Let's Give

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Final

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YANK BOMBERS LASH FLORENCE

Fly Under All Sorts Conditions In China

By CLYDE A. FARNSWORTH
(Substituting For Hal Boyle)

EN ROUTE TO 14TH AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS IN CHINA, March 2.—(Delayed)—(AP)—This dispatch is being written on the navigator's table lent me on a flight to the 14th Air Force Headquarters by 2nd Lt. Lewis G. Helms, of St., Joseph, Mo.

Up in front as co-pilot is 1st Lt. W. H. Juillard, of Madisonville Station, Cincinnati, who recently had a two-week hike back to base after his transport plane had been blown off its course to become lost and run out of gasoline, forcing its entire crew to bail out in darkness.

Clyde A. Farnsworth

Beside Juillard at the controls is 1st Lt. O. P. Price of El Paso, Texas, who has the distinction of taking off with the heaviest cargo ever carried by a DC-3 in China.

On Dec. 7 Price started down a 7,000-foot runway with a cargo of catsup. It was night. Price was eyeing his instruments. Halfway down the runway at 60 miles an hour the plane was still hugging the ground. Nor would it come off at 100, ten miles an hour faster than normal takeoff speed.

At 105, with full throttle, the DC-3 pried itself into the air.

See REPORTER'S on page 4

Tanks Hit Burma Japs

NEW DELHI—(AP)—American and Chinese-manned tanks have been thrown against Japanese forces in the Hukawng Valley of Northern Burma where an Allied vise is being tightened on the Japanese, it was announced today.

"The battle of the lower and middle Hukawng Valley reached a climax early Thursday when Gen Stilwell's Chinese and American forces began closing a vise in which the main Japanese forces in the valley were known to be trapped," said the announcement from Lt-Gen Joseph W. Stilwell's headquarters.

"The exploits of the formidable column of tanks manned by the Chinese and American soldiers and followed by Chinese infantry can now be revealed."

This statement and a Chinese communique also released today were the first references to the use of tanks by the American and Chinese forces who have inflicted heavy casualties on the Japanese during the last week in the Mahdi drive to clear a stretch of the new Ledo supply road to China.

YANKS CUT OFF JAPS

American forces were revealed to have entered the Burma campaign only a few days ago when they appeared suddenly behind Japanese forces in the Hukawng Valley and cut off their retreat.

Other Chinese columns were reported to be steadily advancing southward down the valley toward Kkamaing about 60 miles north of Walawbum which Brig-Gen Frank Merrill's American forces have captured.

Front line reports said Japanese forces in the north appeared to be withdrawing in considerable confusion.

U. S. Solons May Visit British Parliament

LONDON — (AP) — Delegates of members of the Congress of the United States will be invited to Parliament to visit Great Britain as guests of the British Government within the next future, it was disclosed last night.

The invitation will be extended by the House of Commons on its next sitting day and it is understood here that Congress will approve the proposal as soon as it is received.

Three Red Armies Rolling In Ukraine

LONDON—(AP)—Three great Soviet armies, rolling forward through the mud and water of the Southern Ukraine, have shattered German lines over a 500-mile front in a mammoth drive to clear the enemy from all Southern Russia, Moscow dispatches reported today.

The drive was brought into sharp focus by yesterday's announcement that a third offensive had been launched in that area—by Marshal Ivan S. Konev's Second Ukrainian Army.

Moscow said his forces had broken through enemy defenses on a 109-mile line southwest of Cherkasy, killing 20,000 Germans, capturing 2,500 more and liberating more than 300 towns and villages, including the pivotal stronghold of Uman less than 130 miles northwest of the Bug River.

Fourteen German Divisions — approximately 150,000 men were routed in this five-day drive, the Russians communique said. They included seven infantry, six tank and one artillery divisions.

"The true scale of this German defeat can be judged from the huge quantities of trophies captured by our troops," the Soviet bulletin said. "Weapons, equipment and military supplies were strewn on the whole course of the road from the Gniloi Tikich River to the town of Uman. All the roads were packed with enemy tanks, self-propelled guns, armored troops carriers and trucks."

Konev's tremendous southern lunge, covering from 25 to 50 miles since last Monday, possibly spelled the doom of the enemy's Dnieper Bend forces. Spearheads of his army, exploiting their success, were already driving for Germans back upon the Bug River line, further to the west, and clearing out German positions to the southeast in the direction of Kirovograd.

STORM INTO POLAND

On Russian right Marshal Gregory K. Zhukov's First Ukrainian Army was storming into Southern Poland across the severed Odessa-Moscow trunk railway. Yesterday his troops in the Proskurov area captured Kraslov, fifteen miles to the north, further narrowing a German escape route towards Rumania. They also swept up several towns along the Bug River in a lunge toward Vinnitsa.

Zhukov's right wing "continued to fight street battles in the town of Tarnopol," the inner defenses of which were breached Thursday, Moscow said. These forces were less than 60 miles from the Rumanian frontier.

Germans Say Russians Dislodged At Tarnopol

LONDON—(AP)—The German High Command said today that Russian forces of the Southern Ukraine who had broken into the German stronghold of Tarnopol have been dislodged by a German counter-attack. The communique was broadcast from Berlin.

Soviet communiques had announced precisely that Russian troops were engaged in bitter street fighting with German forces within the town, which lies west of the old Polish border and less than 60 miles from the Rumanian frontier.

Flying Fortresses Attack Muenster

LONDON —(AP)— American Flying Fortresses hit Muenster in Western Germany today while Liberator bombers were loosing hard blows at German military installations in the Pas-De-Calais region of the French coast, headquarters announced.

The five-pronged American daylight attack was made through substratosphere snowstorms without the loss of a single bomber but four fighters were lost during the day's operations.

The new blow followed on an RAF Lancaster night mission against Lyon, four bombers being lost.

Other forces of American bombers and fighters also contributed to the daylight assault by strafing airdromes, gun positions and other German military targets in occupied territory.

The bombers were accompanied on their dual thrust by Thunderbolts and Mustang fighters.

The new American assaults on western Germany and the French coast where Prime Minister Churchill and the Germans are doubling rocket and robot plane were a resumption of their Marathon attacks following a one-day lull.

Targets of the eight-hitting RAF Lancasters were airplane factories at Chateauroux, 150 miles south of Paris and Clermont-Ferrand, 300 miles south of Chateauroux.

Oscam, another of the night targets, lies only five miles from Vichy, 50 miles from the Spanish border and representing a round-trip of more than 1,000 miles.

Factories also were hit at Lavalette near Saint Etienne, 75 miles south of Vichy.

Van Loon Succumbs

VAN LOON

GREENWICH, Conn — (AP) — Hendrick Willem Van Loon, 62, historian and author, died today at his home in old Greenwich. He was a native of Holland.

Van Loon, author of "The Story of Mankind," was best known for his treatment of history as a simple story, told in simple terms. He was a prolific writer of voluminous tomes on a limitless variety of subjects.

WAS AP MAN

Van Loon, during the first World War, was an Associated Press staff man, first in Washington and then as a foreign correspondent. He covered the 1905 revolution in Russia, he was in Belgium in 1914, and spent the next four years covering the war in eight different nations.

On Mar 8, 1940, Van Loon was remarkable for a notable mea-[illegible] in the Associated Press announcement of his leave, in the event that the German Army was on the verge of invading The Netherlands, ending the so-called "phoney war" and becoming the campaign which resulted in collapse of Allied Armies in Western Europe.

All that day Van Loon had been in communication with Dutch authorities and had ordered his estate in Old Greenwich, Conn, and Beverly, Mass, Queen Wilhelmina and her family. He then had he told friends of the Associated Press of the situation.

The Dutch Minister at Washington had been made in effect Minister for the world, in charge of Dutch Colonial interests everywhere. This was quickly confirmed in Washington.

The Van Loon set about helping the Associated Press document the German invasion report and made another call to the White House to establish that there was no chance in the Germans plan. After the story was published, the Dutch and German governments issued formal denials but the blow fell, on May 10, 1940.

Development In Finn Crisis May Be Near

STOCKHOLM —(AP)— Several prominent members of the Finnish Government are remaining in Helsinki for the week-end rather than taking their usual holidays in the country, it was learned today, leading some observers to believe that a development in the Finnish peace crisis was imminent.

The Aftonbladet, Helsinki correspondent was able to report through a Helsinki cousin-up that there were "several plans that Russia was trying to keep the war open for negotiations," but his dispatch gave no indication as to what these plans were. He reported, however, increased optimism among some Finns over the possibility of a peaceful solution.

Must Quit That Jawerin' Back Of Prison Walls

LINCOLN, Nebr —(AP)—Henry Hawks who was a life termer in the Nebraska Penitentiary for killed more than 20 State Supreme Court appeals in the last three years for himself and "clients" within the walls must confine his legal talents to his own case in the future, it was his typewriter.

The Supreme Court received a letter from James E. Jackson, penitentiary inmate, saying he could not file typewritten briefs in his case because Warden Sam Olsen told him he would "take away Hawks' typewriter if he did any more legal work on anybody except his own case."

"I have put up with Hawks' legal activities just as long as I can," Olsen said today. "I am only too glad that Jackson is unable to obtain a writ if he has a case, but Hawks so twisted matters and filed cases in which there was absolutely no justification. He can work on his own case but that's all."

Hawks, who Olsen says is a former inmate of Alcatraz, has declared himself as having the most brilliant legal mind of any man I ever met." He says he studied law while serving time.

When he was sentenced to the Nebraska Penitentiary in 1934 from Omaha on a murder charge Hawk pleaded his own case.

14 Per Cent Of War Money In Lend-Lease

WASHINGTON —(AP)— The lend-lease program three years old today, has used 14 cents of every dollar of American war expenditures to pile up a total more than $20,000,000,000 of aid to Allied nations.

Through a letter presented, the United States has received everything over $2,000,000,000 in such varied items as bananas and airplanes.

BURDENS "EQUAL"

Yet Foreign Economic Administrator Leo T. Crowley estimated that on the basis of the proportion of gross national product

See LEND-LEASE on page 11

Six Lose Lives In Richmond Hotel Fire

RICHMOND, Va —(AP)— Definite identification of all six persons who lost their lives when flames swept two floors of the fashionable and historic Jefferson Hotel here early today has been established and prominent Senator Aubrey G. Weaver and Mrs. James Buiser Price, widow of Virginia's immediate past Governor.

Twenty others were listed by local hospitals as among the injured.

Besides Senator Weaver and Mrs. Price, the four other dead have been identified as Dorothy Gunn, 24, of Newark, N. J., Jean Mauldin, about 22, of 1[illegible] Mayflower Avenue, Norfolk, and J. W. Ross, sailor of Camp Peary, Va., and Ruth Andrews, of Richmond.

The fashionable Jefferson, lavish with elegance of the Nineties, was crowded with guests. It is a landmark dating back to 1895 and was almost destroyed by fire in 1901. Presidents Benjamin Harrison, William H. Taft, William McKinley, Theodore Roosevelt, Woodrow Wilson, Calvin Coolidge and Franklin D. Roosevelt have been numbered among its distinguished guests.

Flames swept almost through the top floor of the building and through the east wing of the floor below. Corridors today showed the path of the fire which trapped scores of guests in their rooms.

The former First Lady of Virginia was identified by a wedding ring. Mrs. Price's identification was made definite a short time later by a son. Senator Weaver died in the lobby of the hotel shortly before descending from his room.

Among those injured were Senator S. Floyd Landreth, of Galax. Landreth was driven to an adjoining ledge by the flames and despite severe burns, succeeded in opening a window and directing attention of the firemen to flames on the sixth floor.

BEGRIMED CONQUERORS OF ENIWETOK ATOLL DRINK COFFEE—Weary and begrimed after two days and nights of fighting for the conquest of Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshalls, this trio of Marines drinks hot coffee aboard an assault transport. (AP Wirephoto from U. S. Coast Guard.)

German Capital Is Reported Moved From Berlin To Breslau

NAPLES—(AP)—Unofficial but trustworthy reports said today that Allied bombers had forced the Germans to move their capital from Berlin to Breslau, 175 miles to the southeast.

The move from bomb-battered Berlin began quietly several weeks ago. And most of the Government functions are carried out at the new Silesian headquarters, it was said.

While a more difficult target than Berlin, Breslau itself is not out of reach of American and British long-range bombers, lying approximately 660 miles from Britain's coast and 470 miles from Foggia airport in Italy. Thus it is within range of Flying Fortresses, Liberators, Stirlings, Lancasters, Halifaxes and Mosquitos.

WITHOUT PROTECTION

These planes might have to strike without fighter protection on the last leg of such a long hop, however, and also would have to contend with concentrations of German fighters in the Berlin area both coming and going.

Breslau is about 570 miles from the nearest point on the Russian front.

The industrial communications center for about 29,05 square miles of Silesia, Breslau has big railroad yards, textile mills, an important aircraft factory, and a power plant on which many other plants in that section depend.

It ranks with Berlin and Hamburg as one of the three most densely populated cities in Germany.

Nearly 50 per cent of its 650,000 residents are packed into tenements in a new built-up section which is of circular shape with a radius of two miles. The industrial area is wedged into the tenement sections.

Slav Minister To Russia Goes Over To Tito Side

MOSCOW —(AP)—Stanoef Smilevitch, Minister in the Soviet Union, has renounced King Peter's Government and placed himself at the disposal of Marshal Tito, Partisan Premier, it was disclosed today in a letter published in Pravda.

In a second letter to Col Mikhailovitch, Yugoslav military leader, he announced similar action. Both letters were addressed to Tito.

Smilevitch said he resigned the Royal Government of failing to realize that a peoples war against the Germans and of abandoning partisan Yugoslavia, has become synonymous for liberation of the country.

Beachhead Battles Sap German Spirit

By RELMAN MORIN

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, ALGIERS — (AP) — Adolf Hitler promised that the Allies' Anzio beachhead south of Rome would be eliminated in three days, and the failure of that promise—a failure that cost the Nazis heavy casualties in their recent all-our counter-attack—has had a disastrous effect on the morale of his troops, German prisoners were quoted as saying today.

Allied Headquarters said the prisoners had stated that Hitler had sent a special message to the Army, assuring them the Americans would "be in the sea within three days." Their own officers had told them the German Air Force would provide an air umbrella and that the big offensive would be spearheaded by 300 tanks, half of them the monster Mark VIs.

MORALE HIGH AT START

German troops never entered battle with greater confidence or higher morale, they said. But then things began to happen.

German planes appeared, but so did American and British, and the Allied airmen were still there after the German air force had gone. The German troops saw some of their Mark VIs. But a large number of the Tigers had gaping holes spouting flames. The little radio-controlled tanks, known on the Russian front as "Beetles," flopped miserably.

Meanwhile, although the German infantry had gained a few thousand yards, the Allies counter-attacked with tremendous force in the end of Hitler's three days. The enemy's net gain amounted to less than the equivalent of three city blocks. And this was achieved at the cost of heavy casualties and an unlimited expenditure of equipment.

BRITISH BATTLES

The Germans encountered "the beachhead battles as British," and said Allied armies was more than any time they encountered in Russia.

"As a result of their failure, enemy spirit has been affected accordingly," an Allied communique said, adding:

"It is suggested that the German High Command also is facing depression as it contemplates the heavy casualties and the irreplaceable losses of equipment, along with such failures of the secret weapon, the remote-controlled tank."

Americans Help British Workers

LONDON —(AP)— Minister of Labor Ernest Bevin said today 22,000,000 Britons now are engaged in fulltime war work and in the armed forces and that of these more than 1,000,000 are women.

Opening a rest home for women workers at Tadworth, Surrey, which was built with donations from American war workers, Bevin said that $125,000 was contributed in the United States in 1943 to build British rest homes.

Destroyers Shell Towns

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples — (AP) — British destroyers have shelled towns on Korcula Island off the Dalmatian coast, reported occupied by large numbers of Germans, headquarters announced today.

A communique said the bombardments were carried out Wednesday night and that "in spite of accurate fire from enemy shore batteries our ships sustained neither casualties nor damage."

British light coastal forces attacked a small vessel farther inshore, between the eastern end of Brac and the mainland, leaving it abandoned and in flames, the bulletin added.

PATROLS CLASH

The ground bulletin said Eighth Army patrols clashed with the Germans at many points in Italy and that two small Nazi thrusts were repulsed by Indian forces. Fifth Army troops engaged in patrols on both the main front and on the beachhead below Rome.

Pressure on the beachhead of the 45th Infantry Division, a New Mexico and Oklahoma unit that won honors in the Sicilian campaign, was officially disclosed. The 45th and the British Second Field Regiment of Royal Artillery were

See DESTROYERS on page 11

Beachhead In "Good Shape"

By LYNN HEINZERLING

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY—(AP)—Lt Gen Mark W. Clark, just returned from an inspection trip to the Fifth Army's beachhead, declared today that "things are in good shape up there; we have declared open season on the Boche and have killed many thousands of them."

"Our men love it," he said.

Awarding seventeen decorations to a group of soldiers who have fought their way up the Italian peninsula from Salerno to Cassino, Gen Clark continued:

"It is men like you who have made it possible for the Fifth Army to hold its head high during those last months.

"I assure you the Fifth Army is going places and men like you are going to lead it to the victory it deserves. We have had a tough enemy and hellish terrain, and in addition the weather has been bad."

Italian City Gets First Attack By Air Raiders

Freight Yards Hammered

By EDWARD KENNEDY

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NAPLES — (AP) — U. S. B-26 Marauders bombed the strategic railyards of Florence today in the first attack on that city, taking special precautions to spare Florence's cultural, religious, and historical landmarks.

The Florence "freight yards are a vitally important center of rail communication serving the enemy front in Italy," an Air Force statement said.

HANDICAP IMPOSED

"Up to now we have imposed on ourselves the severe handicap of leaving them alone in order to avoid any responsibility of damage to the unique art treasures of the city."

"To this end we have had to attack a number of objectives around Florence in an attempt to achieve the same end which an attack on a single objective would have served. We have no longer been able to accept this responsibility," the statement continued.

"There is no doubt whatever that in Florence as in Rome, the Germans have made deliberate use of our obvious reluctance to risk incidental damage to artistic, historic, and religious objects in the city."

The first crewmen to return termed the attack successful.

The bombers hit crowded rail junctions. Recent photographs have disclosed large groups of trains and cars there, and these were well covered with bombs.

RICH CITY

Florence is one of the richest cities, culturally, in Italy, famous for its many churches, art galleries, libraries, and museums.

Allied bombers have struck before in the Florence area, and heavy bombers early this week hit the freight yards at Certaldo twenty miles southwest of the city, and rail installations at Pontassieve and Prato, about ten miles from Florence.

Florence, the capital of the province of Florence, formerly Tuscany, has a population of 320,000 and ranks as the eight largest city in Italy.

The Florentines played a prominent role in Italian history, with the Medicis and the reformer Savonarola among their rulers.

Few cities can match Florence in its collections of artistic and historic works. The city's chief galleries are the Uffizi, the Pitti, the Accademia, with masterpieces by Raphael, Botticelli, Fra Lippi, Titian, and many examples of antique, medieval and renaissance sculpture.

Among Florence's famous churches are the Duomo (Santa Maria Del Fiore), the Campanile, the Baptistery, San Lorenzo, and Santa Croce. There are five important state libraries with valuable collections. The city also is celebrated for its palaces which house the noble families.

Even Einstein Can't Figure Income Taxes

PRINCETON, N. J.—(AP)—He is world-famous as a mathematician, but Prof. Albert Einstein says he was forced to call in a tax expert to help him work out the complex tax form.

Of his reaction to the income tax form he said last night, "this is a question too difficult for a mathematician. It should be asked of a philosopher." Einstein's theory of relativity is supposed understood by only seven persons in the world.

Camille Chautemps Is Reported At Tangier

NEW YORK—(AP)—The Paris radio said today that Camille Chautemps, former French premier, arrived at Tangier in the international zone of Morocco and is going either to Spain or Portugal, S government monitors reported. He has been in French North Africa.

WEATHER

Partly cloudy and [illegible] warmer tonight and Sunday.

Temperatures:
1:30 P. M. 49
Sunset Today
Sunrise Tomorrow

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 money all out pay for this newspaper, its paper and delivery expenditures, to give you the news from every corner of the world.

But, more important, the armed forces need it badly—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 effort. 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 fire or the fire stations or through dealers direct, it must be returned.

It is destined for front line service.