Livest Newspaper In The Carolinas

THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

★★★★ Final

ESTABLISHED 1888 — CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22, 1944 — 16 Pages—Price Five Cents

U. S. RAIDERS RETURN TO BERLIN

Japanese Troops Penetrate Into India

REDS ADVANCE TOWARD PRUT

Bombs Hit NearHome Of Lyons' In London

By WES GALLAGHER

LONDON — (AP) — A large piece of the last big London raid centered near the home of Bebe Daniels and Lt. Col. Ben Lyon, former American film stars who have won new laurels in Britain. Bebe served tea during and after the raid to 150 firemen and had the house filled with wounded civilians.

Wes Gallagher

Incidentally, Bebe's version of "Panama Hattie" is about the only show in London which has refused to start its night performance earlier since the raids resumed. Other shows and plays moved the last show time up an hour as business fell off, but Bebe's idea was, "why should we give the Germans the satisfaction of knowing they forced us to change performances just because we might have a raid?"

London is looking like 1940 again on a small scale, with streets roped off and signs reading, "Diversion—unexploded bomb." One of the more tricky German inventions is a fire bomb which explodes several minutes after landing, injuring anyone trying to put it out.

Among those reported called to attend the Stettinius conference in London is Bob Murphy, American member of the Allied Advisory Commission for Italy and guiding hand in French relations. — The London diplomatic colony expects the Polish-Russian dispute to remain in status quo until the end of the war, although no one would be surprised if Moscow announced the formation of a rival Polish Government on Russian soil—that with the Turks in a huff and the Yugoslav and Greek internal political turmoil, the Chinese are about the only diplomatic set smiling here nowadays—they are elated over Chinese-American-British successes in Burma.

The latest boner of Goebbels' Ministry provided bombed Londoners with a grin. To stress the damage done, the German radio said the pilots could clearly see the targets in "bright moonlight." The raid started and ended before the moon popped up at 10:53 P. M.

"The Luftwaffe has something really good now," grinned an apartment porter. "They bring their own moon with them."

Baby Thrown In Ditch From Car Escapes Injury

BUFFALO, N. Y.—(AP)—Police are intensifying their search today for a man who stopped his car in the township of Marilla, twenty miles east of here, yesterday, tossed a paper sack containing a five week-born baby boy into a ditch, and sped away.

Taken to Mercy Hospital, the child is reported by authorities there to be in "good condition and apparently none the worse for his experience."

Sister Mary Mechtilde, superintendent, said he had temporarily been named "Baby Benedict" in honor of tr. feast of St. Benedict.

State Policeman Lawrence J. Kelly said that a motorist pulled up in front of Mr. Mabel Jung's home yesterday afternoon.

Getting out of his car, the motorist tossed a paper bag into a ditch, and shouted "take a look in the bag," then drove quickly away.

Enemy Moves Into Manipur In Major Push

Crossing Of Chindwin River From North Burma Announced

By CHARLES GRUMICH

NEW DELHI—(AP)—Japanese troops striking out in a major offensive have penetrated into India, it was officially announced today, crossing into the Indian state of Manipur "at one or two places" from northern Burma.

The Japanese forces, described as "raiding columns," crossed the Chindwin River apparently at night and advanced practically unopposed with the jungle cloaking their operations.

OLD RETREAT ROUTE

For their drive against rich India, the Japanese chose the same general route over which Gen. Sir Harold L. Alexander withdrew his main forces in 1942 when the enemy overran Burma. Manipur is ruled by a British Maharaja, and is bordered by Assam and Burma.

"At some points," the Japanese "are in contact with our advanced patrols," said the Southeast Asia Command communique.

On the north Burma front, Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten's Headquarters said, the Chinese 22nd Division continued its drive southward from the Hukawng Valley in the Ahgaung Valley, and forward elements are "fighting along the road south of the highest point on the pass over Jambu Bum."

In the Chin Hills area, 160 or

See JAPS CROSS on page 8

Within 30 Miles Of River Line

Trunk Railway Cut In Drive

LONDON — (AP) — Russian armies smashing through Bessarabia in a mighty surge toward the Balkans have knifed to within 30 miles of the Prut River border of Rumania, Moscow announced today, and other forces striking southward were reported within 48 miles of the major escape road for the thousands of Germans in the Odessa bottleneck.

Reinforced by masses of tanks and artillery pouring steadily across the Dniester River, the Russians slashed the Cernauti-Balticy trunk railway in their advance toward the Prut, starting line for the southern wave of the 1941 Ger-

LONDON—(AP)—Capture of Perevolnaya on the Bug River northwest of Nikolaev was announced by Premier Stalin tonight in an order of the day.

Falls of this important German stronghold pinched a segment out of the German line directly north of Odessa, and added to the threat to the thousands of German troops in Southern Russia. The station of Podgaetsevaya, four miles above Perevolnaya, fell yesterday.

man invasion, a Soviet communique declared. The Russian units sweeping southward toward the vital Odessa-Tiraspol-Iasi railway also struck to within twenty miles of another escape line for the Germans in the south.

STRIKE FOR LWOW

The Hammer and Sickle was raised above 350 more liberated towns and villages yesterday as the Russians continued to pound the Germans back along the 500-mile front from Old Poland to the Black Sea. The Soviet bulletin said the forces striking for Lwow, big Nazi communications hub in Old Poland, had crashed into Lwow Province. The Russians were within 38 miles of Lwow itself.

In the fighting in Old Poland, the Russians said the Nazis threw in an infantry division "just arrived from Denmark," but several German counter-attacks were repulsed and 500 of the enemy were killed.

A battle of "unparalleled fernity" was declared by the Germans to be raging around Kovel, an important rail junction 100 miles north of Lwow on the road to Warsaw, but the report was without Soviet confirmation. Kovel is 50 miles from Berlin, the same distance as the Allied invasion forces massed in Britain.

FRONT WIDENED

Crashing through Bessarabia on a front now widened to 50 miles, the communique said the Russians seized 40 more villages for a total of 80 in three days. The Russians have swept 25 miles west of Soroki, west bank of Dniester town which fell Sunday.

As one Russian force swept southward in Bessarabia in a flanking movement on Odessa, Gen. Rodion Y. Malinovsky's 3rd Ukrainian Army, sent his Third Ukrainian Army through 92 more villages, hurling the Germans back toward the Black Sea base from the north, the Soviet bulletin declared. German broadcasts indicated the Nazis were trying to "disengage" themselves from the attacking Russians in this sector.

"MERRILL'S MARAUDERS" CHASING JAPS IN BURMA—Brig. Gen. Frank Merrill's American infantry forces, known as "Merrill's Marauders," cross a stream in northern Burma in their relentless advance against retreating Jap troops. (AP Wirephoto).

Nazis Try To Label Rome An Open City

LONDON —(AP)— The German-controlled Rome radio today announced that the Germans would withdraw all military installations from Rome and would divert all military traffic from the city, in an effort to place responsibility for bombing entirely on the Allies.

The broadcast apparently sought to declare Rome an open city. Such an unilateral declaration, of course, has no effect in international law, since it would have to be accepted by the Allies to make it binding. The Badoglio Government of Italy sought to declare Rome an open city before Badoglio capitulated last September.

The broadcast said:

"So that responsibility for the bombing of Rome will remain entirely with the Allies, the German Command in the next few days will scrupulously withdraw from Rome every installation which could serve as the slightest pretext for air terror, and will still further deviate military transport from the Eternal City."

U. S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull last Aug. 25 told his press conference that the Allies had not ascertained that Rome had been demilitarized to make it an open city, and hence the Allies could not consider it as such.

SKEPTICAL

After the earlier Italian announcement that Rome would be made an open city, all Allied capitals viewed the statement with skepticism. It was emphasized that Allied commanders would have to be shown that the entire military establishment, transport facilities and war factories had been removed before Rome could be freed of the threat of attack.

After the Italian capitulation, German forces seized Rome on the pretext of protecting it, and they later centered north and central Italian defense communications there. Railroad yards in the Rome area have been bombed repeatedly by the Allies.

Snap Trap On Japs

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, SOUTHWEST PACIFIC.—(AP)—The snapping shut of an invasion trap around thousands of Japanese at Rabaul, Kavieng and in the Solomons by Marine landings in the St. Matthias Islands, 580 miles south of Truk, was disclosed today by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

The flat island of Emirau, a potential air base, and nearby Emuruson were occupied early Monday by ground forces from the Solomons who thus shot the front line of Adm. William F. Halsey from the Green Islands on east the length of New Ireland to a near junction with General MacArthur's conquerings of the Admiralties.

While the invaders, aided by air and naval cover, brushed aside light opposition, the town of Kavieng on New Ireland, 84 miles to the southeast of the St. Matthias group, virtually was erased in a three and one-half hour bombardment. Big American battleships,

See SNAP TRAP on page 8

Another U. S. Sub Is Lost

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Loss of the American submarine Scorpion, the fourth submersible listed overdue and presumed lost in eight days, was announced by the Navy today.

The loss brings to 23 the number of American submarines sunk since the war started, all but three of them by enemy action, presumably while on war patrols in Japanese controlled waters.

The Scorpion carried a crew of approximately 75 officers and men, all listed as missing in action. Her commander officer was Comdr. Maximilian G. Schmidt, a native of Boonville, Mo.

Loss of the 1,570-ton submersible followed the disappearance of the Capelin and Sculpin, listed as overdue and presumed lost, last Saturday and the Corvina, listed as overdue and lost on March 14.

The new sinking brings to 147 the number of American naval vessels lost since the war started. Compared with that figure, American submarines alone have sunk, probably sunk or damaged 642 Japanese ships of all types including some warships. Sinkings or damaging of Japanese craft by all types of American action totaled 2,024.

The Scorpion was built at Portsmouth, N. H., and was launched July 20, 1943.

Nazis Move In Balkans

LONDON —(AP)— German troops, already in control in Hungary, were reported moving today to extend full military occupation to Bulgaria and Rumania and the Turkish radio expressed the view Hitler soon would place all three countries under one command "to intensify the German war effort in southeast Europe."

Advices from neutral capitals indicated the Nazi divisions were seizing strategic military and civil administration centers with all the speed and ruthlessness that characterized German troop movements at the start of the war.

Except for minor cases of resistance the occupying forces apparently were having things all their own way.

BURGAR CABINET MEETS

The Bulgarian Cabinet was said by the Ankara radio to have met in prolonged session yesterday to discuss German demands for active help in the Nazi war against Russia, Bulgaria, at war with Britain and the United States, never has interrupted relations with Russia, long her friend and champion.

London morning newspapers published Ankara dispatches saying it was reported there that Premier Ion Antonescu of Rumania was planning to seek an armistice with Russia, whose troops already are surging deeply into Bessarabia. Rumania was believed ready to renounce all claim to Bessarabia as one of the armistice conditions, these dispatches said.

A flood of reports about the situation in Hungary agreed on one point only—that 100,000 German troops now completely dominate the country with full control of all railways and communications. There were indications the Nazis were attempting to set up a Quisling regime in Budapest.

Berlin itself remained silent about what is proposed in the Balkans, although a Foreign Office spokesman indirectly intimated military occupation of the entire area might be proposed.

"Before present political developments aimed at strengthening German defense forces there have been completed no German statement may be expected," he said, adding "Germany's allies must now assume burdens equal to those borne by Germany."

INFORMATION CONFUSED

As in the case of Hungary, outlets occupied in a 36-hour coup early in the week, information

See NAZIS TIGHTEN on page 8

Fortress Bombs Break Ice Jam

MILES CITY, Mont.—(AP)—Four thousand pounds of explosives dropped from a Flying Fortress broke an ice jam in the Yellowstone River and this city today was cleared of a flood.

A bomber from the Rapid City, S. D., Air Base made its bomb run late yesterday along the Yellowstone River and released its charges in sticks of four and five to chunk the ice block into activity.

Within an hour after the bombing the flood level started dropping. Today the river stage was down to 6.3 feet, normal. The flood crest Monday was 19.5 feet.

Major Soviet Gain Hinted

MOSCOW — (AP) — Marshal Ivan Konev's forces "have pushed the front to the borders of Rumania," a dispatch to the Moscow News quoting an officer just returned by air from Bessarabia declared today.

Moscow considers the Prut River the border of Rumania. It was not clear whether the officer meant the Soviets already had reached the Prut, or were rolling the enemy back upon that river.

The dispatch, from Kiev, said the German commander was throwing Rumanian troops into the fighting in Bessarabia because of the heavy Nazi losses in manpower and equipment in their defeats at Uman and on the Ingulets River.

Slow Progress Made At Cassino

By RICHARD G. MASSOCK

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, NAPLES —(AP)— New Zealand troops of the Fifth Army, slugging it out with the enemy in savage hand-to-hand fighting, are making slow but steady progress in the southern section of Cassino, Allied headquarters announced today.

Fighting equally as bloody raged in the hills to the west from which an estimated 30 pieces of German artillery and mortars continued to rain shells into the ruined town.

"Our efforts to clear the town of Cassino and occupy the Eastern slopes of dominating Monte Cassino were pushed energetically against bitter enemy opposition and terrain difficulties Monday and Tuesday," a headquarters commentator said.

Allied troops holding one point on the Monte Cassino slopes were only 400 to 500 yards from two strong German artillery points just west of the town, making it particularly difficult for Allied gunners, firing from the valley or the hills beyond, to neutralize the enemy fire without endangering their own men.

HEAVY FIGHTING

The hand-to-hand fighting in Cassino's southern portion was officially described as "very heavy."

German defense forces in Cassino were reinforced Monday by young Nazi parachute troops and units of an armored Grenadier division. Official reports of fighting in the town's southern section indicated that they may have regained some ground there after recapturing the Continental Hotel wreckage.

An official announcement said that additional German prisoners have been taken, increasing to 238 the total captured since the battle began a week ago.

On the Monte Cassino slopes British troops made a determined attack on two German points last

See PROGRESS on page 8

Wild Battle Is Raging For Cassino Ruins

By LYNN HEINZERLING

WITH THE FIFTH ARMY AT CASSINO—(AP)—The fight for the ruins of Cassino developed into the wildest battle of the Italian campaign today with two German counter-attacks against Castle Hill behind the town, New Zealanders slugging it out in the streets, and German and Allied mortar and artillery shells landing within a few hundred yards of each other.

Allied guns were brought up to fire at direct range on the Continental Hotel in which the Germans managed to reinstall themselves after once being driven out. The hotel area and entire south end of town held by the Germans were brought under this fire.

The Germans indicated their concern over the situation by sending a large formation of planes to attack communications in the rear of the Fifth Army line. Allied planes took up the chase.

The flashes of Allied shells could be seen as they exploded in the German-held portion of the town immediately at the base of Monastery Hill. Clouds of smoke drifted over the town and valley as the battle grew in intensity without any major change in positions.

Great New Lava Flow Comes From Vesuvius

By JOSEPH MORTON

ON THE SLOPES OF VESUVIUS—(AP)—A great new eruption from seething Mt. Vesuvius today covered the area around Pompei with a two-inch layer of lava buried through the air in chunks, and sent a gigantic finger of glowing coals into houses of a third town on the northwestern slope.

Pompei, at the foot of Mt. Vesuvius on the south, was buried by the eruption of 79 A. D.

The hail of lava fell over crops in the area, burning them. American and British soldiers were steel helmets against the shower, and natives placed iron pots on their heads.

Early this morning the molten river of lava rolling down the northwestern side of the mountain had swept away the first houses in Cercola two miles from the peak.

The region was almost as dark as night with great black clouds and lava dust overhead.

It was flying lava like that of today, but much heavier, which buried ancient Pompei and thus preserved it just as it stood in Roman days until archeologists dug the lava away centuries later.

Falling in small chunks, this lava does not destroy like that streaming down the mountainsides. These great avalanches of molten rock, running to 30 feet high and a half-mile wide, quash buildings and their contents almost to powder before covering them over.

Special fire watches were maintained at all ammunition and gasoline dumps in the Vesuvius area.

Hundreds Of Bombers Strike Anew At Capital

Run Into Heavy Flak Barrages

By W. W. HERCHER

LONDON — (AP) — Berlin was bombed by daylight today, for the fifth time this month, by a strong force of U. S. Liberators and Fortresses which met intense flak but little fighter opposition.

An estimated 1,500 tons of high explosives and incendiaries were cast down through clouds by between 500 and 750 bombers, supported by from 750 to 1,000 Thunderbolt, Lightning and Mustang fighters.

Black bursts of anti-aircraft followed the bombers all the way in from the coast of Germany, but otherwise the 600-mile trip seemed to follow the pattern of the last raid March 9, when the German Air Force failed to give battle and when seven bombers and one fighter failed to get back.

THE TARGETS

Industrial and military installations still standing in the German capital district were today's targets, U. S. Headquarters announced.

This was the Fifth U. S. heavy bomber attack against Berlin.

Lightning fighter planes started the U. S. visits with an offensive sweep March 3. A small force of Fortresses bombed the Berlin district the next day and on March 6 about 650 heavy bombers dropped 2,000 tons of bombs on special targets here. Several hundred bombers made return visits March 8 and 9.

Mustang pilots who first came racing back from the Berlin raid reported they saw only a couple of enemy fighters although they ran into the most intense flak experienced in any raid on Berlin.

Several times, the pilots said, they shot through barrages of "red marker" flak, usually sent up to guide German fighters, but said they encountered no Nazi aircraft.

"We met flak all the way, which was unusual," said Lt. Glen T. Eagleston, Alhambra, Calif., who now has been to Berlin five times. "Generally they take pot shots at us fighters and then duck behind us until we meet the bombers, but today we had flak even before the rendezvous."

With today's assault it was estimated that between 2,700 and 3,000 American bombers have been over the German capital this month, dropping approximately 6,000 tons of high explosives and incendiaries.

One hundred and three heavy bombers have been lost in these Berlin attacks, not including today's operation. In addition to the wounds left in the capital of the Reich, the heavy planes and their escorts downed at least 301 fighters badly needed by the Germans, according to official compilations.

NEAR RECORD

The journey to Berlin was the seventeenth operation of the month

See YANK RAIDERS on page 8

With Fortune In Chicago, He Dies Poor In France

CHICAGO—(AP)—An 81-year-old Egyptian Government official who was the last three years lived in abject poverty in France, died leaving an estate in Chicago valued at approximately $700,000, it was disclosed yesterday in probate court.

An inventory of the estate of Aram Melchior Papazian, who left Chicago 10 years ago to work for the Egyptian Government, was filed by Attorney John E. Gavin. He said Papazian had been unable to obtain transfer of his Chicago funds after the invasion of France.

Gavin said that Papazian, of Persian birth, died Oct. 7, 1943, and left his holdings to Haig-Aram Papazian, 22, his son by his third wife, an Englishwoman.

The Chicago holdings, Gavin said, included cash and stocks and bonds valued at more than $650,000. He also left a villa near Hyeres, France, and an English country estate. His Chicago holdings, for the most part, were left by his second wife, Isabel Gray of Chicago.

WEATHER

Cloudy, with showers into the afternoon; little change in temperature tonight; Thursday, scattered thunderstorms and mild temperatures.

Today's Temperatures:
2:30 P. M. 47 ... 1 a. m. 39
Sunset Today 6:16 ... Sunrise Tomorrow 6:15

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 critical.

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, with 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.

There are several ways in which you may return this paper to service. Junior Commandos are working with The News and the Junior Chamber of Commerce in collecting waste paper. Chief Hendrix Palmer and the Charlotte Fire Department are co-operating, bins being placed at each fire station in which paper can be placed. Supt. John Barber and the City Sanitary Dept., are helping, too. Paper will be collected by the sanitary trucks if bundled and placed alongside the garbage containers. All these agencies are doing a splendid job.

But whether you return this loaned copy of The News through the Junior Commandos, deliver it to the bins at a fire station, leave it for collection by the Sanitary Dept., or deliver it to dealers direct, it must be returned.

It is destined for front line service.