

YANKS SEIZE PEAK DOMINATING GERMANS

Squeeze On 45,000 Japs Is Tightened

3 Miles Gained In Drive On Port

By C. YATES McDANIEL

GENERAL MacARTHUR'S HEADQUARTERS, PHILIPPINES (AP)—A 2,000-foot peak overlooking the bloody Ormoc corridor battle-ground was in American hands today as the determined Yanks tightened their squeeze on probably 45,000 hilltopping Japanese in the climactic fight for Lete Island.

While Ormoc itself was dealt an effective 62-ton bombing, infantry units of the 4th Infantry Division pushing north that last enemy reinforcement port gained three miles on route to capture strategic Mt. Catabunan yesterday.

"GOOD PROGRAM"

Along the main Cebuana Bay-Ormoc Road, the main column of the 24th, aided by strong tanks and an support made "good progress" toward the Japanese-held Mt. Douglas MacArthur reported today.

Gen. Tomoyuki Yamashita's reinforced troops continued their attempts to break the American pressure but a headquarters spokesman said the Yanks still held both Mt. Malibon and the preponderance of numbers.

No more enemy reinforcements were reported today. The Japanese lost six divisions, four transport, thirteen planes and most of 10,000 troops Saturday as American carrier planes wiped out a landing. It was estimated that 45,000 troops in the Ormoc area, however.

American positions through the Ormoc Corridor, the Ormoc sector were so staggered the headquarters map looked like a Christmas tree when painted with colored ink.

FRANCE JAP POCKET

Southern of France with Division 10th, First Cavalry troops were meeting increasing resistance on the Pith valley. Tanks and mortar fire helped eradicate enemy positions on both sides of the ridge.

Remaining pockets of German troops were being pushed toward the coast. MacArthur reported the port on Leyte island has been held repeatedly by American troops.

Two-Minute News Roundup

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Western Front

Yanks of Gen. George Patton's First Army moved into an offensive line northward. The captured standard is Fort Vaux, a strategic point in the hands of the Fifth Infantry. Patton's headquarters on the front is in a position which broadens the front to five miles. The front is 100 miles long.

The Home Front

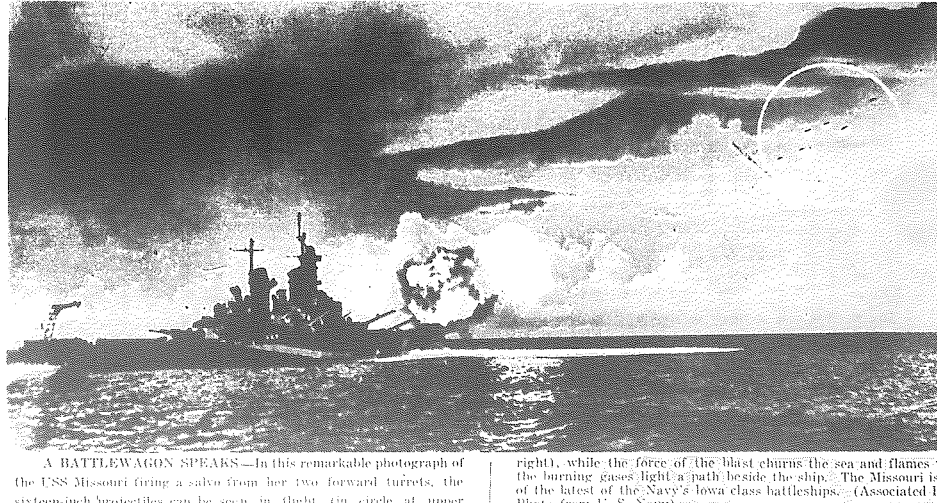
A trio of public members of the War Labor Board has asked President Roosevelt to be relieved of his duties. The board is now in session in New York.

Italy

Italy's Army captured the major town of the front line in the mountains. The capture of the town is a significant step in the Italian campaign.

The Far East

The story of how a last-minute change in plans moved the Leyte Division many days to the first of the return from the Central Philippines. An American ground force observed, Col. Alfred Rector of Nevada City, Calif., says an enemy force of 100,000 men was reported by Van when plans were made by General William H. Hays.



A BATTLEWAGON SPEAKS—In this remarkable photograph of the USS Missouri firing a salvo from her two forward turrets, the sixteen-inch projectiles can be seen in flight (in circle at upper right), while the force of the blast churns the sea and flames from the burning gases light a path beside the ship. The Missouri is one of the latest of the Navy's Iowa class battleships. (Associated Press Photo from U. S. Navy)

U. S. China Base Lost

CHUNGKING—The United States air base at Linchow has been destroyed and evacuated, Maj. Gen. Albert C. Wedemeyer's Headquarters announced late today.

The U. S. 14th Air Force struck on all fronts over the week-end, destroying a Japanese navy tender, three major steamers, four smaller vessels and three rail bridges.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur reported today that the Japanese had lost the air base at Linchow, a strategic point in the hands of the Fifth Infantry.

Report Raider Over Honshu

The Tokyo radio said today that a single U. S. B-29 Superfortress had been reported over Honshu, apparently for reconnaissance purposes.

Dr. Graham Quits WLB

WASHINGTON—Three of the four public members of the War Labor Board have announced they will resign.

Dr. Frank Graham, president of the University of North Carolina, has announced he will resign from the board.

McKellar Is Candidate For Glass' Senate Post

McKellar, Democrat, is being considered as a possible successor to Glass in the Senate.

Doctors For Fuehrer: New Report Of Hitler Illness

By JOHN F. CHESTER LONDON—A report was received in London today from a person whose information is reliable that Hitler was resting in a hospital.

Japs Report Manila Attack

SAN FRANCISCO—The Japanese Navy reported today that it had attacked Manila.

Wang, China's Quisling, Succumbs

LONDON—Wang Kang, a Chinese collaborator, has been executed by the National Government.

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Chicago War Reporter Dies

CHICAGO—John B. Terry, Chicago Daily News war correspondent, died today of injuries received from exploding bomb fragments.

Wright Supervisory Employees On Strike

PATTERSON N. J.—A union spokesman estimated that 800 supervisory employees at the Wright Aircraft Corp. are on strike.

Eisenhower Message

Supreme commander of Allied Expeditionary Forces, Eisenhower, has issued a message regarding the current military situation.

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Eighth Army Makes Gain

ROME—A patrol of the Eighth Army, crossing the Ghidra Canal below Ravenna, has moved into a thick pine forest, four miles south of the city.

Next Water Barrier

The next and final water barrier between the southern and northern fronts is the Fiume Reno.

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RAF Bombers Sink Ship At Norway Base

Last of Hitler's Big Battleships Sent Down in British Attack

LONDON—(AP)—It was officially announced tonight that the 41,000-ton German battleship Tirpitz had been sunk.

A British Air Ministry communique said the Tirpitz was sunk yesterday morning by RAF Lancasters that attacked her in Tromsø fjord along the north coast of Norway.

It was the eighth time RAF bombers had attacked the last large battleship of the German Navy. The bombers scored direct hits with 12,000 pound bombs.

Test of the Air Ministry communique: "The Tirpitz has been sunk. Yesterday morning 29 Lancasters of RAF Bomber Command, led by Wing Commander J. B. Tait, DSO, DFC, and Squadron Leader A. G. Williams, attacked the German battleship Tirpitz with 12,000 pound bombs.

There were several direct hits within a few minutes, the ship capsized and sank. "One of our aircraft is missing."

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Break Into Metz Ring

Lack Air Support

Fighting through snow, mud-fields and fog without air support, the Fifth Division broadened its frontal attack on Metz to five miles.

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WEATHER

Partly cloudy and warmer this afternoon, tonight and tomorrow.

Temperature at 1:30 today: High 45, Low 34, and 34. Wind: Light. Sunrise: 7:15. Sunset: 5:15.