

WORLD WAR II

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High Command

LONDON—(AP)—WES GALLAGHER
A London source having close connections with the European underground and for the last few days is now making a secret inspection of the West Wall defenses.

The four coincides with German advances that invasion is imminent. It was said to be made in company with an inspection party including Grand Admiral Karl Doornik, Gen. Guenther Kriebitzsch, chief of staff of the Air Force, and Prof. Tamm, originator of the flak towers which are an important part of the West Wall defenses.

The Germans announced that Hitler had met Mussolini recently at a "secret" meeting place—Prague, the Brenner Pass, the Italian or French Riviera.

NO ITALY RETREAT SEEN
Military men in London received with skepticism rumors that the Germans planned to withdraw from Italy to conserve their 25 divisions for the West Wall battle. On the contrary, these soldiers here it is determined to hold every inch of Italy as long as possible without increasing the number of troops already committed.

There has been little change in the number of German troops along the West Wall in recent days according to the best reports. After a steady flow of troops from east to west, the number has tapered off with German strength ranging between 54 and 60 divisions.

Command believes sufficient to cope with the invasion, though the preliminary stages at least.

While the flow of troops to the West Wall has been steady for two or three weeks, there has been a steady progression of high German commanders, including Marshal Erwin Rommel, to inventory the West Wall.

See INVASION on Page 6

Berlin Speculates Attack Imminent

LONDON—(AP)—Britain halted all but the most urgent travel overseas in another invasion-secret step today, while the Germans predicted the invasion hour was near and declared their most seasoned troops stand ready to meet the assault.

The travel ban, "except for business of urgent national importance which cannot be postponed," will run indefinitely and was taken "for military reasons," a home office announcement said. It follows orders for urgent movements of diplomats, tightening control over consular areas, suspending travel to Erie, and other recent steps to prevent leakage of information.

Personnel now holding exit permits can use them to leave Britain until midnight, Thursday. Thereafter, only "urgent" permits will be issued. No permit to leave the country will be valid unless issued on or after Thursday.

BOAST OF DEFENSE
Berlin broadcasts told the German people to expect the invasion at any moment, and boasted of defense and counter measures.

The broadcast German troops

Close In On Hollandia Airfields

Jap Resistance Disorganized

By C. YATES McDANIEL
MacARTHUR'S ADVANCED HEADQUARTERS, New Guinea—(AP)—
American and Dutch invaders, slowed more by mud and mountain than by disorganized Japanese resistance, closed from two sides today on three airfields in a 350 square-mile area of Dutch New Guinea around captured Hollandia.

A fourth airfield, referred by an American source as "the southern position," 150 miles to the south of the main Hollandia area, was captured today. It was reported to have been captured by the 1st Cavalry Division, which landed there yesterday.

The muddy, the factor plane was then in action around the airfield to support the advance to the Hollandia area.

"This kind of landing from the back of the line," American sources said, "is a novel tactical device. It is a result of the fact that the Japanese have been unable to establish a solid front in the Hollandia area."

Reports today by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, commander in chief of the Allied Forces in the Southwest Pacific Area, indicated that the Japanese resistance was disorganized and that the Allied forces were closing in on the Hollandia area.

See CLOSURE on page 6

Reds Smash Allied Columns

Nazi Attack

MOSCOW—(AP)—The Red Army has smashed a German attack east of Dniepropetrovsk, northeast of Kiev, which at first had succeeded in driving the Russians out of two localities, a Soviet communiqué said today.

More than 400 Nazis were slain in the Russian counter-attack which included the capture of both localities and "restored the situation," the bulletin declared.

In the Carpathian foothills more than 100 miles to the southwest, more than 200 Germans were offensively repulsed after they crossed a stream southeast of Stanislavov by night and were routed by Soviet troops in the morning.

STALIN TALKS
Except for these actions, however, a stalemate continued along the front lines. The Red Army Force tightened the blockade of Sevastopol, blasting ships which attempted to carry Axis troops to the port.

The communiqué said that the warplanes sank seven transports totaling 16,000 tons, as well as a landing barge, a torpedo cutter and three patrol boats between Sevastopol and the Crimean coast.

Russian planes also struck "concentrated Axis troops in Sevastopol and in the Crimea."

Losses, the communiqué said, "threw German aircraft were destroyed in the Sevastopol area."

A Berlin broadcast last night said the Russian attack "restored their final assault" on Sevastopol and that fierce hand fighting was continuing in the city.

Red bombers also blasted Lwow, Polish, striking at concentrations of troops near the city.

But whether you return this laudatory copy of The News through the Junior Commander, deliver it to the ship 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 services.

Air Offensive Carried Into Eleventh Day

Southwest Reich Industrial Targets

And French Calais Area Hit

By AUSTIN BEALMEAR
LONDON—(AP)—American Fortresses and Liberators attacked German fighter bases in France, industrial targets in southwest Germany and two fighters in carrying heavy bomber operations into the eleventh straight day.

In one operation about 500 of the heavyweights struck fighter bases at Nancy, Metz and Dijon under escort from at least 500 Lightning, Mustang, Thunderbolt and RAF fighter planes. Enemy opposition there and over "industrial targets in southwest Germany" was slight, tonight's communiqué said.

Later Liberators struck military installations on the coast of France.

The communiqué said ten enemy aircraft were destroyed in aerial combat and a number on the ground in the day's operations, which also included a sweep by P-38 Lightning fighter-bombers in an airfield in northern France.

RAF ATTACK
The daylight attacks followed attacks last night by probably 100 planes of the RAF, which blasted industrial Munich and Karlsruhe.

In a reconnaissance report of the Munich raid the Air Ministry said whole blocks of buildings were left ablaze in the area covered from a Nazi shrine to an aircraft center and the heart of an important railway system. Smoke rose four miles as scattered fires merged into one.

American airmen back from Metz said at least 40 planes, mostly fighters, parked on the ground there were plastered with bombs and there was no fighter opposition reported from Metz also.

A high air official said the bomber, operated by the RAF transport Command, was a four-engine Liberator, though many of the eyewitnesses said a twin-engine craft had crashed.

The aircraft apparently carried a crew of five, one of whom was reported to have parachuted to safety. Dorsal support said there was a check of all planes that left there today.

Maver Remains "Highest Paid"
PHILADELPHIA—(AP)—Leut. B. Moxey, who rose from a small town leader to one of the nation's leading movie producers, was named highest paid in the fiscal year to retain his title as America's highest paid executive.

Moxey's salary was \$243,765.84, the Securities and Exchange Commission announced today.

Navy Supply Bill Passed by Senate
WASHINGTON—(AP)—Demands that the United States reduce its military budget after the war are being opposed by a Senate bill passed today.

The bill, known as the "Navy Supply Bill," would increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1945 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1946 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1947 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1948 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1949 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1950 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1951 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1952 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1953 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1954 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1955 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1956 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1957 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1958 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1959 by \$1,000,000,000.

The bill would also increase the Navy's budget for the fiscal year 1960 by \$1,000,000,000.

Nazis Act Against Danish Saboteurs

By ROBERT N. STURDEVANT
STOCKHOLM—(AP)—Hilfer's special deputy and Minister to Denmark, Werner Best, declared today that the Germans were moving swiftly against Danish saboteurs and underground elements affecting German interests.

Best asserted that Denmark was virtually isolated from Sweden and that Denmark was the first tangible evidence of the reason. The country was cut off late yesterday afternoon.

Best asserted that Denmark was "swarming" with underground workers and that therefore was Germany's task to "attack swiftly and sternly."

He said the Nazis would show no mercy toward saboteurs, indicating they would be summarily shot when caught. He expressed hope that "conditions would stabilize" and that Danish public opinion would react against the recent invasion.

The belief was prevalent in Stockholm that Denmark was being used as a pre-invasion staging area. Similar action was expected against other countries, many Swedish believed.

LITTLE NEWS
Only a few news items were reported from Denmark.

The Copenhagen harbor area was closed to all ships and soldiers were guarding railroads and airports close watch over the city.

The newspaper, Kronbladet said that there were rumors last night in Helsinki of disturbances in Copenhagen and other parts of Denmark. Such rumors should be treated with the greatest reserve.

Salient facts of the situation were:

1. The Germans, Finns and Norwegians were forbidden to travel to Denmark from Sweden by air.

2. Denmark from Sweden by rail.

3. Denmark from Sweden by sea.

4. Denmark from Sweden by air.

5. Denmark from Sweden by rail.

6. Denmark from Sweden by sea.

7. Denmark from Sweden by air.

8. Denmark from Sweden by rail.

9. Denmark from Sweden by sea.

10. Denmark from Sweden by air.

Seek New Set Of Paper Rules

WASHINGTON—(AP)—A new set of rules for the distribution of paper and other paper was sought by the War Relocation Authority today.

The War Relocation Authority is seeking to establish "adequate standards to govern the allocation" of paper and other paper to the Japanese-American community.

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Plane Falls In Montreal

MONTREAL—(AP)—An RAF bomber exploded and crashed today in a block of old brick dwellings in downtown Montreal, leaving a pile of flaming debris which rescuers found nine bodies.

Three of those fourteen dwellings were flattened and others were badly damaged. Shrieks of horror arose in the area. Adults and children ran about the streets hunting for kinfolk.

One woman screamed that she had lost her husband.

A high air official said the bomber, operated by the RAF transport Command, was a four-engine Liberator, though many of the eyewitnesses said a twin-engine craft had crashed.

The aircraft apparently carried a crew of five, one of whom was reported to have parachuted to safety. Dorsal support said there was a check of all planes that left there today.

Nazis Make Naples Raid

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples—(AP)—German bombers struck sharply at Naples last night in the wake of a great co-ordinated attack by Allied aircraft against Nazi communications and transport plants in the Balkans and Northern Italy.

Unofficial estimates placed the size of the Nazi formation which raided Naples at 30 to 40 planes. The attack, although sharp, was not particularly damaging. One of the raiders was shot down by Beaufighters.

The Allies flew 2,000 sorties yesterday, destroying 29 enemy planes for a loss of fourteen in operations that included heavy bomber assaults on the Bucharest and Ploesti railroads in Romania and on an aircraft factory at Bielefeld.

U. S. Fortresses and Liberators were particularly active in the raid, which included heavy bombers and fighters.

The raiders were shot down by Beaufighters.

Bullets Hit Close To Sarge

By GEORGE TUCKER
(Substituting for Hal Boyle)
WITH THE FIFTH ARMY IN ITALY, April 15—Delayed—
Lt. Howard M. Spry of Jackson Heights, N. Y., a platoon commander in "Quaker's" Scout Battalion, described the exploits of the "Sarge" in the front lines.

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General Bennett Retires From Australian Army

MELBOURNE, Australia—(AP)—Gen. Gordon Bennett, 57, Australian commander of the Eighth Australian Division when Singapore fell, announced his retirement from the service today to enter private business in Sydney.

Following his resignation, Bennett commanded the "Third Australian Army Corps in Western Australia."

Japs Advance In China Zone

CHUNGKING—(AP)—Continuing Japanese columns have narrowed to ten miles the escape route for Chinese forces. The Chinese are being threatened with entrapment, the Chinese indicated today.

This represented a five-mile advance. The enemy march was reported yesterday within fifteen miles of closing.

The Chinese asserted the invaders were getting a head start for their northern Hunan Province offensive, claiming that the Chinese had suffered more than 10,000 casualties in battles April 20 and 21. The Chinese have destroyed a large number of Japanese tanks and other equipment.

The Northward movement of the Japanese was being mounted by the Japanese force pushing south from the Yellow River hinterland across the destroyed Luichow Railway toward the town of Mifeng, which had been captured by the Chinese.

The head moving west from the Peiping area in the past night.

The two columns are driving to meet northwest of Mifeng.

Mussolini Has Narrow Escape As Bomb Hurlled

BERN, Switzerland—(AP)—The Swiss newspaper, Die Buergerzeitung, said today that Mussolini had narrowly escaped a claustrophobic anti-Fascist Italian villa by a meeting of Swiss leaders in Verona.

A Berlin broadcast heard in London today said that Mussolini had conferred with Hitler Sunday and Monday and that he had returned to the villa in Verona.

The broadcast also said that Mussolini had been in the villa in Verona.

Yanks In Brisk Anzio Battle

ALLIED HEADQUARTERS, Naples—(AP)—American troops secured a beachhead in the Anzio area, capturing some 200 tons of supplies and 12 miles west of the beachhead.

Another small Allied force also landed in the Anzio area, capturing some 200 tons of supplies and 12 miles west of the beachhead.

Return This Newspaper For Front-Line Service

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

There are several ways in which you may return this paper to service. You may return it to the Junior Commander, or to the Sanitary Dept., or to the fire station, or to the collection by the Sanitary Dept., or to the dealers direct, it must be returned.

It is destined for front line services.

U. S. Planes Destroy U-Boat In 2 Minutes

WASHINGTON—(AP)—Destroyer "If they don't come," he told the sear.

But they did come—two fighter planes and two torpedo bombers, piloted by Lt. Kenneth P. Hance and Lt. James G. Hance, Jr., of the U. S. Navy.

The planes destroyed the U-boat in two minutes.

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy and moderately cool tonight; partly cloudy and warmer tomorrow.
Today's Temperatures:
Charlotte 42-52
Raleigh 40-50
Wilmington 40-50
Summit 40-50
Sanitas 40-50