THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Final

ESTABLISHED 1888 — CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1944 — 14 Pages—Price Five Cents

ALLIED BEACHHEAD EXTENDED; NAZIS STRIKE IN CASSINO AREA

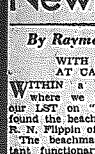
Morale Is Good Over In NewBritain

By Raymond Clapper

WITH THE MARINES AT CAPE GLOUCESTER

WITHIN a hundred feet of where we went ashore from our LST on "Yellow Beach" we found the beachmaster, Lt. Comdr. R. N. Flippin of Montclair, N. J.

The beachmaster is an important functionary in amphibious warfare — a super traffic officer who controls the landing spot and directs vehicles as they come ashore to the proper areas. His job is something like that of the control tower of an airport, only it is vastly more complicated in that he must have sufficient shore transportation on hand, and crews, to insure quick unloading. For ships can't be held long on the beach, there they are sitting ducks for enemy bombers. In fact, an alert forced our LST to pull out with 50 or more truckloads of bulk cargo, such as tents and cases of rations, still unloaded.



CLAPPER

Some of our men on the beach said they had had no mail for two months. One said that in Australia he got mail every week but that now he'd received nothing since a letter written Nov. 2. Some Christmas mail for this area was lost by enemy action en route.

Beachmaster Flippin found us a jeep to ride in to the Marine command post. We crossed a temporary log bridge over which was a sign post saying this was River No. 1. Few places here have names. We are making our own map designations for easy reference, such as Hill 660, which represents the height of that particular hill.

It rained a couple of times while we were riding to the command post, and several times more later in the day after which Col. E. A. Pollock,

See VETERANS on page 4

Nazi Bridgehead Is Wiped Out By Russian Forces

Drive Threatens To Cut Another Vital German Rail Line

By HENRY C. CASSIDY

MOSCOW—(AP)—Sweeping along both banks of the Volkhov River after wiping out a German bridgehead on the east bank, the Red Army was within ten miles of Chudovo today in a drive which threatened to cut still another vital enemy rail line below Leningrad.

The Germans, whose communications are being systematically chopped up in various parts of the Leningrad front, still hold a narrow stretch of this line—the main Moscow-Leningrad line — between Chudovo and Tosno. Chudovo is about 75 miles southeast of Leningrad on the west side of the Volkhov River.

At the same time, Russian troops directly menaced the key rail junction of Tosno by advancing through Pustinka, ten miles southwest of MGA and a Soviet communique said the Germans were retreating in disorder from the tip of the Tosno salient.

The bulletin also told of continuing Russian successes in lower White Russia, declaring that the drive through the Pripet marshes already had passed Simonovichi, 53 miles west of Mozyr.

(Swedish dispatches from Berlin, however, reported only routine patrol activity.

On another unverified report, a Berlin broadcast said heavy fighting was going on southeast of Kerch in the Crimea after Russian forces landed and drove inland. The broadcast said the new landing came simultaneously with attacks by other Russian forces which already had established a bridgehead northeast of Kerch.)

The Russian communique said Soviet forces advancing southwest of Leningrad in the Krasnoye Selo area drove the Germans out of several localities, including Akalovo, ten miles west of Krasnogvardeisk, and only five miles from a Nazi stronghold in that area. They also launched a surprise offensive on the far - northern Finnish front about 150 miles southeast of Petsamo. The Finnish communi-

See CAPTURE NAZI on page 2

LONDON —(AP)— Moscow announced tonight the Red Army has captured Pushkin in the Leningrad sector.

AFL Turns Down Lewis Entry Terms

Door Not Closed Yet, However

MIAMI, Fla.—(AP)—The American Federation of Labor Executive Council today rejected John L. Lewis' terms for readmission of his United Mine Workers into the Federation, and offered to take the miners back only on the same status under which they were members until 1936.

Although the Council's proposal would limit Lewis' jurisdiction to the coal mining industry, it did not necessarily close the door to further negotiations on the question of the UMW's District 50, which includes miscellaneous crafts.

An AFL committee was instructed to meet again with the miners if Lewis is willing.

PROGRESS MADE

President William Green said he believed some progress had been made, but he declined further interpretation.

Lewis' terms had been "take us as we are."

He had assured Council members, however, he would abide by their jurisdictional decisions except as to chemical workers, whom he proposed keeping.

The Council issued this formal statement:

"The Executive Council has considered the report of its committee, the letter submitted by President Lewis, and the application of the United Mine Workers of America for re-affiliation with the American Federation of Labor in a sympathetic way.

"The Council proposes that the United Mine Workers return with the jurisdiction they had when they left the AFL.

"The Council instructs its committee to again meet with a committee representing the United Mine Workers of America for the purpose of clarifying all questions that have not been settled."

Green said the statement was adopted by the Council unanimously.

His recollection of the UMW's jurisdiction at the time of its separation from the AFL in 1936 covered mine and coke oven employees only.

Lewis was paying per capita tax to the AFL on 600,000 members that year when he was suspended for organizing the CIO. He formed District 50 later. The UMW now claims about 600,000 members.

Lewis wanted assurance that he would have jurisdiction in the chemical field after readmission to the AFL, but that would still leave unsettled the question of the AFL Progressive Mine Workers of America, which, under the AFL constitution, has exclusive jurisdiction in the mining industry.

ALLIES LEAPFROG CLOSE TO ROME—In a daring seaborne surprise move, timed to coincide with a general land offensive by the Allied Fifth Army, American and British troops leapfrogged close to Rome outflanking the powerful Nazi Gustav and Adolf Hitler lines. Thousands of Allied troops made a 2 A. M. landing against minor opposition on beaches south of the Eternal City, putting its German defenders in a dangerous position. The Allies landed above the Pontine Marshes. Today it was announced that the town of Nettuno had been captured. They control several miles of the coast both north and south of Nettuno.

Advancing On Littoria After Fall Of Nettuno

Forces Drive 4 Miles Inland

By WES GALLAGHER

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS — (AP) — American and British troops, driving four miles inland, are less than 30 miles from Rome and have brought the Appian Way under shellfire from their long beachhead above the Pontine Marshes, Allied Headquarters announced today.

A German broadcast said Allied forces were advancing from the Nettuno area toward Littoria, twelve miles east of Nettuno, and but four miles from the Appian Way. Littoria is the main center of the Pontine agricultural development in the marshes, and an Allied advance in that direction would be away from Rome instead of toward it.

But fighting with fury of a cornered tiger, the German Tenth Army has gone over to the offensive on the wole Cassino front, 60 miles to the southeast. In a series of violent day and night counter-attacks the Germans threw the Americans back across the Rapido River.

"It is apparent that the German command hopes to disrupt the entire Fifth Army front to gain time to turn around and deal with the threat in their rear," said a military commentator at Allied Headquarters.

The Americans had seized a bridgehead across the Rapido, three miles below Cassino, in conjunction with the Allied landings near

See ALLIES MOVE on page 2

LONDON — (AP) — A Berlin broadcast by International Information Bureau, a propaganda organization, said today that American reconnaissance contingents had been encountered "northwest of Nettuno" but did not indicate whether this was a new landing.

The broadcast said the invasion troops "came within range of heavy and medium German batteries and were greatly interfered with."

On the southern front in Italy, the radio added, the Allies are "launching an attack over a wide front in order to tie up German forces."

Chinese In Big Drive

NEW DELHI — (AP) — Lt. Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell's American-trained Chinese forces have captured Mingru Ga in their drive toward Taipha Ga in the Hukawng Valley of north Burma, an Allied Southeast Asia Headquarters communique announced today.

The bulletin said that a strong Japanese position in the Tavu area of the same front was also taken, despite reinforcements brought up by the enemy.

The Chinese forces have been engaged in clearing Japanese patrols from the new Ledo Road to China in their advance eastward across north Burma.

The communique also said that strong Japanese counter-attacks in the Buthidaung area of the Arakan front on the Burmese west coast had been thrown back. The Allies have been expanding their toehold here in bitter hand-to-hand fighting in a drive aimed toward the Japanese-held port of Akyab.

U. S. and RAF planes continued to blast the Japanese in various parts of Burma, the communique said.

A strong force of escorted B. S. heavy and medium bombers pounded Prome Saturday, the heavies attacking a battery emplacement while the medium concentrated on the railway yards.

In the upper Chindwin area RAF dive-bombers attacked an enemy camp while P-47 fighters strafed railroad bridges and locomotives on a line near Mogaung.

RAF fighters damaged two steamers and more than 40 other river craft in sweeps along the Irrawaddy and waterways of the Mayu Peninsula.

Australians Drive Forward In Guinea

ADVANCED ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NEW GUINEA—(AP)—Aussies who cut their tactical teeth on the problem of routing Rommel are drawing victoriously nearer Bogadjim, south door to Japan's big base of Madang, New Guinea.

Climaxing a year-long drive up Huon New Guinea from Buna, the Australian ground units which once battled Nazi Field Marshal Rommel in Africa sent the Japanese fleeing in panic from the Faria River headquarters less than 25 miles south of Bogadjim Gen. Douglas MacArthur's communique said today.

JAPS RUN FAST

Outflanked by the Aussies' vicious pincharge across quagmire and up almost perpendicular, hotly defended heights, the Japanese abandoned 100 dead in their hasty retreat.

From Bogadjim, the finest surfaced highway in the whole region offers a quick trip north to Madang, only fifteen airline miles distant.

Allied bombers and fighters which helped soften the Japanese Faria positions pounded anew at this Japanese thoroughfare, the communique said.

Meantime a great flight of Liberators pulverized much of Boepop airdrome which helps guard the foe's big shipping base at Rabaul, New Britain.

More than 35 of the big four-engined bombers hit Boepop airdrome across New Ireland north east from Rabaul. Their 95 tons of concentrated explosives left 130 craters in runways, revetments and antiaircraft positions.

Kara airdrome near Kahili on

See AUSSIES IN on page 2

Planes Fly Over Rome

By LYNN HEINZERLING

FIFTEENTH AIR FORCE BASE IN ITALY—(AP)—Big bombers and fighters of the 15th Air Force hundreds of them pursuing their imperative offensive in support of the landing operations south of Rome, struck at some 18 targets yesterday and roamed above the Italian capital at will.

The chief targets were the network of roads and railroads immediately behind the German line, and north of Rome.

Of the German planes encountered, one was shot down in a spectacular running fight at treetop level by Lt Stacy B. Rogers, fighter pilot of Morris town, N. Y.

Pilots pilots said they believed they had put two direct hits on the Pontecorvo bridge where five important roads extend behind the German front near Cassino.

Another bridge crossing the Liri River near San Giorgio, five miles southwest of Cassino, also was battered by the Fortresses, and still another, 10 miles northwest of Cassino, was wrapped in so much smoke from a pattern of bombs that the Fortress crews could not tell what happened to it.

Germans Prepare To Evacuate Rome—Fear South France Attack

MADRID—(AP)—German officials were reported streaming northward out of Rome today in an exodus preparatory to military evacuation of the city should this be made necessary by the Allied landings on the Italian coast to the south.

Diplomatic advices from Rome said the Germans already had removed their Quartermaster Corps headquarters to Florence, approximately 160 miles northwest of Rome. The communications center for the German Army command was said to have been moved back to Chiusi, 82 miles above the Eternal City.

These advices declared that the main highway leading out of Rome was filled with the cars of both German and Italian Fascist authorities and added that only military functionaries concerned with the actual defense of the city were remaining behind.

All [clep] one service between Rome and the north was reported closed both to civilians and Italian officials on order of the German military commander of the area. Neutrals were permitted to send only the briefest diplomatic dispatches from Rome.

(An Associated Press dispatch from Stockholm quoted Swedish press reports from Switzerland as saying that the new Allied amphibious attack below Rome had inspired the populace in Northern Italy to violent anti-German demonstrations. Two German officers were killed by demonstrators in Genoa, and the Nazis executed eight Italian youths in reprisal and imprisoned 20 more as hostages, these reports said.)

While it was evident that the Germans were deeply concerned over the latest developments in Italy, it also was apparent that they are nervous over the possibility that the Allies may launch their invasion of France —when it comes—with simultaneous attacks from the west and south.

Advices from Southern France indicated the Nazis were hastening to complete elaborate defense preparations all along the coast from the Pyrenee to Marseille and were taking great precautions to guard against surprise.

German motorboats and planes were said to be patrolling the coast night and day on the lookout for danger.

Meanwhile border reports said the German ambassador to Vichy had advised Marshal Petain that Hitler wanted the aged chief of state's personal assurance that he would not permit French forces to attack the Germans if the Allies invade France. Petain was said to have made no reply as yet.

U. S. Planes Hit Reich

LONDON —(AP)— United State heavy bombers, with a full escort of Thunderbolts, Lightnings, Mustangs and Spitfires, resumed their war on the Reich today and smashed at a number of military objectives in northern and western Germany, U. S. Army Headquarters announced.

One formation of Flying Fortresses went on an expedition to search out whatever targets presented themselves and wrecked an important objective in northern Germany with a salvo of several tons which left splashes of fire and smoke covering the spot.

The target, which was not specifically identified of located in official announcements, was attacked when the primary objective—also unannounced—was found too well covered with clouds to permit pinpoint bombing.

EXTRA WORK

The formation, not content to go home with the bombs still in the bays, cruised over a break in the clouds, spotted a good objective and "hit it beautifully."

Lt. Edward L. Skory, 26, Chicago, said he "saw a cluster of my bombs land right in the middle of the target and other planes laying them in the same place."

By the time the Fortresses flew away, Skory said, huge columns of smoke were drifting skyward.

"All our bombs landed right in the middle of the place and really knocked it to pieces," said Sgt. Robert J. George, 20, Hamilton, O., a ball turret gunner. "When we left we could see lots of fire and smoke."

Surprised Nazi fighter and ground defenders got into action too late to cause the bombers and their heavy escort much anxiety.

Nine Nazi fighters were the most seen at any one time, and they formed the circle of protective fighters too imposing to crack.

Previously large formations of U. S. Marauders and RAF medium bombers attacked other military objectives in northern France with

Eye-Witness Story Of Italian Landings

By BON WHITEHEAD

Associated Press Correspondent Representing the Combined American Press

AT THE FIFTH ARMY BEACHHEAD SOUTH OF ROME, Jan. 23 — (Delayed) —(AP)—Twenty-four hours in the life of a war correspondent is not particularly important to anyone but the correspondent himself—but this chronicle will give newspaper readers a glimpse of how their news is gathered in this theater of war.

As an explanation to all editors of correspondents on this show. There have been thousands of words written, but finding a means of getting them back to Naples is another matter. Courier service by air and sea is a catch-as-catch-can affair and Public Relations Officer Lt. Jack Wheiden of Brookline, Mass., has been one helluva busy man trying to find some means of getting the copy back. So far he has had no luck.

Perhaps today there will be a speed boat or plane or ship which will carry back the copy we have been unable to file by radio.

For several hours we have been going around with our mouths open in amazement over the ease with which the Army and Navy managed to land troops behind the enemy lines. I landed with the second assault wave at 2:10 A. M. but did not see a shot fired. We just walked. That's how easy it was.

AWFUL STRAIN

The nerve strain of covering an amphibious operation is terrific—not so much because of any physical danger, for that is a normal reaction, but because of the confusion and uncertainty of getting dispatches back to the cable clerk.

Any amphibious operation is a nightmare for a reporter because of the communication and transportation problem during the early days of the landing when the big rush is to get troops, guns, armor and ammunition ashore as rapidly as possible. They have priority over everything else.

After more than 24 hours ashore with the first assault troops to land behind the German lines I have been able to get only 250 words of copy out by radio. Radio seem to have a peculiar way of losing all contact with the world during a time like this when you have a big story to tell.

Correspondents attached to the Fifth Army drew lots to see who would win a place with the amphibious force. There were seven places open. I was one of the lucky ones to win a spot and I was assigned to an advance unit, as was Homer Bigart of the New York Herald Tribune. Others were placed in various spots with various headquarters to spread the coverage over all units of the invading force.

We did not know when or where we were going but we were told confidentially about the amphibious operation by which the Fifth Army hopes to "smash into the enemy's flank and thus open the road to Rome."

BRILLIANT JOB

As I write this it appears that the planners of this operation conceived a brilliant one, for it has gone better than anyone could have dreamed.

We cut our field gear to a minimum which we could carry on our backs, and then were notified to report to various units to which we were assigned.

Fate Of Rome Up To Germans

WASHINGTON —(AP)— Will the Eternal City become a bloody battleground?

The answer is up to the Germans.

As Rome was reported today within range of the Allies' big artillery, it became possible to state that the attitude of the United States and of our Allies is simply this:

What happens in Rome will depend altogether upon the Nazis. If they get out, the Allies will go around. If the Germans make a stand, in

Navy Takes Over Plants

WASHINGTON.—(AP) — President Roosevelt today directed the Navy to take over and operate the York Safe and Lock Company plants in York County, Pa., which is turning out products for both the War and Navy Departments.

The Presidential executive order stated only that the step was deemed essential in order that the plants "may be effectively operated in the manufacture of war materials", and that Government possession will end within 60 days after it is determined the plants will be operated privately "in a manner consistent with the war effort."

The Navy said the action stemmed from "unsatisfactory management conditions," and that the Navy had "formulated certain conditions which, if met, will result in return of the plant to private management."

NO LABOR TROUBLE

No labor trouble is involved, the Navy said, and existing wage and working conditions will be maintained.

The properties taken over include the company-owned plant and a new special ordinance plant built at a cost of $8,000,000 under an emergency plant facilities contract. The latter plant is devoted to production of 40 mm. gun mounts for the Navy, a type of gun, which, the Navy said, "is needed in especially large quantities for the new landing craft program." That plant, it was announced, has about $10,000,000 of unfilled Navy orders.

The company's other plants are engaged principally in Navy and Army ordnance work or Navy and Army

Says 2,000,000 May Be Disabled Following War

WASHINGTON—(AP) — Two million Americans might be disabled in this war, Millard W. Rice, service officer of the Disabled American veterans, told a Senate subcommittee today.

With 11,200,000 men and women in the armed forces this year, Rice said 450,000 would be disabled if the percentage of casualties in the first world is maintained.

Rice testified in connection with

Nazis Reckless In Making Drive For Croat Town

LONDON—(AP)—Yugoslav Partisan Headquarters announced today the Germans were recklessly throwing men and materials into a costly and bloody bid for Sesi, a Croat coastal town 35 miles south of Fiume.

Marshal Josip Broz (Tito's) headquarters communique said heavy losses were being inflicted upon the invader along an eighteen-mile front between Sesi and Otocac.

The Hungarian News Agency, in a broadcast heard by Reuters, quoted a Zagreb announcement that Sesi already had been occupied by German and Croat troops and that mopping up operations had been completed on Hvar Island farther down the coast.

The Yugoslav bulletin reported that heavy fighting continues in western Bosnia while street fighting is raging at Tuzla in Eastern Bosnia. Occupation of Gracanica and destruction of a rail line by the Yugoslav troops also were announced.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy, not quite so cool tonight; Tuesday, increasing cloudiness and slightly warmer.

Today's Temperatures:
2:30 P. M., 51 — L. 31
Sunset Today 5:43
Sunrise Tomorrow 8:27

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

A Sketch Of Boyle, Son Of The Soil—Old Hal, The Arabs' Pal

By WES GALLAGHER

(Who has forcefully taken over Hal Boyle's column for today.)

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Algiers, Jan. 19—(Delayed)—(AP)—The regular owner of this column, Harold Vercingetorix Boyle, does not know that this is being written.

We of the Mediterranean Associated Press staff thought that the readers of "Leaves from a War Correspondent's Notebook" might like to know something about the author.

We offered to be guest columnists, but the suspicious Mr. Boyle would have noticed of it, so when he left headquarters this time we decided to slip this column in without his knowing it.

Boyle is a roly poly (he wouldn't like that) Irishman with Boston Tea Party tendencies from Kansas City. He has an unshaken faith in the American infantry and its idea of an ideal army is one with millions and millions of infantry, a couple of big guns and one airplane. He would give his column "tone and dignity". He has bitterly rejected these helpful suggestions.

He was not put out that no one on the staff appeared to know what his middle name stood for. Finally Chief of Bureau Ed Kennedy volunteered the information that Vercingetorix was a Gaul chieftain who gave Caesar considerable trouble in 45 B. C. until the Roman general knocked Vercingetorix' army end over teakettle.

AN IRISHER

Boyle is a Irishman with Boston Tea Party tendencies from Kansas City. He has an unshaken faith in the American infantry and its idea of an ideal army is one with millions and millions of infantry, a couple of big guns and one airplane.

any correspondent in the Mediterranean and has tried to include as many in his stories as he can find space for, complete with home town. He is always driving other correspondents crazy by insisting on getting the home address of every soldier. He sees a story in every private. The higher a soldier's rank, the less interest he has in him.

He has practically no interest in generals and even less in grand strategy.

The only expertise he does on the war is devoted to violent criticism of staff plans when soldiers at the front fail to receive warm clothing and adequate food during battle.

ONE OF THOSE PEOPLE