what it is all about."

Tabulations of warplane losses, reported by official Allied communiques covering action in the Pacific, acclaim the truth of the statement by the fighting Admiral, commander in the South Pacific, at a press conference in Washington this week.

Premier Hideki Tojo has been on call on Japan for speedier production of warplanes to meet an "extremely fierce" war situation. He was quoted to that effect only Friday by the Tokyo radio.

In the last quarter of 1943, the tabulations show, the Nipponese lost in aerial combat about eight planes to every Allied aircraft destroyed. That was a sharp increase from the third quarter when the ratio was approximately 5.8 enemy planes to one Allied. The official communiques reported 2,594 Japanese planes in the last half of 1943. The total of Allied losses was 378.

In the third quarter of last year the loss ratio fluctuated from month to month, apparently affected by the particular air action in which Allied Air Forces were engaged at the time. Most favorable ratio was in August, when seven Japanese planes fell in combat for every Allied aircraft lost. In September it had dropped to 5 to 1, apparently due to determined Japanese opposition to the heavy attacks to break up the enemy's air concentrations

WEATHER

Cloudy and slightly colder tonight. Sunday mostly cloudy and continued rather cold.

Today's Temperatures
1:30 P. M. 37
Highest Today 37
Lowest Tonight 22
Sunrise Tomorrow