Carriers Are Our Cities Afloat

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Final

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BEACHHEAD POUNDED BY NAZIS

Reds Within 8 Miles Of Krivoi Rog

Editor's Note: This is another of the dispatches written by Mr. Clapper before his death in a collision of airplanes during the Battle of the Marshalls.

By Raymond Clapper

ABOARD AN AIRCRAFT CARRIER

AFTER a couple of weeks with the Army and the Marines in the jungles of South Pacific Islands, I came aboard this big, new, and most modern airplane carrier last night. I feel like a country boy going to the city, as I shift from the mud and the dirt to come aboard this floating community of some 3,000 persons.

As far as personal living is concerned, it is like a big hotel with an airfield on the roof. My Army gear, which had been knocked around through the mud with the Marines at Cape Gloucester and Munda and Guadalcanal, suddenly looked filthy and out of place when I saw it in my cabin with its neatly made bed and white sheets, its fresh-painted walls—and its modern bathroom instead of those ladders out over the water that we were using a few days ago.

I feel like the country boy in "Oklahoma!" who sings my favorite song, "Everything's Up to Date in Kansas City." For here they have "gone about as far as they can go." You turn a knob over your bed and you hear the radio from San Francisco. But our colored mess attendant tells me confidentially that although it sounds as if the music is coming from San Francisco, "You know they take it down and play it on records right here on the ship. You ain't listenin' to San Francisco. You just thinks you is."

This boy's name is Charles, and from Charles I have learned about city life again. My one pair of shoes had worn through walking on the coral rock of the islands. Charles said he could have my shoes resoled at the ship's shoe shop. I asked how long it would take. He said, "Oh, they can have them back this afternoon."

This is not only city life, it's a darn sight better city life than you can get in most places at home right now.

Of course there isn't a man on this ship who wouldn't rather take life at home, but if you have to be away the Navy has it over the Army in many things. As one sailor said:

"Why should anybody want to live in the mud when he can live on a ship? Of course you

See HAIRCUTS on page 4

UNITED THEY STAND—Pretty Polish girls in native costume, above, take their stand with other Poles to protest the partition of their mother country by Russia. They took part in Chicago meeting, sponsored by Polish National Alliance, that demanded retention of pre-war boundaries.

Iron Center Outflanked From South

Blow From North In Prospect

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW — (AP) — Russian armies within eight miles of Krivoi Rog appeared today to have badly outflanked the iron center from the south as some of their divisions streamed southwestward toward Kherson and Nikolaev on the Black Sea.

One thus far.

With strong Soviet formations poised for a blow from north of Krivoi Rog, others threatened the city of 197,000 from the south and east. To the rear, other divisions were chopping to bits the German Eighth Army trapped in a narrow death pocket near Cherkassy.

Advanced mobile Russian columns struggled through mud about 60 miles away from Kherson, situated at the mouth of the Dnieper River. The large German garrison there has faced another Russian force across the Dnieper for months and the Nazi position was scarcely less perilous than that at Krivoi Rog. Nikolaev is 30 miles northwest of Kherson and is in peril of the third and fourth Russian armies of the Ukraine driving west from Apostolovo.

DEATH RING CENTER

A detailed map of the ten German divisions trapped near Cherkassy showed the Russians were only 8 miles from Korsun, center of the death ring. Seven Russian spearheads were driving in for the kill.

The encircled area is 27 miles long from northwest to southeast and its widest point is 18 miles. Four large villages have been driven into the pocket. One is from the southwest 14 miles west of Gorodische; the second is 8 miles northwest of Gorodische; the third is 15 miles north of Gorodische; and the fourth is 7 miles north of Gorodische.

The Russian spearheads are driving in from these positions: Four on the south, two on either side of Gorodische; another driving south from just north of Boguslav, and the other two from the direction of the Dnieper into positions north of Gorodische.

The surrounded infantry divisions were identified as the 112th, 88th, 82nd, 72nd, 168th, 57th and the 389th. The 213th grenadier division and the SS Viking tank division and the SS Walonien brigade also are in the pocket. The Russians said Lt. Gen. Schermmerman was inside the trap.

SURRENDER LOW

Numerous groups were reported surrendering. Ammunition was said to be so low that orders were given to fire only when objectives were sighted easily. The food supply was said to be very low.

Izvestia said in a dispatch from Luga that a deep freeze had succeeded the recent thaw in the north and that the Russians were taking advantage of the firmer footing, accelerating their offensive through swamps and dense forests.

In the far north, where Gens. Govorov and Meretskov were driving their way westward toward the Leningrad-Warsaw Railway stronghold of Luga from the east, the recently-built towns of Ostrov and Bolshoye - Zamoschye, respectively eighteen and thirteen miles northeast of the prime objective, fell to the onrushing Russian spearheads.

The Soviet drive toward the Baltic states is nearing Batetskaya, strategic center on the Leningrad-Vitebsk Railway, the communiqué disclosed, but no mention was made of operations around Narva.

Plunge Of Clapper Plane Witnessed

By SPENCER DAVIS

Associated Press War Correspondent

ABOARD A CARRIER FLAGSHIP OFF ENIWETOK, IN THE MARSHALLS, Feb. 2 — (Delayed) — Raymond Clapper, newspaper columnist, waved a cheery thumbs up salute as the torpedo plane carrying him peeled off for a bombing glide shortly before the collision in which he and six Navy fliers were killed.

The air accident, whose victims included one of the ablest torpedo squadron commanders in the service, occurred during a raid on Engebi Island, just after Avenger torpedo planes completed a glide bombing attack and rendezvoused over the lagoon.

Clapper, who had been an observer in a Flying Fortress on the first Rome block-buster raid last Summer, asked to accompany the squadron commander on the combat flight to gather material for a column contrasting the Pacific and European versions of air war.

NO SURVIVORS

I saw the plane with Clapper aboard plunge into the lagoon moments after it struck another bomber. Both planes burst into flames and sank at once. No one survived.

Clapper's commander, one of the Navy's most skilled pilots, had more than 2,500 hours in the air. He had distinguished himself at Rabaul, Tarawa, Nauru and Kavieng and had returned to his carrier from these raids without a scratch, although his plane frequently had been punctured by bullets.

The torpedo squadron he trained and led struck the first blow in the allout carrier offensive to neutralize Kwajalein in the Marshalls and was the first to smash Japan's airfield at Eniwetok.

Both strikes caught the enemy by surprise.

On approaching the target to

See SAW CRASH on Page 2

Snow Storm In Midwest

CHICAGO — (AP) — A heavy snow storm which buried the Midwest to a depth of two to eleven inches and a cold wave in its wake descended the area in the most severe weather of the Winter today.

The snow never deepened over northern Missouri. It was from two to eleven inches deep in Nebraska, three to eleven inches in Iowa, five to eleven inches in North and South Dakota, it spread into Minnesota and Illinois and heaped up to eleven in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio tonight.

Forecaster G. L. Canaday of the Weather Bureau reported warmer weather, mostly rain, in the areas affected by the weather of the approaching severe conditions. He predicted the mercury would rise to 15 to 25 below zero in northern Minnesota, zero to 15 below in Wisconsin, 15 to below in northern Iowa and around 5 above at Chicago.

WHEAT PROTECTED

Grain experts said the heavy snow in the Winter wheat country would protect the grain from the low temperatures, but also are additional needed moisture.

The storm moved eastward from the northern Rocky Mountains. By mid-morning the mercury had dropped to 15 below at Havre, Montana. Fifty-Mile Strong winds driving the snow in Iowa produced near-blizzard conditions with some rural schools and roads closed in the northwest part. Some secondary roads were tied up in Nebraska.

Canadians Hope For More Meat

OTTAWA — (AP) — Canadians have some hope for an early end to meat rationing and meatless Tuesdays.

Finance Minister James Lorimer Ilsley told Commons yesterday that large supplies now available overseas (meaning those which consideration could be given to removing the restrictions.

Coupled with the Minister's brief statement, however, was a supplementary statement from the price board saying that meat rationing was introduced in Canada to make supplies available for the United Kingdom and that the present situation could have to be reviewed with regard to United Kingdom needs.

Yanks Raid Brunswick

LONDON — (AP) — U. S. heavy bombers today attacked targets at Brunswick in Central Germany, Army Headquarters announced.

Fortresses flew the same path to the German aircraft manufacturing center, and the Berlin radio declared savage fighting developed.

At the same time formations of Liberator bombers smothered the big Nazi fighter base at Gilze-Rijen, Holland, and strong forces of U. S. Marauders flew against military installations in northern France.

The Gilze-Rijen attack probably knocked out many enemy fighters which would have been in the air against the Brunswick-attacking Fortresses had the Dutch fighter base been left undisturbed.

No figures on planes shot down on the Brunswick attack, or on Fortress losses, were available immediately from the U. S. Air Force. On a trip Jan. 11 to Brunswick, Oschersleben and Halberstadt the Yank forces lost 60 heavy bombers but shot 152 Nazi fighters from the sky. The heavies went back to Brunswick and Hannover Jan. 30 and shot down 91 enemy aircraft while losing twenty bombers.

Italian Jews Get Rights Back

NAPLES — (AP) — All Anti-Semitic and other racial restrictions imposed by the Fascist regime in Italy were abrogated throughout liberated Italian territory by royal decree today.

Lt. Gen. Frank S. M. MacFarlane, deputy president of the Allied Control Commission, said in a statement that full civil and political rights were to be restored to Jews in accordance with United Nations policies against intolerance.

Willkie Looks For Nomination

BAKER, Ore. — (AP) — Wendell Willkie predicted in a brief speech from a railroad car here last night that he would be nominated for the Presidency by the Republican Party.

The 1940 GOP candidate, on a tour of Western United States, spoke during a twelve-minute halt en route to the Pacific Northwest.

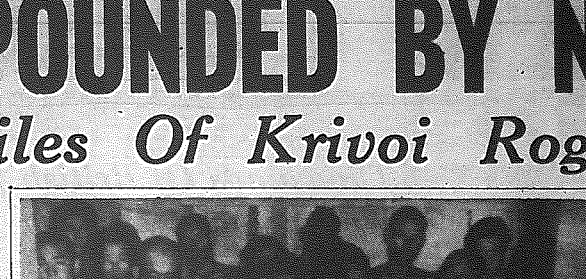
"I'm going to be nominated for the President of the United States on the Republican ticket," he said without elaboration.

WEATHER

Light rain tonight; Friday, clear and warmer.

Today's Temperatures
2:30 P. M. 42 ..... Low 38
Sunset Today 7:01
Sunrise Tomorrow 8:13

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



AMERICANS CAPTURED THESE JAPS DURING CONQUEST OF MARSHALLS—Bewildered Japanese captured by Americans in the successful assault on the Marshall Islands, sit in a large cell aboard an American ship, to which they were removed. Official figures listed more than 8,100 known enemy dead as compared with less than 300 American fatalities, and about 80 missing in action. (AP Wirephoto.)

In Early Beachhead Fight:

Thousands Of British Were Almost Lost Below Rome

By HOMER BIGART

New York Herald Tribune Correspondent, Representing the Combined American Press (Distributed by the Associated Press)

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY ON THE ANZIO BEACHHEAD, Feb. 8 — (Delayed) — It may now be revealed that a German counter-attack on the night of Feb. 3 attained initial success and succeeded for several hours in trapping thousands of British troops in a salient that then existed north of Carroceto, below Rome.

Fortunately, the enemy was able to interpose fewer than 1,000 troops between the isolated British spearhead and the main Allied force. These troops were, however, supported by six or eight 60-ton Tiger tanks that appeared at dawn on Feb. 4 on a ridge only a few hundred hands from a highway which was the only possible route of escape.

YANKS TO RESCUE

The remarkable work of American tank destroyers in knocking out four Tigers aided in restoring the situation. In the fierce, confused fighting, the British infantry not only broke up the trap but took 300 prisoners.

The bulk of the British force was extricated. Some equipment was lost.

Until late Friday the situation remained very disturbing. Reserves were put on the alert in the enemy rupture of high ground dominating the main highway and preventing tanks to come to the aid of the isolated force. A counter-attack launched from the main Allied line narrowed the gap somewhat while British 25-pounders held off German reinforcements.

The German attack started an hour before midnight Thursday. Every enemy gun seemed trained on the long, thin salient where the British spearhead had halted eighteen miles from Rome.

WAS EXPECTED

The curious thing was that everybody expected it. From the beginning the British had shoved ahead of the main bridgehead line. Their initial thrust carried them to Campo Di Carne. A second jump took them to Carroceto, where they emplaced the first German counter-attack against the Latium bridgehead. Finally in hard fighting, they cut the main railway line at Campoleone and were a half mile beyond when all signs suddenly turned red.

Their salient was about two miles long and scarcely a mile wide. The Germans were quick to exploit this dangerously extended position. First they probed the left flank with several counterattacks in company strength. They were seeking a rest spot and they found one near the neck of the salient, two miles north of Carroceto.

NAZIS BIDE TIME

The Germans bided their time, waiting until fresh troops and armor came down from northern Italy. Then they struck hard at both sides of the neck of the salient.

Thursday evening, the front was tentatively quiet. A small counter-attack on the left flank was beaten off in late afternoon and at 6:30, forward units reported to headquarters: "We are fairly happy about the situation."

At 10:15, the enemy sent up two white flares from the left. At 11 o'clock, the whole sector suddenly blazed with the heaviest German shelling of the campaign.

Twenty minutes after the attack started, forward units reported that the main enemy pressure apparently was coming from the Fifth Army Boom German troops began infiltrating the right flank. One company called for tank support.

At 11:50 enemy infantry was pouring through a wide breach and captured three British tanks. Reserves were alerted. At midnight came the disturbing news from the left: "Situation very bad. No answer from left flank."

It as estimated that at midnight, nearly a battalion of Germans had broken through. They overran the main highway far behind the British line and for a while the salient was tightly sealed.

Oddly, the Germans failed to maintain pressure frontally. Some forward units were therefore able to fall back and, in bitter fighting, clear the highway. The gap was closed at 2:30 A. M. and an hour later

See THOUSANDS on Page 2

Allies On Bridgehead "Firmly Established"

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Acting Secretary of War Robert Patterson said today that although the greatest weight of the German counter-attack on the Allied beachhead at Anzio probably is still to be felt, "our men are firmly established."

Patterson said the Germans have launched violent counter-attacks which were expected, and added that under the first of these assaults in force, "our troops yielded a small amount of ground but they have effectively warded off attacks, beaten back a number of enemy tanks and taken a number of prisoners."

"The enemy threat is not to be minimized," Patterson said at a press conference. "The Germans are opposing our beachhead with a formidable force, drawn partly from reserves that were behind the main southern front, to a lesser extent from the Rome area and partly from Northern Italy.

"They have also brought up tanks and a quantity of artillery. Even in the air, though they are not likely to challenge our superior power for long, they have concentrated additional planes in an effort to harass our beachhead. Their long-range artillery fire from inland has extends as far as Anzio Harbor."

During the past week, Patterson said, the Germans had the advantage of bad weather which interfered with Allied shipping and limited the Allied operations in the air.

On the main battle line to the south of Anzio, Patterson said units of the Fifth Army battering enemy positions around Cassino had encountered "extremely stubborn and bitter" resistance but that "slowly but steadily our men have forged a trail through the mountains to encircle the town." Units of the Fifth Army have been fighting in the town itself.

Since the landing in Italy at Salerno last September, Patterson said, the casualties to the American elements of the Fifth Army have been 3,707 killed, 16,510 wounded and 3,448 missing—a total of 23,665.

Sharks Great Terror For Drifting Fliers

By VERN HAUGLAND

A SEAPLANE BASE IN THE BRITISH SOLOMONS, Feb 8—(Delayed)—(AP)—The worst part of drifting on the ocean seven days isn't hunger, thirst, heat or storms. It is the persistence of sharks ripping the rubber raft to pieces.

Six survivors of a 7th Army Liberator heavy bomber which crashed in the Pacific before dawn Jan. 29 agreed that the menace of hungry sharks was their greatest fear.

S Sgt. Newton Chiafullo of Long Branch, N. J., the plane's radio operator said:

"We started with five of us in four rafts lashed together. The sharks kept attacking and finally sank one raft and we figured that if we had to go one more day and night the others would surely be useless. That day we were rescued."

At noon on the seventh day the distressed fliers saw a PBY Catalina floatplane and sent up smoke signals.

The plane picked up Chiafullo, 2nd Lt. Dan Norris, Chattanooga, Tenn., the bombardier; S/Sgts. Ernest Despault, Williamsett, Mass., tail gunner, and Glen Gordon Howell Columbia, O., top turret gunner, and Cpl. Gerald Els, Beaver, Okla., nose gunner, and brought them to this South Pacific base.

The bomber became lost while returning from a raid in the Marshall Islands and ran out of fuel. Norris estimated they drifted 200 miles during a week. They were rescued Feb. 4 southwest of Nauru Island, between the Solomon Islands and the Gilbert Islands.

Howell said that Chiafullo was the hero of their escape from the plane. Chiafullo located the first raft and pulled Els aboard.

"An Albatross rested on my raft several nights and I talked to him," Els said. "We needed a radio antenna—our balloon wouldn't rise—and I thought of catching the Albatross to raise our aerial, but I figure he'd never forgive me.

"Sharks attacked us most fiercely Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights—just before sundown when schools of fish would gather in the shade of our raft and the sharks would follow them in. One Barracuda jumped into my raft and put a big hole in it, and I jumped into another."

American Soldiers And Old Italian Couple In Gamble With Death

By HAL BOYLE

A FORWARD COMMAND POST NEAR CASSINO, Feb. 2 (Delayed)—(AP)—It was near the end of the long, hard fight for Cassino, and all the men in the old stone kitchen wanted to live to see it won.

Upstairs in the gray Italian farmhouse, tank, artillery and infantry officers were co-ordinating the attack on Cassino, not very far away.

They had the excitement of the battle to keep them going.

But down in the kitchen there was nothing to do but sweat it out.

HAL BOYLE

Nothing to do but sit in front of the big, old, crackling fireplace, watch the logs blaze and wonder whether the heat, shell and bullet ticket.

They were landing all around the old house — German tank shells that cut through the air with the fast whine of a rifle bullet, artillery shells that hit with a crack like a thousand whips snapped at once, "screaming meemies" that cry like a banshee and strike like a thunderbolt.

When the shells began to land within 50 yards in the field to the right, and seemed to gouge craters in the road to the left the talking died down. Everybody sat around the fire and waited.

The gray haired Italian housewife looked up when the voices ceased, walked over and sat down on a bench by her old workworn husband. She looked silently into his giggled face and then they both gazed into the fire. They needed no words. They were ready for the shell if it came.

DOG COMES OVER

The little black dog came over and sat on his haunche, between them. The woman's hand stole out and patted the dog on his shiny head.

"The old man caught a piece of shrapnel in his stomach three days ago," said Pvt. Italo Stasi of Elizabeth, N. J., who speaks Italian. "A shell landed in his garden."

"We had our medics fix him up," said Lt. Shirly S. French of Canton, O.

"We asked his wife why they didn't move out to a rear area," said Stasi, "and she told us 'why should we leave? This is our home. We will live or die here.'

"The Germans used to sleep in their house before we came. They told us the Jerries paid with paper money for what they wanted until the Italians gave up. Then they just took what they wanted. When they pulled out the Jerries took the cows, mules and all the chickens.

See REPORTER'S on page 4

Open Strong Attempt To Cut Allied Defenses

Violent Cassino Fight Continues

By EDWARD KENNEDY

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS — (AP) — The Germans have launched a strong attempt to break through Allied lines on the Anzio beachhead, striking at six points along the American-British defense perimeter, Headquarters announced today, as violent fighting continued in the ruins of Cassino.

The fierceness of the beachhead attacks came in the area north and west of Carroceto (Aprilia) where heavy fighting continued as British forces sought to stem the enemy plunges.

YANKS GAIN

Three of the enemy thrusts were directed against American positions west of Cisterna but they were beaten back and the Doughboys recovered some ground.

(Homer Bigart, New York Herald Tribune correspondent representing the combined American press, in a dispatch filed last night, said the situation was a "little less grim" for the Allied troops because of heavy casualties inflicted on the Germans.

(The Germans, if they gained such superiority in numbers, however, that "even the annihilation of a German battalion meant only momentary relief," he said, British and artillery crews have had no rest for 36 hours, he added.)

Although the Americans admitted the initiative in gaining some ground west of Cisterna an Allied Headquarters spokesman said the position of the beachhead as a whole was a defensive one, present with the Germans probing the perimeter from the northern coastal area to its southern extremity.

Allied air forces struck heavily at German pun positions, communications and other targets just in front of the beachhead line but these apparently did not prevent the Germans from building up their strength. The violence of the German artillery fire was increasing and the pressure of the German attacks was mounting.

• The fighting at Cassino went into its seventh fiery day with no rest for either side.

GERMANS MANG ON

Under a grim canopy of smoke and dust from mortar and artillery fire, the Germans clung to the greater part of the town, following an hour's respite, their orders to resist to the bitter end.

German and American tanks rumbled through the streets and engaged in short sharp clashes at point-blank range. Doughboys crept among the stones to stab, shoot and kill with grenades the foe concealed in dugouts and ruined buildings. The Germans thus lost a few strongholds.

Northwest of the town the Americans slowly approached the crest of Mt. Cassino after having reached a point at one time

See NAZIS STRIKE on Page 2

U. S. Platoon Takes Care Of Nazi Company

By REYNOLDS PACKARD

Representing the Combined American Press (Distributed by the Associated Press)

ANZIO BEACHHEAD — An American platoon especially distinguished itself today in killing 30 Germans and taking 20 others prisoner while blasting out a company of Germans that infiltrated the Fifth Army's positions during the night, and was dislodged by the Americans from several machine-gun nests.

Lt. Joseph Winsko, of Niagara Falls, N. Y., and his platoon into action shortly after dawn. It was divided into two units of eight men each headed by Sgt. Kelly Bath, of Claxton, Ga., and Cpl. Paul Huff, of Cleveland, Tenn.

Bath and Huff led their men along opposite flanks of the German company, laying down a devastating rifle and machine-gun fire.

Purple Heart Cpl. Paul Huff tackled a two-man enemy machine-gun nest single-handed, knocking it out with his carbine gun. Two of the Germans was reaching for the pistol and the other was trying to reach a hand grenade.

The Americans captured the gun plus a stiffer, tougher Sgt. Winsko called for more ammunition and the platoon pressed.