THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Final

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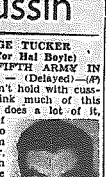
SOVIETS BATTER PSKOV LINES

Soldiers Go In For Prayin' & Cussin'

By GEORGE TUCKER
(Substitute for Hal Boyle)

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY, Feb. 24 — (Delayed)—(AP)—People who don't hold with cussing wouldn't think much of this war. Our Army does a lot of it, and a lot of praying. The two somehow seem to go together, especially in areas where the imminence of death always is on our troops.



TUCKER

I remember a beautiful phrase people were using in the early months of 1942. "There aren't any atheists in the foxholes of Bataan," they said. There aren't many atheists in the foxholes around Cassino or the Anzio beachhead either. American soldiers know how to go to their Lord with their troubles, and it helps, but on the side they do a little cussing, too. It wouldn't be fair to them to say that they didn't.

Profanity may be regrettable, but it is one of the natural by-products of war. Lack of sleep, weariness, the cold and the eternal mud contribute, I have seen but one soldier who did not swear, and I have mingled with troops on five continents. This man was a driver in a back area in Asia. He said somehow he had never got the habit and I had no reason to disbelieve him.

On the other hand, most men out here casually and without thinking use words they would not dream of saying in civilian life. This is true with the fighting generals as well as with men of the line.

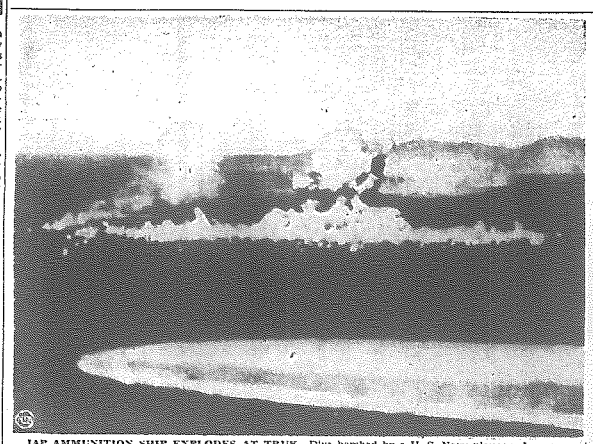
During a tense moment after the Salerno landings one of our major generals took a quick look at the situation and cried:

"That was no job for the artillery, but by God the infantry could do it."

Wen who were on the spot say his words were a tonic. It snapped

See REPORTER'S on page 4

Heavy German Shelling Opened Up On Beachhead



JAP AMMUNITION SHIP EXPLODES AT TRUK—Dive-bombed by a U. S. Navy plane, a Jap ammunition ship explodes thunderously in Truk harbor, the terrific blast bringing down the attacking plane. At right Dublon Island rises sharply from the sea. (U. S. Navy photo.)

Nazi Fire Scattered Over Area

Have Several Air Alerts

By EDWARD KENNEDY

AT THE ANZIO BEACHHEAD IN ITALY—(AP)—The Germans opened up today on Fifth Army troops in the beachhead with one of the heaviest shellings yet.

The shelling was not intensive at any one point, but it scattered all over the area.

There also were several air alerts.

British Stop Series Of Small Attacks

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples,—(AP)—British troops broke up a series of small German attacks in the ravine territory southwest of Carroceto on the beachhead front yesterday while Allied troops mopped up Nazis who wriggled through the lines near Cassino, it was announced today.

For the British in the Carroceto region it was the second straight day of skirmishing with the enemy in the deep gullies surrounding the headwaters of the Moletta River. Allied artillery and mortars forced the Germans to fall back with heavy casualties, Allied Headquarters said.

PATROLS CLASH

Artillery from both sides fired heavily throughout the day elsewhere on the beachhead front and patrols clashed at a number of points.

It was announced meanwhile that an American cruiser which stood off the Anzio coast Sunday and shelled the enemy had engaged in a series of seven duels with long-range German artillery with results described by front-line reports as "excellent."

Germans who tried their infiltration tactics in the mountains northwest of Cassino on the lower Fifth Army front were cleaned up where they had succeeded in getting through the Allied lines, a Fifth Army spokesman said. Several sharp patrol clashes were reported along the lower Garigliano River.

CANADIANS MOVE

Canadian patrols pressed toward Tollo, about eight miles inland from Ortona on the Eighth Army front, and British forces occupied a ridge three miles southeast of Guardiagrele. Polish troops routed a German patrol near Castel Di Sangro and Indian mortars shot up enemy outposts near Orsogna.

Enemy aircraft failed to appear yesterday over the beachhead area, but despite bad weather American bomber and fighter-bomber attacked the outskirts of Rome for the second day, hitting airfields at Littoria, Marcigliano and Guidonia. Twelfth Air Force Mitchells also bombed the Canino field northwest of the capital. Warhawk fighters attacked German guns north of the beachhead.

SHIPS SUNK

Spitfires and Kittyhawks sank two 100-foot merchant ships at Ancona, on Italy's Adriatic coast, and set off an explosion and a large fire on the docks. Others ranging along the Yugoslav coast set two schooners afire south of Split, and hit a 200-foot ship at Dubrovnik.

Coastal Air Force Spitfires shot up five troop trains in the Metkovic area south of Split, causing heavy casualties among the enemy troops, and destroyed or damaged four locomotives. They also hit a large freighter on the Yugoslav coast.

Reds Reported Within Sight Of City Now

Germans Resisting Fiercely And Soviets Have To Fight Hard

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW—(AP)—All territory held by the Germans in northwest Russia is now gravely threatened by the Red Army drive on Pskov and there is evidence that the Nazi transportation system in some places is becoming disorganized, dispatches from the Baltic front declared today.

(The British radio, quoting the Soviet Army newspaper Red Star, said the Russians now were "fighting inside the German defenses around Pskov", with advanced Red Army units "within sight of the fortress city".

("The Germans are resisting fiercely, especially along the main road, and the Red Army has to fight hard for every village it takes," said the broadcast recorded by the U. S. Foreign Broadcast Intelligence Service.)

With the vanguard of the Russian forces less than twelve miles away, Pskov was reported to be already under fire from Red Army siege guns.

(Earlier, a London interpretation of the Russian communique placed the Russians six miles northeast of Pskov at the town of Toroshino, on the Luga-Pskov railway.)

A dispatch to Red Star from the Pskov front said that in many sectors the roads are so clogged with wrecked German transport, guns and tanks that special Soviet cleaning squads have been formed to clear them away to enable the Red Army to march through on the heels of the retreating enemy.

With colder weather now prevailing on the northern battlefields, night fighting is increasing and Red Star said that Soviet soldiers specially trained for night operations are pursuing the Germans through the dark hours.

Farther south, Gen. Ivan M. Popov's army was reputed smashing through an intricate network of German communication lines and fortifications just east of the border of the Latvian republic. At one point Russian troops were only twelve miles from the republic's frontier.

This breakthrough, which has disorganized German defense plans and fighting lines, is seriously endangering Hitler's plans in the north and may shortly have far-reaching results, Red Star said.

With the Russians making great headway in this region approximately 70 miles below Pskov, it appeared evident that German positions around Pskov cannot long be held, dispatches said.

GOING ON SEVEN — Arthur MacArthur (above), son of Gen. Douglas MacArthur, admits he's a big boy now. He celebrated his sixth birthday Feb. 21. He lives somewhere in Australia. (AP Wirephoto)

Japs Helpless When Marianas Raided

By LEIF ERICKSON
Associated Press War Correspondent

ABOARD A BATTLESHIP OFF SAIPAN IN THE MARIANAS ISLANDS, Feb. 22—(Delayed)—(AP)—Closing in daringly on Japanese in the Marianas Islands who knew we were coming, this powerful U. S. Navy task force shot down fourteen planes with anti-aircraft fire in eleven hours of Japanese air attack on our ships and then battered the enemy's Mariana Island bases of Saipan and Tinian with heavy carrier bombing strikes.

Fighters and bombers launched from aircraft carriers while the task force still under air attack destroyed in the air or knocked out on the ground 121 more Japanese aircraft, making total enemy plane losses 135.

Also, U. S. carrier plane fliers sank one previously damaged cargo vessel intercepted off the islands, probably sank two more merchant ships in the Tinian anchorage and left one grounded on the reef and another burning in Saipan Harbor.

U S losses were six planes.

FLIGHT OVER GUAM

Hellcat fighters were sent over Guam Island, 130 miles south of Saipan, to be sure Japanese planes from there would not interfere with the Saipan and Tinian attacks. These Hellcats were the first American planes to fly over the former U S naval base since it was lost to the enemy in December, 1941.

The deadly accuracy of the anti-aircraft fire, plus some fumbling by the Japanese, conclusively vindicated the decision of Rear Admiral Marc A. Mitscher, task force commander, to push on in against the alerted enemy which held the advantage of being able to use land-based planes against our ships.

Not one U S ship was damaged in the Japanese attacks which began before midnight and continued until 10 A. M. the next day.

Frankly exultant, Admiral Mitscher said in an interview:

"I was in contact with Radoglio almost daily and can say that Italy is trying its utmost to take a useful part in the war effort."

(Associated Press War Correspondent Leif Erickson was aboard a battleship when the great U. S. naval armada went on a 4,800-mile cruise through Japan's Mid-Pacific defenses, hitting Truk in the Caroline Islands and Saipan, Tinian and Guam in the Marianas. This is his account of the Marianas raid).

See JAPS HELPLESS on page 2

Myth Of Great Power Of Truk Is Exploded

(The following eye-witness account of the mighty American smash at Japan's Mid-Pacific base at Truk last Feb. 16 and 17 is the first detailed account by a war correspondent of the battle action.)

By LEIF ERICKSON
Associated Press War Correspondent

ABOARD A BATTLESHIP OFF TRUK, CAROLINE ISLANDS, Feb. 17—(Delayed)—(AP)—This task force of aircraft carriers and new battleships—the greatest concentration of naval striking power in history—has exploded the myth of Truk's impregnability.

A surprise lightning strike out of a cloudy dawn by Hellcat fighters wiped out nearly all the planes defending this kingpin Japanese fortress and supply base in the Caroline Islands.

In all, 127 Japanese planes were destroyed in the air and 74 on the ground—a total of 201 planes destroyed in two days, ten planes on the ground were damaged.

After the first fighter strike, a steady parade of Avenger torpedo planes and new Helldiver dive-bombers blasted targets at will for most of the two days.

Now we are retiring with Truk's lagoon well littered with sunken ships and burned-out hulks.

Thirty-six ships were caught in the lagoon anchorages the first day. On the second day, ten remained. Five there were left on the last strike before we pulled out. Carrier-based bombers set fire to fuel and ammunition dumps.

We lost 17 planes.

With his planes knocked out, the enemy couldn't fight back except with anti-aircraft fire.

No bombing or surface attack was made on our vast formation of the greatest, hardest hitting warships afloat.

Truk's defenders apparently had been lulled into rear-base security since the start of this war. Our

Stalin Looks To Victory

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Marshal Stalin of Russia today underscored the Allied understandings reached at Moscow and Teheran late last year, and advised President Roosevelt he was convinced the time is near when co-operating forces of the Soviet Union, the United States and Great Britain will bring about "the final defeat of our common enemy, Hitlerite Germany."

A message made public by the White House, acknowledging the President's cable of Feb. 22 congratulating the Red Army on its 26th anniversary, said:

"I ask you to accept my sincere thanks for your friendly congratulations on the occasion of the 26th anniversary of the Red Army and on the success of the armed forces of the Soviet Union in the struggle against the Hitlerite invaders.

"I am strongly convinced that the time is near when the successful struggle of the armed forces of the Soviet Union, together with the armies of the United States and Great Britain on the basis of the agreements reached at Moscow and Teheran will lead to the final defeat of our common enemy, Hitlerite Germany."

Senator Wagner Says Health Is All Right

WASHINGTON — (AP) — Senator Wagner, Democrat, New York, said today the State conventions of the Democratic and American Labor Parties in New York would determine whether he will seek re-election to a fourth Senate term.

Commenting on a New York Herald-Tribune story which said Wagner had indicated he would prefer not to run again on account of his health, and that former Governor Alfred E. Smith had refused to be a candidate for the Senate should Wagner decide not to seek re-election, the Senator told reporters:

"My health is all right. I never made a statement that I did not intend to run again. That is a matter for determination by the State Democratic convention and that of the American Labor Party."

Allow More Meat For Civilian Tables

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Fewer ration points will be required for pork and many beef cuts beginning Sunday.

The Office of Price Administration, reporting a larger civilian allotment of meat available for March than had been anticipated, announced the good news for housewives today.

The increased supplies are confined to pork and beef. The point values of veal, lamb and mutton cuts are not changed.

Butter will remain at 16 points a pound and there is no change in the present values of cheese, lard and all other fats and dairy products.

STORAGE NEEDED

The War Food Administration said the adjustment in ration values is designed to help reduce stocks of meat which, together with other perishables, are crowding cold storage facilities.

This is the reason, it was explained, why room must be provided for the extra butter that will be produced during the Spring and early Summer. Additional room is needed also for eggs.

Civilian allocation of meats has been increased by nearly 550,000,000 pounds for the January-March quarter. Some of this extra allocation already has moved to consumers under the special pork ration coupons, but much of it still remains in storage.

Only the values of spare ribs are unaffected by a general reduction of pork points. The cuts range from one to three points, bringing the average ration value of pork down to 1.7 points a pound. Beef cuts used for roasts, rib steaks and stews are also reduced.

The point value of canned and ready-to-eat beef and pork items are reduced from 1 to 4 points, while many variety meats and some types of sausage also are decreased in ration cost.

SLASH SURPRISE!

The reductions come as a surprise since the OPA had indicated that point values would be boosted steadily during the next few months. Marketing of more livestock than had been anticipated was given as the principal reason for the reduction.

"The lower meat point values also make full allowance to the housewife," said Price Administrator Chester Bowles, "for the fact that with ration stamps now to be worth ten points each, she gets one red point a week less to spend.

"A large share of the meat available to civilians during March will be pork—in fact, pork will make up more than half of the month's total meat supply."

Bowles said the amount of pork which will be produced during the first two or three weeks of March "may be at record-breaking levels for this time of year."

"In the case of beef, too, we expect to have somewhat more in March than during February," Bowles said. "Beef is, of course, much less plentiful than pork, but the small anticipated increase enables us to reduce point values on some cuts."

The over-all average ration value of meat in March will be 4.2 points a pound as compared with an average of approximately 5 points in February.

The revision of meat values takes into account, the agency explained, that from now on each individual will have 60 red points to spend each month of rationed meats and

See MORE MEAT on page 3

British On Japs' Heels

NEW DELHI — (AP) — British troops have continued successful mopping up operations during the past 24 hours against shattered remnants of 6,000 Japanese troops in the Arakan jungles north of Akyab, Burma, where the Allies have announced their first major victory of the campaign.

A Southeast Asia communique said areas east of the Maiu range were being cleared of Japanese and that one enemy column still offering resistance south of the Seventh Indian Division had been forced from its positions northwest of Awlanbyin and was withdrawing.

1,500 JAPS DEAD

Enemy dead were reported officially at 1,500 up to yesterday.

Today's communique said it was apparent that the Japanese were preparing to make a stand on the line of their original positions from which they had launched their disastrous drive to infiltrate British lines, destroy the Fifth and Seventh Indian Divisions and open the way for an advance into India.

Japanese withdrawals were reported everywhere in the fighting area north of Akyab with pursuing parties mopping up stray carrying casualties with them being pursued and harassed by British troops. West African troops continued satisfactory progress in the Kaladan Valley and fighting increased in intensity east of the Kaladan River.

A British raiding party in the Chin Hills established a road block on one of the Japanese lines of communication.

Yanks Raid Brunswick

LONDON — (AP) — U. S. heavy bombers in their 19th operation for February today attacked targets at Brunswick, classified by the Army as "one of Germany's major manufacturers of aircraft components and engines, and an important communications center."

A communique noted that "Brunswick targets twice were attacked in last week's record-breaking daylight offensive against Nazi aircraft component assembly and allied industries."

PROTECTION

U. S. and British fighter planes protected the Flying Fortresses in today's assault.

The February total of nineteen operations is seven more than that attained in any previous month. The eighteenth operation was an attack yesterday against the French "rocket" coast in which six bombers were lost. Allied medium bombers and fighters struck at the same targets from dawn to noon today.

It was the fourth great daylight blow of the month against Brunswick, the big airplane manufacturing center 125 miles west of Berlin which turns out chiefly engines and other parts for the twin-engine Messerschmitt - 110 fighter. That plane has been adapted into a rocket-shooter and in the fighter-bomber version has been participating in German raids on England.

Subs Bag 14 Jap Vessels

WASHINGTON— (AP) —Destruction of 14 Japanese vessels by American submarines was announced today by Secretary of the Navy Knox.

The sinkings, Knox said, included 11 medium cargo vessels, a small cargo vessel, a cargo transport and a large tanker. They brought to 201 the number of Japanese ships of all types sunk, probably sunk or damaged by American submarines.

Knox also reported that for the month of February, not including today, Japanese shipping losses caused by all types of American action totaled 169 vessels sunk, probably sunk and damaged. In that total, he said, were 22 combatant and 147 non-combatant vessels.

"American submarines are doing an increasingly skillful job," he said in releasing navy communique No. 507 telling of the new sinkings.

Knox added that our submarine activities have been growing more successful regularly and that Japanese ship losses from other causes also have been mounting.

"Well over 3,000,000 tons of Japanese merchant shipping," he said, "have been sunk by all causes."

It has been estimated that the Japanese started the war with 7,500,000 tons of merchant shipping.

That they are growing short of cargo and transport vessels," Knox continued, "is very apparent in the way they are handling operations. We have had very good luck in getting a considerable number of Japanese tankers."

Calls Anzio Defense A "Military Classic"

SALT LAKE CITY— (AP) —The defense our soldiers have made on the Anzio beachhead will go down as a military classic," Maj. Gen. Kenyon A. Joyce, former commandant of the Ninth Service Command, predicted in an interview.

Joyce, who left Fort Douglas Headquarters here last October to become acting deputy president of the Allied Control Commission in Italy, said he was here on a short visit but would not comment on his new assignment.

Return This Newspaper For Front Line-Service

The paper on which this newspaper is printed today is literally worth its weight in gold to the war effort.

The need for paper for the boxing, packaging and wrapping of war supplies cannot be overstated. It is truly crucial.

Newspapers are doing everything possible to save paper. It actually costs nearly all you pay for this newspaper, in paper and delivery expenditures, to give you the news from every corner of the world.

But, more important, the armed forces need it back—need it desperately.

Starting today, therefore, will readers of The News agree that this newspaper is simply loaned to them? It is a precious war commodity to be saved and turned back to be sent to the front.

Junior Commandos are working with The News and the Junior Chamber of Commerce collecting scrap paper to help in this crisis. Chief Hendrix Palmer and the Charlotte Fire Department are co-operating, too. All are doing a splendid job.

But whether you return this loaned copy of The News through the Junior Commandos, deliver it to the blue at the fire stations or through dealers direct, it must be returned.

It is destined for front line service.

SAVE A POUND A WEEK

Await Finn Decision

STOCKHOLM — (AP) — The Finnish Parliament met in closed session for an hour this morning and heard Premier Edwin Linkomies explain the Government's position regarding an armistice or continued war with Russia, it was reported from Helsinki.

The legislators then recessed until afternoon when another secret session was scheduled.

A routine open session was held during the morning before the doors were closed. The Premier spoke for a half-hour and for another half-hour members questioned the Government spokesman. Details were not divulged.

FOOD FROM SWEDEN

A reliable informant said Sweden would do its best to provide food for Finland if she quit the war.

While a Swedish Government spokesman refused to say whether an offer of food actually had been made to the Finnish Government, it was a good guess that the Government had given the Finns some assurance on that point.

Swedish press comment and public opinion generally were hopeful that Finland could find some way out.

It was believed nothing yet had happened that definitely would prevent a Finnish-Russian armistice even though the Finnish attitude had altered perceptibly.

The Swedish newspaper Aftonbladet's Helsinki correspondent said Finland's answer to American admonition to get out of the war could not be delayed longer and hinted at some imminent development.

U. S. Pacific Advances Give Japs Jitters

By ASSOCIATED PRESS

American advances in the Pacific have jolted Japan's man in the street into an awareness that his island is now a part of the front which may become before long a target for Allied assaults, a German Transocean news agency broadcast said today.

This feeling has been awakened among the entire Japanese nation by the appearance of the U. S. Fleet off the Marianas," said a dispatch broadcast by Berlin.

A Government order prohibiting open fires in Tokyo houses up to 4 P. M. two days weekly, the report said, had its share "in giving Tokyo's inhabitants the feeling they are now directly included in the front area."

It stated that "Japan must be prepared at any time to sight enemy bombers," but added that it is doubtful whether the Americans in the near future will undertake on the Japanese motherland air raids which could only be nuisance sweeps."

American Fleet units were last reported making heavy air attacks on enemy bases in the Marianas less than 1,400 miles from Tokyo on Feb. 22, and the German broadcast credited this blow with opening Japanese eyes to "what space devouring force there is in modern warfare."

"One has realized that the American advance in the Pacific is no isolated enterprise in which after rapid thrusts the attackers recoil to their original positions," it stated, adding that "it is clear that the Japanese are not willing to use their fleet in waters where the Americans might have air supremacy."

Houston Man To Head Bar Body

CHICAGO—(AP)—David A. Simmons of Houston, Tex., was nominated today for the presidency of the American Bar Association by state A.B.A. delegates at a mid-year meeting.

Nomination is tantamount to election at the A.B.A.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy and colder this afternoon; clearing and colder tonight; fair and cold tomorrow.

Today's Temperatures
1:30 P. M. 61
Sunset Today
Sunrise Tomorrow